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

Mountain rescue prompts warning about hiking preparedness

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — A nighttime rescue last week involving approximately 20 emergency responders has prompted local officials to warn hikers against summiting Bear Mountain without adequate supplies or enough time to return before dark.

Crews were dispatched to the Undermountain Trail trailhead shortly before 9 p.m. Monday, Aug. 24, after two hikers called 911 to report that one of them, a 62-year-old woman, was experiencing numbness on one side of her body.

Location data from the call placed the hikers approximately two miles up the trail, which connects with the Appalachian Trail near Bear Mountain.

According to Litchfield County Dispatch, responders reached the

woman shortly after 10 p.m. She was brought to the trailhead and placed under the care of emergency medical personnel by 10:45 p.m. She declined medical treatment.

Lakeville Hose Company No. 1, Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service and North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corps responded to the call.

Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service Chief Jacquie Rice said the woman's location below the trail's steepest sections made the rescue relatively straightforward. Rice and a Lakeville firefighter were able to reach her with an all-terrain vehicle, although she was near the limit of where the vehicle could travel safely.

About eight responders had

See RESCUE, Page A9



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Jeffrey Gueniat, second from left, supervisor of Lake Waramaug's new watercraft inspection and decontamination program, talks with a boat owner as he and staff prepare the MasterCraft for hot-water decontamination.

Lake Waramaug tests a new defense against invasive species

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NEW PRESTON — As hydrilla and other aquatic invasive species spread across Connecticut, a new watercraft inspection and decontamination program at Lake Waramaug is testing an additional defense against their spread from lake to lake.

Launched this spring, the program operates at two sites: a municipal inspection station at the Lake Waramaug boat ramp and a hot-water decontamination facility slightly more than a mile away at the New Preston firehouse on Route 202. Organizers describe it as Connecticut's first fully integrated, lake-based watercraft inspection and decontamination program.

By Saturday, Aug. 29, about 500 boats had been decontaminated during the 2026 season, program supervisor Jeffrey Gueniat said. Inspectors found invasive watermilfoil on boats arriving from Candlewood Lake — as well as Eurasian frogbit on a boat from Lake Zoar — though they had not detected hydrilla.

The program is designed to

disrupt one of the principal ways aquatic invasive species spread: by hitching rides on boats, trailers and equipment moved between bodies of water.

At about 8 a.m. that Saturday, an inboard MasterCraft belonging to the Lake Waramaug Country Club sat on a trailer outside the firehouse as Gueniat and technician Pat Dwyer prepared it for inspection and treatment.

Gueniat began with a full examination.

See HYDRILLA, Page A10



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

Jazmine Bona and The Great Gatsby compete in the Lakeville Open Horse Show on Sunday, Aug. 30.

Lakeville Open Horse Show raises funds for next generation of riders

By Madi Long and Aly Morrissey

MILLBROOK — The annual Lakeville Open Horse Show brought riders and equine enthusiasts to Riga Meadow at Coole Park Farm in Millbrook on Sunday, Aug. 30, for the 69th annual fundraiser hosted by the Lakeville Pony Club.

Horses and ponies with names like Pop Tart, Trigger and The Great

Gatsby competed under a late-August sun, with ribbons and prizes distributed to riders of varying experience levels.

The show featured a mix of competitions in which horses and riders performed on level ground and over jumps, including hunter events judged on a horse's movement, equitation events focused on the rider's position and balance, and jumper events judged on the pair's speed and accuracy.

See HORSE SHOW, Page A9

Protective order issued in former IMS athletic director's sexual assault case

By Christian Murray

TORRINGTON — A judge issued a protective order Thursday, Aug. 27, in the criminal case against Maxwell Abendroth, the former Indian Mountain School athletic director and gym teacher charged with three felonies involving alleged sexual contact with a 15-year-old student.

The court identified the person protected by the order only by initials and did not disclose the individual's relationship to Abendroth or the pending case.

The charges against Abendroth were not otherwise addressed during the brief proceeding in Torrington Superior Court.

The order prohibits Abendroth, 32, from contacting the protected person by telephone, electronically, in writing, or through a third party.

The judge told Abendroth that the order can be modified only by a Superior Court judge and remains binding even if the protected person attempts to contact him.

"No contact really means no contact," the judge said, explaining that a violation would constitute a new felony offense.

The order also requires Abendroth to surrender or transfer any firearms and ammunition in his possession if he has not already done so.

Abendroth declined to comment when approached by a Lakeville Journal reporter outside the courtroom.

Abendroth is charged with fourth-degree sexual assault and two counts of risk of injury to a minor stemming from alleged conduct at the Lakeville school in January.

He was arrested Aug. 18 after surrendering at Connecticut State

Police Troop B in North Canaan. He was released on \$50,000 bond.

A 14-page arrest warrant affidavit provides further details about the allegations and Indian Mountain School's response.

According to the affidavit, an IMS administrator making rounds Jan. 25 entered Abendroth's office and saw him and the victim standing close together in a way the administrator considered "unsettling" and "odd." The administrator reported that Abendroth pushed the student by the shoulder, causing her to fall over a coffee table.

The school's director of student health and wellness interviewed the student and Abendroth the following day.

The student initially denied that anything inappropriate had occurred. She said she had been

See ASSAULT CASE, Page A9



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POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

Rear-end accident yields minor injuries

On the afternoon of Aug. 24, Barbara Prindle, 85, of Sharon was attempting to make a left turn into her driveway on Route 4 in Sharon when she was rear-ended by an Acura RDX driven by Rachel Cook, 19, of Hebron. After the collision, Cook's vehicle swerved across the roadway and struck a utility pole, disabling the vehicle. Prindle's Honda CRV sustained functional damage to the rear bumper, and was able to be driven from the scene. Prindle was uninjured, but Cook was transported to Sharon Hospital by Sharon Ambulance for minor injuries. Cook was ultimately issued a written warning for following too closely resulting in an accident.

Disorderly conduct and assault arrest

Just before 10 p.m. on Aug. 25, troopers were dispatched to an address on Wells Hill Road in Lakeville for a 9-1-1 hang up call during which a person could be heard crying in the background. After investigating, troopers arrested Shannon Tyree-Brown, 48, of Lakeville for disorderly conduct and third degree assault. A 16-year-old victim was reported not to be injured. Tyree-Brown was processed at Troop B before being released on a \$1,000 non-surety bond. She was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court the next day.

Route 7 rear-end

At approximately 12:40 p.m. on Aug. 27, Carina Fiscella, 22, of Torrington and Heidy Rodriguez, 26, also of Torrington were driving south on Route 7 in Cornwall when Fiscella began slowing as a car in front began to prepare for a turn. While braking, Rodriguez's vehicle, following behind, collided with the rear of Fiscella's Honda Accord. Both Fiscella's Accord and Rodriguez' Chevrolet Impala sustained minor damage and could be driven from the scene. Neither driver was injured during the incident. Rodriguez was issued an infraction for following too closely resulting in an accident.

West Hartford woman arrested on four charges

During the early evening on Aug. 28, troopers responded to a location on Route 7 in North Canaan on the report of a disturbance. After investigating, troopers arrested Alexandra Weisinger, 36, of West Hartford on four charges: operating a vehicle without the owner's permission, second degree breach of peace, third degree assault and second degree unlawful restraint. She was taken into custody and transported to Troop B for processing and was later brought to York Correctional Center in Niantic until her arraignment on Aug. 31 at Torrington Superior Court.

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

North Canaan selectmen choose Chris Sorrell to fill board vacancy

By Christian Murray

The North Canaan Board of Selectmen is back to full strength following the appointment of local resident and former state trooper Chris Sorrell to fill the vacancy left by Brian Ohler. First Selectman Jesse Bunce and Selectman Melissa Pinardi appointed Sorrell following a selection process that drew eight candidates. The seat had been vacant since Ohler stepped down July 31 after taking a leave of absence in March for health reasons, leaving the board down to two members for several months. Sorrell, a Republican, brings a background in municipal finance and public safety to the role. He has served a decade on the North Canaan Board of Finance, an experience Bunce highlighted as crucial for bringing deep familiarity with the town's fiscal operations. A retired Connecticut State Trooper, Sorrell finished his law enforcement career in 2020 as the resident trooper in Salisbury, after serving the town for nine years. "His working knowledge of the budget was very

important," Bunce said. "He is a RTC [Republican Town Committee] member, and he just seems to be a well-rounded person for the position. It's also nice to have the perspective of someone with a family in town." Bunce and Pinardi conducted interviews with eight applicants competing for the seat. The pool of candidates included six Republicans, one unaffiliated resident, and one Democrat put forward by the RTC. The RTC formally recommended three candidates to the board, Bunce said, although Sorrell was not one of them. Bunce, who said Sorrell applied independently, noted that the selection process was competitive, with multiple strong applicants stepping forward to serve. "There were a lot of good picks—it wasn't like anybody was a bad pick, really," Bunce said. "It was just a matter of who would work best with the board." Bunce and Pinardi reviewed the candidates individually before comparing notes and arriving at a joint decision to select Sorrell. Sorrell could not be reached for comment.

North Canaan home prices climb as sales nearly double

By Christine Bates

North Canaan, CT – Home prices and sales continued to climb in North Canaan through July, while limited inventory kept the town's housing market tilted toward sellers. The median price of a single-family home for the 12 months ending July 31 was \$355,000, up 27% from \$279,900 during the previous 12-month period. It was also 42% higher than the \$250,000 median recorded for the year ending July 31, 2024.

The latest figure was just below the town's record trailing 12-month median of \$357,750, reached in April 2026. Sales also increased. Twenty-nine single-family homes were sold during the 12 months ending in July, nearly twice the 15 sold during the comparable period a year earlier and up from 16 two years earlier. For comparison, annual sales peaked at 47 during the 12 months ending in August 2021, amid the pandemic-era surge in demand. Eight single-family homes were listed for sale at the end of August, representing roughly three to four months of inventory based on the recent sales pace. That level of supply generally indicates a seller's market.

Three single-family homes were listed below the 12-month median price of \$355,000. The other five single-family homes were listed above the median.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

This home at 22 Pease St. sold in June for \$315,000, below the town's 12-month median sale price of \$355,000.

July Transfers

315 Salisbury Road – 4 bedroom/2 bath cape on .61 acres transferred by Edward Brammer Senior to Jason Gladding for \$190,000
15 Honey Hill Road – 4 bedroom/3 bath antique home on .81 acres transferred by Anne Dekker to Shannon Gitlin for \$750,000
North Elm Street – 5.41 acres transferred by Charles Adams to Canaan Fire Company Incorporated for \$75,000

June Transfers

70 Church Street D1 – 2 bedroom/1.5 bath condo

transferred by 32 Railroad Street LLC to Gwendolyn Sue Murray for \$198,500
339 Norfolk Road- 2 bedroom/2 bath home on 1.18 acres transferred by Barry Hunter to Robert Mather Jr. for \$380,000
10 College Hill Road – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 1.75 acres transferred by Matthew Jasmin to Samantha Starr for \$355,000.
22 Pease Street – 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home on .11 acres transferred by Estate of Mary Ellen Negri to Justin Soto for \$315,000
31 Granite Avenue-3 bedroom/2 bath house built in

1840 on .75 acres transferred by John Taylor to John Lamb for \$360,000

* Town of North Canaan real estate transfers recorded between June 1, 2026, and July 31, 2026, provided by North Canaan Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS and market data from Info Sparks. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag sales by a number of days. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

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Our Towns

Sharon voters split opioid settlement funds between ambulance, regional programs

By Alec Linden

SHARON — Sharon voters unanimously approved splitting \$24,000 in opioid settlement funds between the town's ambulance service and a regional fund supporting addiction prevention, harm reduction and mental health services.

The decision Thursday, Aug. 27, came two months after voters rejected an earlier Board of Finance-backed proposal, 27-11, at a June 18 town meeting. Residents had expressed concern about directing all the money, which must be used for opioid remediation, to a regional organization rather than supporting the town's emergency medical service.

The revised plan allocates \$14,000 to Sharon Ambulance and \$10,000 to the Regional Opioid Response Fund, or RORF, managed by the Northwest Hills Council of Governments.

As additional settlement payments arrive through 2039, the town will have to vote again on whether to continue splitting the money between the two groups or adopt a different distribution plan.

Sharon Ambulance has said it intends to use its share to purchase and maintain equipment used during overdose responses.

The RORF supports harm-reduction initiatives and broader mental health services across the Litchfield Hills intended to reduce addiction risks and provide resources to vulnerable residents, according to Leonardo Ghio, the council's director of rural health.

To date, the fund has received \$175,000 in opioid settlement money from

towns in the region and spent approximately \$133,000 on harm-reduction supplies, addiction-awareness programming, mental health support and other initiatives.

Several towns, including Kent, Falls Village and Norfolk, have allocated their entire settlement payments to the RORF. Others, including Cornwall and North Canaan, have split the money between the regional organization and local mental health and substance-use disorder services, such as Greenwood's Counseling and Referrals.

Salisbury has yet to establish a distribution plan for its funds, which total approximately \$40,000 to date.

Ghio attended Thursday's meeting with Julia Jagger, an outreach and recovery navigator with Greenwood's whose position is funded by the RORF.

Jagger previously worked from a Greenwood's outreach site at Sharon Hospital, but the service ended because of funding changes. She said she plans to resume working from the hospital with support from the settlement funding.

Jagger said her role is to connect with people in need wherever they are.

"I can go directly to people's homes," Jagger said. "I can meet them somewhere out here. ... The whole goal of my position is to try to reduce people feeling like they need to go to Torrington or Poughkeepsie for services that they can get access to now."

Greenwood's is not a crisis-response service, however, and in an emergency, "it's going to be first responders that are responding," Jagger said.

Ghio said the regional

fund's strength lies in its ability to pool payments, which are distributed unevenly among towns and often arrive in small amounts from companies implicated in the opioid crisis, including Walmart, CVS and Purdue Pharma. Combining the payments allows the council to fund more substantial regional initiatives, he said.

Ghio estimated that Sharon will receive approximately \$62,000 over the full settlement-distribution period. Nearby Washington, which directs all its opioid settle-

ment money to the RORF, has already received \$52,000, he said.

By comparison, Ghio projected that Morris will receive only about \$3,500 by the time all the payments have been distributed.

"What in the world is Morris going to do that will be impactful with \$3,500 alone?" he said. "Pooling the money together allows us to just have that greater impact across the region, knowing that we share borders and neighbors, and that people travel from one town to the other."

Kent to host free Repair Café Sept. 26

By Alec Linden

KENT – Residents can bring broken but beloved household items to the Kent Community House for free repairs Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority will hold the Repair Cafe event in collaboration with the Kent Sustainability Team, Kent Conservation Commission and Kent Memorial Library. It will be the first repair café held in Kent and the third organized by HRRRA.

The event will be free of charge and open to all residents of the HRRRA's membership region, which includes Bethel, Bridgewater, Brookfield, Danbury, Kent, New Fairfield, New Milford, Newtown, Redding, Ridgefield, Roxbury, Sherman, Weston and Wilton.

The event is intended to

reduce waste in the community while saving residents money and potentially a treasured belonging. Items residents are encouraged to bring include bicycles, electronic appliances, Apple products, jewelry, small furniture, small gas engines and textiles.

Volunteers will attempt to fix the items, but repairs are not guaranteed. Residents are limited to one item at a time, but may rejoin the queue with additional items.

"The town is particularly grateful to Kent residents Judith Tolkow and Lee Woodbury for suggesting this activity and helping make it a reality," said Selectman and Kent Sustainability Team Chair Lynn Worthington.

Interested residents can visit the HRRRA's Repair Café webpage for more information and to register for an appointment.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Connecticut State Police are looking for three individuals linked to an auto theft and break-in spree in Salisbury and North Canaan during the early hours Friday, Aug. 28.

Two vehicles stolen in Salisbury amid break-in spree

By Alec Linden

Several vehicles were broken into and two were stolen during a series of related incidents in North Canaan and Salisbury overnight Thursday, Aug. 27, into Friday, Aug. 28, according to state police.

Trooper Spencer Bronson, North Canaan's resident state trooper, announced in a Facebook post Friday that several vehicles in the Barlow Street area had been entered and rummaged through. There were similar reports from residents in Salisbury.

Meanwhile, two vehicles were stolen in Salisbury, although one was recovered in Torrington on Friday, according to the Torrington Police Dept.

State police are seeking three suspects believed to be connected to the incidents.

Troop B released surveillance images of the three suspects recorded at a Torrington gas station between 6:08 and 6:19 a.m. Friday.

The images show the suspects inside and outside the gas station.

Meanwhile, home-surveillance footage, obtained by The Lakeville Journal, recorded shortly after 5 a.m. Friday on Factory Street in Salisbury shows three vehicles traveling from Factory Street onto Bunker Hill Road one after

another.

About 2½ minutes later, the vehicles returned and stopped across the street from the home. It isn't clear whether these included the two stolen vehicles.

The footage then shows the three suspects moving through the neighborhood with flashlights and shining them into vehicles. Two individuals then approached the homeowner's driveway where the camera was located. Footage from another angle shows one person searching inside a vehicle with a flashlight while another unsuccessfully attempts to enter a second vehicle in the driveway.

The homeowner, who asked not to be identified, said nothing appeared to have been taken from the first vehicle, even though his sunglasses and a small amount of cash were plainly visible inside.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Troop B at 860-626-1820. The investigation remains ongoing.

State police reminded residents that vehicle burglaries and thefts are often crimes of opportunity.

Troopers advised residents to lock their homes and vehicles, make sure surveillance and security systems are functioning, and report suspicious activity without confronting or approaching anyone.

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Once again, I am surprised at the outdoor opportunities here in the the Northwest corner, this time with a visit to Mount Tom State Park down in Washington Depot. We went early last Sunday morning. There is a wonderful car top boat launch next to the swimming beach. The pond, while relatively small, was delightful. We saw eagles and cormorants, plus lots of early morning distant swimmers. I spoke to one of the swimmers, and she mentioned that she has been swimming in the lake for the past 40 years. A few of the lake owners should win a prize for their rafts that were turned into gardens filled with flowers and tomatoes. The hike up to the tower was worth it for the view and the state workers very hospitable, so for more information, please visit: ctparks.com/parks/mount-tom-state-park.

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Hayes criticizes Trump, outlines priorities at Sharon gathering

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON — U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes discussed education, health care, immigration, voting rights and other national issues Thursday during a gathering with supporters at a constituent's home in Sharon.

"We are facing a future different from one we have ever had before," said Hayes, a Democrat who has represented Connecticut's 5th Congressional District since 2019. "We have to be bold and unapologetic to reverse some of the cruelty of this administration."

Hayes is seeking a fifth term in November against Republican challenger Chris Shea.

Hayes called many of her House colleagues "cowards," saying they privately express dissatisfaction with the Trump administration, "but it means nothing if they give him a pass and don't hold him to some accountability."

Hayes accused President Donald Trump of being the most corrupt president in history and described him as "narcissistic."

A former Waterbury public school teacher, Hayes spoke about her commitment to education and student welfare. She serves on House committees overseeing education and agriculture.

"My committee on education is jumping. Everything is being attacked and eroded on every level," she said.

Hayes then announced publicly for the first time that she plans to seek the chairmanship of the education committee.

"This moment calls for different leadership, a different response," she said. "People are happy I'm a



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

State Rep. Maria Horn, U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes and 30th Senatorial candidate Aaron Zimmer attend a Democratic event in Sharon Thursday.

teacher. Education saved my life. I'm up for the challenge and ready to do the job. My resolve is strong and my commitment is firm."

Hayes said she has advocated for nutrition programs through an education subcommittee, adding that "hungry kids don't learn."

She also discussed environmental protection, saying she helped preserve 40 miles of the Housatonic and Farmington rivers, and identified health care as another priority.

Addressing other national issues, Hayes said Americans should be concerned about voting rights and immigration.

"We have normalized how this country operates. It's about rewriting history."

Hayes said two things can be true at the same time when discussing U.S. support for Israel. She said Israel can be supported without giving Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu a blank check.

She also expressed gratitude for the support she has received since first being elected, including large and small campaign donations.

"The day after I was elected, I became everyone's congresswoman."

State Rep. Maria Horn, a Democrat representing the 64th District, also attended the gathering and praised Hayes' work on behalf of her constituents. Horn, who is seeking a fifth term, and Hayes discussed their work with area farmers and concerns about the effect of the Trump administration's immigration policies on farmworkers.

Aaron Zimmer of Brookfield, a Democratic candidate for the 30th Senate District seat held by Republican Stephen Harding, also attended.

During a question-and-answer period, one attendee asked Hayes how Trump could have been elected twice.

Hayes responded by listing several accomplishments of the Biden administration and discussing what she viewed as the resentment underlying some political divisions.

"Many believe if you're helping someone else, you're taking something away from me. This goes beyond policy differences; this is just mean."

Sharon

Boards still at odds over education funding

By Alec Linden

SHARON — Nearly two months after Sharon voters settled a contentious school budget debate, the town's Board of Finance and Board of Education are working to improve communication. While the boards are approaching common ground, including on the state minimum budget requirement—a central sticking point in the budget discussions this past spring and summer—differences remain as to how tight to keep the bottom line.

Voters at a town hall meeting in May initially rejected the education budget before approving a revised plan in late June.

At the center of the debate was the minimum budget requirement, or MBR. The state law generally prevents municipalities from budgeting less for education than they did in the previous fiscal year.

Board of Finance members have said for several budget cycles that an accounting error years ago caused the school appropriation to be set unnecessarily high. They contend that the inflated baseline contributed to unspent balances at the end of subsequent school years and could make future reductions difficult under the MBR.

With that concern in mind, the Board of Finance has resisted increases in education spending in recent years.

At an Aug. 10 Board of Education meeting, Terry Vance, chairman of the board's budget subcommittee, argued that the MBR should not dominate budget discussions. Vance said the town has sufficient financial resources, and noted that other towns in the Region One school district have raised their school budgets at times without placing the same emphasis on the requirement.

The Board of Finance, however, offered a different assessment at its Aug. 18 meeting.

Member Carol Flaton said rising costs have narrowed the amount of money left unspent in recent years, meaning the MBR may play a smaller role in future budget discussions. She and other members nevertheless rejected the argument that Sharon's relative wealth means it can readily increase spending.

Flaton said Sharon's wealth also limits the state assistance it receives. For fiscal year 2027, the town received just under \$30,000 through the state's Education Cost Sharing program, which distributes aid based on factors including enrollment, property wealth, and household income.

Sharon received the smallest allocation of any Connecticut municipality, with several other Region One towns receiving similarly limited amounts, according to data from the School and

State Finance Project, a non-partisan nonprofit organization that advocates for public education in Connecticut.

Finance board member Michele Pastre said the town's overall wealth also masks substantial differences among households. Budget decisions, she said, must account for residents with lower incomes who may struggle to absorb higher property taxes.

Pastre said that some argue that residents can afford to pay more. "No, we can't," she said. "There are a lot of people who can't."

In late August, BOE Chair Philip O'Reilly said that it is his board's duty both to the school and taxpayers to strike a balance. "We're not guided by a dollar percent," he said, "we're guided by the needs of the children, and we are also aware that we have fiscal responsibility."

He said that even as the MBR may not play as much of a role in upcoming budget discussions, other challenges remain, such as a long-term capital needs analysis report that will be reviewed in September. A new study about the Region One school district is also likely to contribute to future talks as well, O'Reilly said.

The bottom line, he said, is that the two boards need to work with one another to avoid what happened in June. "We understand that the budget process has to start right away," he said.



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The Lakeville Journal



Salisbury Volvo mechanic marks 42 years

By John Coston

SALISBURY — Steve Ohlinger celebrated 42 years last week as a mechanic with a special touch for Volvos, building a wide following among Swedish-car aficionados in the Northwest Corner and beyond.

The Auto Shop sits on a quarter-acre lot behind LaBonne's on Railroad Street, marked by a row of vintage Volvos parked nose-in along the property.

Ohlinger took over the shop in 1984, the same year a fire destroyed Salisbury Town Hall. He kept the name used by the previous owners.

Ohlinger had moved to town from Yorktown Heights, New York. His wife knew Salisbury a little, and he was familiar with the race-track at Lime Rock Park, so he responded to an ad in Autoweek.

Little by little, his customer base grew as his wife made connections through the library and church and he joined the church bell choir. It was his first attempt at running a business.

"My father thought I had a lot of nerve," he said.

"My reputation grew, and business slowly took off, and I'm still in the bell choir," he



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Steve Ohlinger, next to a body-modified 1980 Volvo 240. He has serviced Volvos and other makes at The Auto Shop in Salisbury for more than four decades.

said.

For years, Ohlinger used the business to support his interest in auto racing. He competed at Lime Rock Park, winning two events in his class.

Ohlinger is also known for speaking his mind. Beside the row of cars outside the shop, a large sign reads "No War," accompanied by other political messages.

"I was told back in the beginning, when Reagan was president, 'Don't put up political signs.' But I did anyway," Ohlinger said.

Although Volvos are his specialty, Ohlinger services a variety of makes. Karen Kel-

logg, a customer for 15 years, pulled into the shop recently in her Honda Element.

"Steve's always good with the answers," Kellogg said, noting that he had cared for her previous car, a Volvo 240 station wagon, for years.

Ohlinger said most older Volvos can still be repaired and that the 240 models remain fully capable of cross-country travel.

"I got a part from Sweden the other day. I just called up, and they said they had the part," he said.

"A lot of people are thrilled we're still here," Ohlinger said.

OUR TOWNS

Kent residents to revisit proposed food truck ban

By Alec Linden

KENT – On Sept. 14, Kent residents will once again have the chance to weigh in on a controversial proposed ordinance that would ban food trucks across town.

The legislation was tabled during a July 29 meeting after residents said they were confused by certain provisions in the draft language. Several other proposed ordinances were approved at the meeting.

As written, the ordinance would ban commercial food truck operations anywhere in town, except when trucks are temporarily hired for short-term private or town events.

Residents took issue with how public and private events would be treated differently. Under the proposed ordinance, food trucks operating at private events would not be permitted to sell food to individual customers, while trucks brought in by the town would.

“Why is it good for here, but not good for there?” resident Mike Gawel asked during the July meeting.

Residents will have another opportunity to voice their thoughts and concerns at the Sept. 14 meeting. The idea of a food truck ban has bounced between town agencies for years, but no enforceable legislation has been adopted. Most support for such a law has come from restaurant owners, who have argued that food trucks create unfair competition because they are not subject to the property taxes and other overhead costs faced by brick-and-mortar businesses.

The current proposal follows local crepe maker Grégoire Pye’s effort to secure a semi-permanent location for his food truck business earlier this year. At the time, he said the town had been inhospitable to his business, leading him to consider leaving Kent entirely.

The public meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall, with an option to attend online via Zoom. It will also include a discussion of a proposal to move the town’s Veterans Memorial from its current location outside Swift House to a new site next to Town Hall.

North Canaan’s BD syringe advances to ‘Coolest Thing Made’ quarterfinals

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — The BD plastic disposable syringe has advanced to the quarterfinals of the Connecticut Business & Industry Association’s 2026 Coolest Thing Made in Connecticut competition, narrowing the field from 16 products to eight.

BD’s North Canaan-made syringe defeated Tilt-N-Drop, manufactured by Poly-Tech America of Cheshire, in the opening round. It now faces the Calzone Go Live Workstation, manufactured by Calzone Case Co. of Bridgeport.

The bracket-style contest highlights products manufactured in Connecticut. Sixteen products face off in public voting rounds, with the winner of each matchup advancing until one is named the state’s “Coolest Thing Made.”

Quarterfinal voting is underway at cbia.com/coolest-thing. Voters may cast one vote per day during each round. The winner will be announced Oct. 1 at CBIA’s Made in Connecticut 2026 Manufacturing Summit at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford.

The BD syringe is the first product from a manufacturer in Connecticut’s Northwest Corner to earn a place in the three-year-old competition, according to CBIA officials.

BD’s 385,000-square-foot North Canaan facility is the Northwest Corner’s largest employer, with about 500 full-time workers and nearly 50 contingent associates. The plant has manufactured syringes for more than six decades and produces approximately 2.5 billion annually, supporting patient care in

more than 70 countries.

“I truly believe this is the coolest thing made not only in Connecticut, but in the world,” said Zane VanWagoner, BD Canaan’s senior operations manager.

Other quarterfinalists include toothpaste, a brass Santa Claus button, a satellite propellant isolation valve, a three-wheeled roadster, a robotic-assisted surgery system and kielbasa.

Electric Boat’s Virginia-class submarine won the inaugural competition in 2024. Ensign-Bickford Aerospace & Defense of Simsbury won last year for its Frangible Joint.

For North Canaan, BD’s advancement keeps alive the Northwest Corner’s bid for its first championship in a competition celebrating Connecticut manufacturing and the people behind the products.

“BD patients, every second somewhere in the world, are being serviced by this,” said Ahmad Warraich, BD Canaan plant manager, referring to the syringe.

“Our people know that this is the reason we are here. Our people know that the world depends on us.”

Ann Southworth Lango

AMENIA — Ann Southworth Lango, 80, of Marathon, New York, passed away, following a brief battle with cancer, on Aug. 20, 2026. Born Dec. 1, 1945, in Canton, New York, to the late Robert and Virginia Southworth, she was the loving wife of John Lango for 61 years.

Ann lived a life rooted in faith, joy, and family. Formerly of Amenia, New York, she attended Sharon Congregational Church and enjoyed daily treadmill walks, travel adventures and filling her home with laughter. Later, serving as a greeter at Lapeer Christian Church, her warm welcomes and sense of humor brought light to all who knew her. Her family rejoices knowing she is peacefully in the presence of God.

She was predeceased by her brother Charles (Magda) Southworth. She is survived by her husband, John;

brother, Bill Southworth (Penny Welch); sister-in-law, Ann (Richard) Carberry; children, Ken (Sue) Lango and Cindy (Phil) Kay; grandchildren, Nick Lango, Chris (Bri) Lango, Kendra (Noah) Chalifour, and Javen Kay; great-grandchildren, Sean and Abigail Lango; and extended nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held at Lapeer Christian Church at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 25, with an available YouTube live stream (<http://youtube.com/@lapeerchristianchurch>). Private interment in Seneca Falls, New York. Memorial contributions may be made in Ann’s name to Lapeer Christian Church.

Funeral arrangements by Nichols Funeral Home. <https://www.nicholsfuneral.com/>



Helen K. Roux

COPAKE FALLS — Helen K. Roux, 84, of Copake Falls, New York, passed away peacefully on Aug. 28, 2026 at Sharon Center for Health and Rehabilitation in Sharon, Connecticut.

Born in Sharon on Aug. 30, 1941, she was the daughter of the late Arthur and Helen Kilmer. Helen grew up in Millerton, New York, where she formed deep roots in the community. On Oct. 29, 1961, she married the love of her life, Kenneth Roux, who survives at home. Together, they shared nearly sixty-five-years of marriage, devotion and family. Helen was a remarkably kind and sweet person who consistently put the needs of others ahead of her own. Throughout her life, she held several local jobs, concluding her career in the kitchen at Hotchkiss School. She deeply loved the students and staff at Hotchkiss, and her warmth left a lasting impression on the school community. Helen found great joy in the simple pleasures of life, especially playing games. She cherished card games with her family and in her later years thoroughly enjoyed spending time on her laptop.

Above all, Helen’s family was her world. In addition to her beloved husband, Kenneth, she is survived by her two devoted sons and their families, Brian and Roseann Roux of Sharon, Connecticut, and Timothy and Christy Roux of Lancaster, South Carolina. Helen also leaves behind four grandchildren, who were truly the light of her life, Lauren Roux of Charlotte, North Carolina, Brittany Roux of Lancaster, South Carolina, Courtney Roux of Wallkill, New York and Justin Roux of Sharon, Connecticut; a brother, James Kilmer and his wife Rhonda of Ancram, New York, as well as several nieces and nephews. Helen was predeceased by three sisters, Mary Duell, Judith Murphy and Constance Decker.

A funeral service will take place on Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate. Burial will follow at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association, 301 Manchester Road, Suite 105, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603.

To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Helen’s memory please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.



Send news tips to editor@lakevillejournal.com



The Lakeville Journal

www.facebook.com/thelakevillejournal

OBITUARIES

Lee Strattman

EAST CANAAN — Lee “Chip” Strattman, Jr., 72, of 243 East Canaan Road died peacefully at his home surrounded by his loving family. He was the husband of Barbara (Paviol) Strattman. Chip and Barbara would have celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary next month. Lee was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts on Oct. 20, 1953, son of the late Lee and Joan (Liner) Strattman, Sr.

Lee was a self-employed handyman. He helped many families in the northwest corner with household problems. He loved being outdoors, boating, fishing, and camping with his family were things he enjoyed. He also loved spending time playing his guitar and listening to music. His family described Chip as a man who “loved being busy.” He channeled that energy into maintaining his home and

his yard.

In addition to his wife, Chip is survived by his two daughters; Rebecca Strattman and her husband Colby Shove of Cornwall, Connecticut, Jessica Strattman and her two sons, Finn and Hayden Larsen, all of East Canaan, Connecticut. Chip was predeceased by his ex son-in-law and father of his grandsons, Jeremiah Larsen. Chip is also survived by his two brothers; Chris and his wife Diane Strattman of Florida; Larry and his wife Julie Strattman of Ashley Falls, Massachusetts; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral arrangements will be held at the convenience of the family. Memorial donations may be sent to Dementia Society of America PO Box 600 Doylestown, PA 18901. The Newkirk-Palm-er Funeral Home 118 Main St. Canaan, Ct 06018 is in charge of arrangements.

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com



Worship Services

Week of September 6, 2026

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Transitioning through prayer
All welcome to join us
860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville
Offering companionship along the Way
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC
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172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
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www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232

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Congregation Beth David
A reform Jewish Synagogue
3344 East Main St., Amenia
SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM
Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org)
ALL ARE WELCOME
Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
info@congbethdavid.org

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
10 a.m. Worship Service
“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

Falls Village Congregational Church
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
Coffee Hour
A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!
860-824-0194

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
9 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY
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Sharon Congregational
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

Millerton United Methodist Church
6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546
Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M.
518-789-3138

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.
30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!
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SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge
In-Person and on You-Tube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons
Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 a.m.
My Spiritual Journey
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com
All are Welcome

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Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church
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Wednesday 6pm
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2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT
11:00AM - Worship Service
“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-824-5534
canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

LET'S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

Drifting is coming to Lime Rock Park once a year under a new agreement with town officials. Some see it as an exciting addition for motorsports fans, while others have concerns about noise and the impact on the surrounding community.

Should Lime Rock Park be allowed to host an annual drifting event?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Friday, Sept. 4 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

Opinion



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

Before we move the Lakeville Train Station

The first train arrived in Lakeville from Hartford in December 1871 carrying twenty passengers, transforming our community from a relatively isolated iron-and-manufacturing village into one connected to the wider world.

Passenger service ended in 1928, but freight service was still going when Frederick and Ruth Baer moved to Lakeville in the 1930s. After it ended, Frederick helped give the unused station a second life. In 1950, he donated securities enabling the Town to purchase the depot and the abandoned railroad right-of-way. He also gave the Town the parcel that became Bauer Park—and established a substantial fund to help maintain those gifts into perpetuity.

In the 1950s, the Bauer Fund helped renovate the train station for new occupants, including the Salisbury Welfare Association (now Salisbury Family Services) and Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association. In 1996, local radio station WQQQ-FM 103 took up residence. They stopped broadcasting in 2011, and the building has been vacant ever since.

Today the station is part of the Local Historic District and also the National Register Historic District which cites its architectural importance and historic role as a transportation hub. Preserving it isn't nostalgia; it's civic responsibility to save an asset that contributes to the town's historic character which makes it a desirable place to live and visit and invest in.

But preserving the station doesn't necessarily mean moving it.

At a special Town Meeting in September, residents will be asked to approve a \$611,000 bid to move the 155-year-old Depot approximately 19 feet back from Ethan Allen Street.

The primary reason for the move is reportedly to break a pattern of delivery trucks clipping the building. But before spending \$611,000, shouldn't we determine whether that problem can't be solved in a less draconian way?

Imagine a landscaped buffer along the vulnerable side of the station. Rather than highway-style bollards, granite posts could be designed to resemble remnants

of railroad infrastructure. Once a civil/traffic engineer calculates the required impact resistance, a preservation architect could design a plan that attractively incorporates reinforcements.

The savings could then be devoted to stabilizing and restoring the station where it has stood since 1871.

We should also understand the financing. Yes, State Historic Preservation Office grants can help restore the building, but SHPO's Historic Restoration Fund is capped at \$200,000 and requires 1:1 matching funds.

According to the Town's latest audited financial statements, the Bauer Fund held \$2,645,461 as of June 30, 2025. The fund is subject to restrictions, of course.

But there is precedent for using its spendable income for Town purposes. In 2009, when Salisbury needed additional money to construct the Senior Center at the Town Grove, a Town Meeting authorized the use of \$180,000 from income earned by the Bauer Fund.

Could Bauer Fund income similarly help preserve the historic station Bauer himself helped the Town acquire?

Perhaps moving the station will ultimately prove necessary. But before we spend \$611,000 relocating a building that's over a century and a half old, let's make sure we've examined every alternative.

Helen Klein Ross
Lakeville

Environment concerns with drifting, racing

I am Lincoln Barnett. Smoke and gasoline are horrible for the environment. For example, "GridLife brings racing, drifting, and new fans to Lime Rock Park" from The Lakeville Journal. It is horrible for the environment.

In the picture that car is spraying out so much smoke from the exhaust. It's fun to watch the races but horrible for the environment.

Lincoln Rand Barnett
Third Grade,
Salisbury Central School

Labor Day: A celebration

Recently a young friend exclaimed to me "Why do we have Labor Day anyway?" I found myself rebutting his genuine query with "Don't you remember the dastardly working conditions of the 1800's onward with the rising Industrial Revolution?" Of course he didn't – most don't.

The Department of Labor, so far still in existence, defines Labor Day's purpose: "to honor the American labor movement and the works and contributions of laborers to the development and achievements within the United States." Internationally, labor day has been celebrated since 1886, as International Labor Day or May Day to honor workers and support worker rights.

In the US, the First Labor Day was celebrated with a parade and festivities in 1882, in New York City. State up state followed with Labor Days, until 1894, when a particularly violent Pulman's Strike shut down all rail traffic West of Chicago from May through July. The strike included 250,000 workers and boycotters in the Pulman factory as well as those staffing trains - 30 were killed, 57 wounded. The Strike ended

OPEN SPACE
KATHY HERALD-MARLOWE

with an injunction upheld by the Supreme Court favoring the owners - the strikers were defeated -crushed by federal troops. To quell massive negative response, Grover Cleveland, then President, immediately asked congress to pass bill S.730 making Labor Day a public holiday. – a celebration of workers (it wasn't fully public until the 1930's, initially covering only federal workers.)

Union protests continued for decades demanding an 8-hour working day, a 5-day work week and illegality of child labor – many labor/management conflicts in the late 1800's and early 1900' were violent. The initial demands of workers and their unions was for shorter work days, upgrading harsh to dangerous work conditions (ventilation, railings, safety gear), steady wages, ceasing child labor. Work days were 10-16 hours a day, 6 days a week, no extra pay for overtime, no job security, wages could be cut immediately. In 1914, the Ford Motor Com-

pany cut shifts to 8 hours and doubled pay to increase productivity, then in 1938 Franklin Roosevelt signed the Fair Labor Standards Act setting a national limit on hours, a minimal wage, and requiring extra pay for overtime. Labor had an 8-hour day, child labor was illegal, a hundred-year tussle.

In addition to Labor Day's purpose, it is regarded as a major time marker in the US calendar. On September 1 (first Monday) it is half way between Fourth of July and Thanksgiving. Memorial Day was once the end of the school year and Labor Day its beginning. Back-to-School excitement and expense continues as new backpacks, water bottles, clothes, pens and pencils, etc, etc. are the major focus of families. Schools continue to start after Labor Day, or just before. Labor Day is considered the end of summer – a highly popular travel time.

In the fashion world, Labor Day was distinctive as once it wasn't proper to wear white after Labor Day just as wearing white before Memorial Day was forbidden. These taboos may continue for shoes, purses but winter white is popular, a

newer trend.

The fading of knowledge of Labor Day represents the alteration in the nation's economic and social environment. In 1979, 20 million workers in non-agricultural jobs were in unions. 22% of workers were union members primarily in a manufacturing heavy world of work. Today in a service economy but 8% of workers are unionized, the construction of service jobs makes organizing harder with much to assist management for union busting. Starbucks and Amazon are two major headlines under siege – more traditional auto, oil, health care are ongoingly unionized.

Gallup polling indicates that Americans approval of unions is currently steady between 68 and 71% for the past five years . Approval rarely below 60%.

So have a cookout, go to a parade, attend a free Washington Symphony Orchestra performance. Celebrate Labor Day, enjoy its festivities, its back-to-school shopping, its long history. In a nation bowing to Billionaires, here is to the middle class, the working class, labor.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe
lives in Sharon.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — 1901

What Lakeville needs is a good ambitious dog catcher and a Frankfurter factory. Too much dog.

Mrs. Barbary Leddy of Mount Carmel died last Friday of mosquito bites. She was literally tormented to death. Her body was a mass of bites and she scratched the surface on her leg until a vein opened and she bled to death.

A stalk of field corn 14 feet high was left at this office this week. Twas grown by Ernest Wooden of Chapinville on the old Lee farm owned by the Scoville family.

FOR SALE — The "Polly Reed" place so called, situated near Lakeville, consisting of 10 acres of land and large house thereon. For terms inquire of Donald T. Warner, trustee.

LIME ROCK — An eleven-pound boy, now a week old, is at the home of Michael Dunn. If the stork continues to favor this village as it has of late, a baby show can be easily arranged next spring.

LIME ROCK — The big white stone beside the road on Town Hill has been buried and a stalk of golden rod planted upon the grave. A commendable job, as some horses were afraid of the boulder.

LIME ROCK — Mike

Hickey, a charcoal teamster, left his team standing hitched to a load of coal last Saturday, then went back in the woods to help another wagon. There was live coal in the load. It soon blazed up and singed the horses. They started down the mountain on a run and it looked as if the devil was out for a ride. The horses finally got loose from the load, but the wagon and coal were destroyed.

100 years ago — 1926

Home made stills continue to turn out raw booze. We suppose they are called stills because after drinking their output, the drinker is apt to be still for the rest of eternity.

50 years ago — 1976

CANAAN — Six young men have recently cleaned a portion of the Blackberry River of debris and logjams which were causing flooding problems. They were employed under the Federal government's Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) project. The program employed five area boys, Mike Novicki of Canaan, John and Tom Warner of Canaan, Peter Schultz of Lakeville and Ivan Barron of Canaan. They were supervised by Mike Magistrali of Torrington. They worked for the town of Canaan at various jobs throughout the summer and received \$2.31 an hour and worked 35 hours a week.

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

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Our Towns

Salisbury Band marks end of summer with patriotic favorites

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Band played its traditional end-of-summer concert Saturday, Aug. 29, on the lawn of the Scoville Memorial Library.

About 80 people turned out to hear old favorites, including “The Battle Hymn of the Republic,” the “Armed Forces Medley,” and “The Stars and Stripes Forever,” which closed the concert.

The program also featured newer works. “American Flourish,” composed in 2009 by Robert W. Smith, incorporates elements of “When Johnny Comes Marching Home,” “Shenandoah,” and “Yankee Doodle.”

Salisbury Band director Brian Viets’ “America 2-5-0” was composed for this year’s celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

“There will be a short quiz after we play it,” Viets said. “Sorry, no prize money.”

For “God Bless America,” Viets introduced French horn player Rachel Matsudaira, who sang in the style



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The Salisbury Band plays its traditional end-of-summer concert at the Scoville Memorial Library Saturday afternoon, Aug. 29. It is the band’s 98th season.

of Kate Smith.

The concert ended shortly before 4 p.m. out of consideration for a memorial service being held next door at the Congregational Church.

Before the final number,

Viets noted that the Salisbury Band is in its 98th year and expressed hope that everyone would return for its centennial in 2028.

He also thanked the library for providing the band with rehearsal space and a place to store its equipment and instruments.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Children snuggle up with baby goats from Got Your Goat Farm during the Kent Memorial Library’s annual Kent Carnival on Golden Falcon Field.

Kent Carnival brings games, goats and community fun

By Lans Christensen

KENT — The Kent Carnival brought families to Golden Falcon Field on Saturday for games, food and activities presented by the Kent Memorial Library.

Various non-profit groups offered activities and met with members of the public throughout the event. Children bounced in an inflatable barrel-shaped playhouse

and explored a Kent Volunteer Fire Department vehicle during a touch-a-truck activity.

A highlight was a goat-cuddling enclosure organized by Kent Affordable Housing. Mother goats and their babies were brought from Got Your Goat Farm, giving children an opportunity to hold, pet and play with the animals. Four of the young goats were just a week old.

Sheep draw a crowd at Scoville Library

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Excitement was in the air at the Scoville Memorial Library Wednesday, Aug. 26, when the staff of Le Petit Ranch arrived with seven sheep, temporary fencing and plenty of treats for children to feed the animals.

Le Petit Ranch is a non-profit organization based in Sheffield, Massachusetts. It provides educational and community-based opportunities through animal-assisted activities.

The father-and-son team of Dan and Mitch Moulton, both from the ranch, backed the sheep trailer up to the lawn behind the library and set up some temporary fencing. This took some doing as it was thoroughly tangled up. Meanwhile people, mostly parents and children, began to gather 15 minutes before the scheduled 2 p.m. start.

Dan Moulton was asked where the gate in the fence was. He pointed to the trailer. “That’s the gate.”

Mitch Moulton lowered the gate and the sheep -- Cinnamon, Grace, Tracy, Mocha, Latte and Lawrence Welsh -- trotted out and began exploring their temporary home, bleating and munching on grass.

The humans picked their way gingerly through the sheep trailer—which was full of clean hay but nonetheless contained sheep droppings—and joined them.

Staffers, including ranch founder Marjorie Borreda



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Children interact with sheep from Le Petit Ranch at the Scoville Memorial Library Wednesday, Aug. 26. The youngsters got to feed and pet the animals.



Youngsters successfully fed sheep by hand at the Scoville Memorial Library.

and sisters Alice and Louise Levalet, provided handfuls of sheep food and the children began offering it to the animals. The sheep, recognizing a good thing when they saw it, abandoned the grass in favor of the food.

Borreda circled around the

mass of excited children and bemused sheep, occasionally reminding the youngsters not to chase the animals.

The ranch staff mostly spoke to each other and to the sheep in French, which added an international flavor to the event.

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Great Mountain Forest demonstrates how to manage invasive plants

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE—More than a dozen people interested in forest management gathered at the Yale Forestry Camp in Great Mountain Forest (GMF) on Aug. 28 before heading into the woods to examine invasive species and ways to manage them.

GMF forester Kate Regan-Loomis; Peter Picone, a wildlife biologist with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP); and Eileen Fielding, the recently retired director of Sharon Audubon and a GMF board member, led the group.

At the start of the hike, where a footbridge crossed a beaver pond, Fielding stopped and said, “Let me get my bird goggles on.”

She noted that by late August, the birds were no longer singing.

“They’re molting, eating bugs, fattening up for migrating,” she said.

“If it were May, you’d have yellow warblers, sparrows, lots of little migratory songbirds taking advantage

of the abundant cover and insect life.”

Not all the birds in GMF are migratory, but a significant percentage are, Fielding said.

“We are standing in a nursery for tropical birds,” she told the group. “Lots of good habitat, lots of food, not too many predators.”

The group continued to a recently cleared four-acre area that had once been an apple orchard.

“There are still a few sad little apple trees around,” Regan-Loomis said.

The former orchard had become overrun with invasive plants, including multiflora rose, barberry, and bittersweet.

“It was pretty bad,” Regan-Loomis said.

Instead of using a brush hog, the area was cleared with a forestry mower.

One participant described the machine as one that “chomps everything” without plowing the unwanted plants back into the soil.

Regan-Loomis said GMF will spot-treat the area with glyphosate rather than spray



Eileen Fielding (at right with backpack) speaks to a group of people interested in forest management techniques.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
Peter Picone, a wildlife biologist, gives detailed instructions on how to combat invasives.

it broadly.

“We have a very light touch at our scale,” she said. “It’s unrealistic to think we’ll eliminate everything. We just want to manage it without backbreaking labor.”

When asked about the goal for the former orchard, Regan-Loomis replied, “I see open growing space for native plants.”

Along the trail, the group stopped several times to examine plants and discuss their roles in the forest.

Picone observed that Norway spruce, although not native, can provide habitat similar to that of native hemlocks, which have declined.

“It duplicates some of the habitat values,” he said.

At another stop, Picone said mountain laurel, a native shrub, provides winter food for deer but is toxic to many other animals.

Picone also identified invasive plants along the trail, including bittersweet

and barberry. He said DEEP sometimes uses triclopyr, an herbicide that targets a narrower range of plants than glyphosate.

He, too, favored targeted treatment rather than indiscriminate spraying over a wider area.

When the group reached the former orchard, Fielding said, “For those of you from land trusts, this is your worst PR nightmare.”

People unfamiliar with forest-management practices may see a recently cleared area, think it looks devastated, and draw a negative conclusion, she said.

“It’s up to you to explain.”

The group included representatives of the Salisbury and Winchester land trusts and the Housatonic Valley Association, as well as a private woodland owner, a landscaper studying forestry, a Vermont man with several acres of long-neglected forest, and a New Preston man whose woods were overrun with multiflora rose.

Student films bring hidden history to the big screen

By Patrick L. Sullivan

MILLERTON— Five student films on little-known aspects of history were shown at The Moviehouse in Millerton Thursday, Aug. 27.

Rhonan Mokriski, a history teacher at Salisbury School, introduced the films, which were from the 2026 Troutbeck Symposium, held at the Troutbeck hotel complex in Amenia.

“Hamilton in Salisbury” by Rocco Famularo, a student at Salisbury School, used primary sources and some detective work to establish that Alexander Hamilton did in fact have a connection to Salisbury.

Drawing on a survey by Samuel Moore, Famularo noted that what is now Route 44 was known for years as Hamilton Street.

And working backwards from an item in The Lakeville Journal in 1941, Famularo was able to find evidence of a 1793 real estate transaction in Salisbury involving Hamilton.

Ty Moynahan, another Salisbury School student, looked at the Northeast Lime Company of North Canaan, which produced magnesium. Magnesium was needed as part of the Manhattan Project, which produced the first atomic bombs, subsequently used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan during World War II. Moynahan interviewed Christian Allyn of North Canaan, who said that the Northeast Lime Company was known for the purity of the product and the plant’s ability to produce the volume necessary.

There was a personal connection for the filmmaker. He interviewed his grandfather Steve Moynahan, who told the story of his father, John F. Moynahan, who worked on the project.

“My name was actually on the bomb” that was detonated over Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.

“It was supposed to be the bomb that ended the war,” said Steve Moynahan. “My



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
Rhonan Mokriski, left, and Lionel Maltby discussed the student’s film at The Moviehouse Thursday, Aug. 27.

father wrote ‘No white crosses for Stevie’ on it.”

Produced by a team at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, “MLK in Connecticut” looks at the summer a 15-year-old Martin Luther King Jr. spent at a tobacco farm in Connecticut.

The story relates how King, traveling by train in the summer of 1944, had to ride in a segregated car until Washington, D.C., where the travelers switched to a train with integrated seating.

He was headed to the Cullman Brothers tobacco farm in Simsbury. The farm produced broadleaf tobacco for cigar wrappers.

One interviewee, Lerone Martin of the Martin Luther King Jr. Research and Education Institute, said King’s future career was foreshadowed at the farm, when he was asked to lead Bible study.

The Black students working at the farm were invited to worship by a church in Simsbury, and King was asked to join the choir.

The MLK film was produced by Jordan Almeida, Sophia Camphouse, Ivy Zheng, and Sophia Fitzpatrick.

Another film was “Hotchkiss and Hampton,” made by students in Hotchkiss teacher Amanda Robiolo’s history classes, who examined the connection between The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville

and what was then known as the Hampton Agricultural and Industrial Institute in Hampton, Virginia. (It is now Hampton University.)

In 1903 Hotchkiss students were making direct financial donations to Hampton and the relationship deepened over the years. The students practiced “micro-history,” making use of census records, city directories, and military records.

The final film, “Juanita Jackson: The Power of Youth” by Lionel Maltby of Salisbury School, focused on the remarkable career of Juanita Jackson Mitchell, who was the first African-American woman to practice law in Maryland and was active in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) starting in the mid-1930s.

After the films, Mokriski opened the discussion by noting that the 2026 Troutbeck Symposium was the sixth year of the event, which brings high school students together to work on neglected areas of history and to tell those stories.

“We’ve found so many good ones,” he said. “You just got a taste of it.”

Mokriski said that in addition to acting as historians, the students are also filmmakers, responsible for all the technical aspects of a successful film.



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RESCUE

Continued from Page A1

started up the trail carrying a Stokes litter, a type of wilderness stretcher. They were told to turn back after crews determined that the woman could ride down on the ATV. Rice followed the vehicle on foot during the descent. Rough terrain and debris complicated the trip, and responders used a chainsaw at one point to clear the trail. Rice said dehydration may have contributed to the woman's condition. She improved after receiving water and food, Rice said. "This was a person who was just visiting—had never hiked the trail, and really didn't bring adequate supplies," Rice said. Rice said the pair had likely climbed the mountain to watch the sunset and were caught unprepared for the descent in darkness. Rice noted that hikers caught on Bear Mountain after dark are

a frequent source of emergency calls. Nevertheless, Rice commended the hikers for possessing headlamps, noting that many people rescued from the mountain do not have them. But safe preparation also means carrying adequate water and food, knowing the trail's difficulty and allowing enough daylight to complete the hike, she said. She urged inexperienced hikers to avoid the popular but strenuous route, particularly late in the day. Bear Mountain is difficult in sections, and conditions are hazardous after dark. Rice also noted that wilderness rescues require significant personnel and can take hours, even when the extraction is relatively straightforward. "It's beautiful up there," she said, "but you have to be well prepared."

HORSE SHOW

Continued from Page A1

Spectators also came out in support of the Lakeville Pony Club, which aims to inspire a love of riding while expanding access to a sport that can be expensive. The Pony Club is a local branch of The United States Pony Clubs, a national organization centered on equine education for young riders. The Lakeville branch is one of the organization's oldest continuously operating clubs. It currently has 11 members, ranging in age from 10 to 20. "It teaches everything — veterinary work, farrier work, a little bit about everything — so you become a well-rounded horse person," said organizer and director Linda Bushnell, who began riding at age three and is a Pony Club graduate herself. With roots in Lakeville, the club was previously based on Route 41 before moving to the Millbrook area in 2018 after

the original property was sold. Members participate in mounted activities while also learning horse management, including the day-to-day responsibilities involved in caring for horses and ponies. Proceeds from Sunday's horse show help support club activities, including rallies and clinics, but Bushnell said much of the fundraising goes toward maintaining Quincy, the beloved club horse available to young riders who do not have a horse of their own. Having a horse specifically for club members is not something offered by every Pony Club, and the costs associated with Quincy — including boarding, veterinary care and farrier services — make him one of the Lakeville club's largest expenses. District Commissioner Sara Sartorini, the club's volunteer leader and chief administrator of the Pony Club,

estimated Sunday's show would raise between \$2,000 and \$3,000, with proceeds also supporting club merchandise and activities throughout the year. The funds are raised through rider entry fees and sponsorships. Years ago, Bushnell said, when the club operated out of Lakeville, many of the children interested in riding did not have a horse of their own. "Some people thought it would be really good for the kids to be able to have their own horse," she said. The club began offering designated riding days with Jerry, its club horse at the time, a tradition that continues today with Quincy. The arrangement gives members access to a horse without the expense of owning one. "It's like your own horse for a day," Bushnell said. Millerton resident Jaclyn Perusse purchased a gift certifi-

cate for riding lessons for her daughter, Lillian, for Christmas and said she became hooked. "She's been riding since the day after Christmas," said Perusse, who is also a lifelong rider. "Everyone at the club is very welcoming," she said, adding that the short distance from Millerton is also a draw. Perusse said she and her husband were proud to see their daughter compete in her first competition Sunday. Sartorini's daughter, Eliza, joined the club in 2022 after her 4-H club closed. Sartorini was then recruited to serve as district commissioner. "It's like another part-time job," she joked. "But it's worth it because I know she'll have her barn friends for life." Bushnell said she hopes to see the Lakeville Pony Club continue to grow. "We need new members because the children all grow up and go to college," she said. Membership for 2027 costs \$185 and includes access to Quincy, the club horse, monthly meetings and a weekly summer program, among other activities. Members can arrange designated days to ride him and may also compete with him in horse shows, giving children without horses of their own an opportunity to participate. Former Pony Club member Mia Dodge returned to the show with Trigger, a young horse competing for the first time. The pair won each of their events, earning a championship ribbon. Dodge, now 19, was 8 years old when she first competed in the Lakeville Open. "I love getting to come back here and compete," she said. "Pony Club taught me a lot that I now get to use when working with a young horse like Trigger. It's a great environment to show him the ropes and support young riders."

ASSAULT CASE

Continued from Page A1

discussing exercises for back problems with Abendroth and that he had never made her uncomfortable. The school official reported that the student did not appear distressed. Abendroth told the school that the student had come to discuss a rehabilitation protocol and that he nudged her, inadvertently causing her to fall, according to the affidavit. Administrators continued investigating and reviewed communications between Abendroth and the student. They found text messages dating to Nov. 20, 2025, that appeared romantic, although the initial review found nothing indicating a physical relationship, the affidavit states. The school reported the matter to the state Department of Children and Families on Jan. 27. State police began investigating later that

day. IMS placed Abendroth on administrative leave that day and fired him shortly afterward. The school provided investigators with 40 files containing communications between Abendroth and the student. A DCF caseworker combined the files into a document totaling approximately 383 pages. State police said Abendroth sent the student 133 emails from his school account between Nov. 20 and Jan. 22. Investigators also obtained letters and handwritten notes given to the student. In one letter quoted in the warrant, Abendroth allegedly wrote that he felt himself being drawn toward the student and sought opportunities to see her around campus. He acknowledged that emailing her, leaving notes, and learn-

ing her schedule could get him "into a lot of trouble." "We do need to be careful because there are some observant people around," he allegedly wrote. Another email proposed using coded messages to select dates when the two could communicate. Abendroth, according to the affidavit, would also leave handwritten notes in her cubby. "Hey, you look beautiful this morning," one note read. Another said: "I wish it would be just you and me in my office." After initially denying inappropriate conduct, the student later told a DCF caseworker that she and Abendroth had kissed twice, according to the affidavit. During a Feb. 3 forensic interview, she described several alleged encounters.

She said that during one encounter in a dark study-hall room, Abendroth grabbed her and kissed her, placed his hands on her buttocks over her clothing, and pulled her close. During another, she alleged that he put his hands under her shirt, unclipped her bra, and touched her skin beneath the bra. The student also provided a different account of the Jan. 25 encounter. She alleged that she was on top of Abendroth in his office while he lifted her shirt and kissed her stomach. When the administrator entered, she said, Abendroth pushed her away, causing her to fall over the coffee table. She was not injured. The student described an earlier incident in which Abendroth allegedly picked

her up, pulled her close, and kissed her. Investigators found an email that appeared to refer to that encounter. "I'm sorry that I scared you earlier when I picked you up," the email stated. "I kinda just lost control and wanted to be close to you." Head of School Lisa Sun told families in an e-mail that IMS acted immediately after learning of the conduct, supported the student, notified authorities, and conducted an internal investigation. Sun said that investigation found no evidence of misconduct involving other students but encouraged anyone with information to contact the school or police. Abendroth worked at IMS from August 2016 until January 2026. He became director of the athletic department in 2019.

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Lake Waramaug tests a new defense against invasive species

Continued from Page A1

“Underside, trailer, wiring, everything,” he said.

Dwyer connected an extension cord to the decontamination equipment, attached a hose and crawled beneath the four-ballast boat to flush its tanks. Gueniat then treated the boat’s underside and trailer with high-pressure water heated to 140 degrees.

After about 20 minutes, the boat was inspected again and fitted with a small wire seal connecting it to the trailer. The intact seal would tell monitors at the lake that the vessel had been cleared and had not been launched elsewhere.

The process is methodical by design: inspect, decontaminate, reinspect and seal.

The need for such precautions is growing. Greg Bugbee, an associate scientist with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station’s Office of Aquatic Invasive Species and principal investigator of its invasive plant program, said Connecticut already leads New England in the percentage of lakes containing at least one invasive species.

“The horse is out of the barn at this point,” Bugbee said.

That does not mean prevention is no longer worthwhile. Quite the opposite, he said. “Prevention, compared to management, is a bargain,” Bugbee said. “But it’s not going to be easy to pull off.”

From inspection to a second layer of defense

Lake Waramaug’s program grew out of decades of organized efforts to protect the lake.

The three towns bordering the 656-acre lake — Washington, Warren and Kent — have long worked with the Lake Waramaug Conservancy, the Lake Waramaug Authority and other lake organizations.

Under a 2004 agreement with the state, motorboats must pass an environmental inspection before entering the lake.

The new WISE Decon program — short for Waramaug Invasive Species Elimination — adds decontamination to that inspection system.

The program operates at two locations. The Washington Town Boat Ramp serves as the checkpoint, where monitors determine whether a boat has already been cleared for launch.

Boats without clearance are sent to the New Preston firehouse. There, technicians inspect and flush with hot water the hull, trailer, engine, anchor area, bilge, ballast tanks, live wells and other compartments where plants or aquatic organisms could collect.

The boat is then inspected again and a metal seal is attached between the vessel and its trailer. It returns to the ramp for a final visual inspection, where the seal is removed before the boat is launched.

According to the program’s interim report, the two-site system was adopted because the municipal ramp has limited space. The firehouse also has the water, power, drainage and staging area needed to inspect and decontaminate boats.

Gueniat, who also works as a launch monitor when

he is not operating the decontamination unit, said he once “came across a weed on a boat” after it had gone through the hot-water treatment. That discovery prompted him to require a second inspection at the firehouse.

“That’s just me being cautious,” he said.

When a boat is removed from Lake Waramaug and loaded back onto its trailer, inspectors can attach a new seal connecting the boat to the trailer. If the vessel returns with the seal intact, monitors know it has not been launched in another body of water and can allow it to reenter Lake Waramaug without another decontamination.

“One guy has been back to the launch over 30 times, and he’s only gone to decon five times,” Gueniat said.

The seal system avoids unnecessary repeat treatments while identifying boats that may have entered other bodies of water.

Through June 30, the program recorded 67 repeat launches by vessels with intact seals, according to the interim report.

Those boats were allowed to return without undergoing another decontamination.

Lessons from the first season

Getting the program running by the opening of boating season was itself an accomplishment, said Sean Hayden, executive director of the Lake Waramaug Conservancy.

The Conservancy worked with the three towns, parks and recreation officials and other partners to develop the system during the winter.

“There was a lot of friction at first,” Hayden said. “Our program was one of the first of its kind ever in Connecticut. We were starting from scratch.”

“I was very happy that we had a program in place by April when the boat launch was ready to open,” he added. “That speaks volumes about what goes on behind the scenes to keep the lake healthy.”

Warren First Selectman Gregory LaCava said some boaters initially objected to the requirements, making clear explanations essential.

“There were a few upset at that point in time,” LaCava said.

He estimated that about 1 percent of boaters declined decontamination and left. He attributed at least one refusal to the process not being clearly explained.

Overall, however, resistance was “way less than I had expected,” LaCava said. He has received only one call at his office about the program since it began.

The interim report similarly found high compliance through June 30.

Officials, however, have identified several changes for next season, including reducing hours when the facility receives little use and improving signage.

They also plan to provide information in Spanish, particularly for people arriving with car-top watercraft.

The cost of prevention

The first-year program cost slightly more than \$120,000, including about \$40,000 for equipment, said Brian Zipp, co-chairman of the Lake Waramaug Conser-



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Jeffrey Gueniat power-washes a boat using high-pressure water heated to 140 degrees

vancy and a member of its lake committee.

The Conservancy purchased the main electric decontamination unit and a smaller, portable unit with a 300-gallon tank. The portable unit can be taken to parks, boat launches and other locations for off-site decontamination.

The proposed budget for the next fiscal year is about \$65,000, Zipp said. They expect to lower operating costs by adjusting the facility’s hours and better utilizing the seal system to avoid unnecessary repeat decontaminations.

The Conservancy owns the equipment, while Washington, Warren and Kent share operating expenses on a 40/40/20 basis, according to the interim report.

Zipp said the investment also protects the lake’s ecosystem and the surrounding towns’ tax bases. An invasive species infestation can diminish property values, affecting homeowners and municipal revenue.

Bugbee said other lake communities may have difficulty assembling the money, expertise and municipal support required to establish similar programs.

“Most lakes don’t have organized associations around them, or the people who have knowledge at that level or are able to put out a lot of money,” he said. “A lot of these smaller lake groups are struggling.”

A model with limits

Hot-water decontamination cannot guarantee that hydrilla or another invasive species will never reach Lake Waramaug. But it can reduce the likelihood that invasive material will arrive on a boat, trailer or piece of equipment.

Even a small fragment can establish a new infestation, Bugbee said.

“It’s likely to regenerate even if a small fragment comes in,” he said.

The program could also intercept invasive species other than hydrilla.

“They could be preventing something else,” Bugbee said.

The program was modeled partly on programs in New York and several other states.

New York officials provided technical guidance and equipment assistance.

Lake George, which Waramaug officials consid-

er the closest comparison, has inspected hundreds of thousands of boats and intercepted vessels carrying visible invasive species.

Lake Waramaug also has a geographical advantage: Most motorboat traffic enters through one municipal ramp.

“It’s a municipally managed ramp, not a state ramp,” Zipp said. “That gives us a unique position.”

That control allows local

officials to tailor requirements to the lake. Replicating the system could be more difficult at lakes with multiple state, municipal or private access points.

“I think it is a great idea,” Bugbee said of the Waramaug model, “but I wonder how many public and private entities are going to be able to pull everything together as well as Waramaug did. We have a lot of lakes that really need these things, but I don’t know how fast it can happen.”

The need is growing. The aggressive Connecticut River variant of hydrilla has spread to more than two dozen Connecticut water bodies since it was first detected in Twin Lakes four summers ago, according to state and program officials.

Zebra mussels are established in several lakes near Waramaug.

Communities now face pressure in two directions: managing invasive species already present while trying to prevent them from reaching additional lakes.

At Lake Waramaug, that prevention begins each time a boat arrives at the ramp.

DEEP begins testing boat decontamination units, including in Salisbury

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Connecticut is not yet moving toward mandatory statewide boat decontamination, but the state is beginning to test washdown stations — also known as watercraft decontamination units — as part of its strategy against aquatic invasive species.

William Flood, a DEEP spokesman, said the agency recognizes watercraft inspection and decontamination as useful tools in combating AIS.

But DEEP, he said, oversees 117 state boat launches, most on inland waters, and a statewide inspection and decontamination program would require a significant investment.

The agency instead is taking a more targeted approach.

DEEP has received special funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to pilot as many as three watercraft decontamination units along the Connecticut River, Flood said. Planning is underway for the first unit, which is ex-

pected to be installed at the Haddam Meadows State Park boat launch in Haddam.

A separate decontamination unit is planned for East Twin Lake in Salisbury using funding from a 2022 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant. Flood said DEEP has worked with the town of Salisbury and the Twin Lakes Association to acquire the unit. The agency has received quotes from several vendors and is moving through the purchasing process.

DEEP says it currently has no plans to change statewide watercraft requirements. Instead, the agency continues to emphasize the Clean, Drain, Dry approach.

Since 2020, DEEP has awarded nearly \$2.4 million to 80 projects through its AIS grant program, Flood said. The program is funded through the state’s AIS stamp and decal program.

Connecticut law requires boaters to inspect their boats and trailers and remove any visible aquatic

plants or invasive species before transporting them. DEEP Environmental Conservation Police enforce the law statewide, regardless of whether a boat enters the water through a state, municipal or private access point.

But DEEP does not deploy seasonal boating education assistants or signage at non-state-operated launches. The emerging picture is therefore one of experimentation, rather than a statewide mandate.

For now, Connecticut’s approach remains experimental. Lake Waramaug has established its own integrated inspection and hot-water decontamination system, while DEEP is beginning to test decontamination units in other settings.

The agency said the pilot programs will provide information about the financial and staffing resources needed to deploy the units more broadly. Whether those pilots eventually lead to a wider statewide strategy remains an open question.

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PHOTO BY JESSICA YURKO

Millerton author Janice Erlbaum will celebrate the 20th anniversary of her memoir “Girlbomb” at Black Rabbit Dispensary on Sept. 5.

“Girlbomb” at 20

By Natalia Zukerman

In “Girlbomb: A Halfway Homeless Memoir,” published in 2006, author Janice Erlbaum wrote about the years after she left her family’s Brooklyn apartment at 15, moving through shelters, group homes, squats, clubs and the streets of 1980s New York while somehow continuing to attend high school. The book has sold more than 75,000 copies, stayed in print for two decades and continues to find new readers.

Now Erlbaum, 57, lives in Millerton and on Saturday, Sept. 5, at 7:30 p.m., she will celebrate the 20th anniversary of “Girlbomb” with a reading at Black Rabbit Dispensary. The event is open to the public and will be livestreamed on Instagram.

There is another reason for the celebration. Erlbaum has collaborated with her longtime friend Douglas Broughton

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

MOVIES

Paul Newman racing doc to screen in North Canaan on Sunday

By D.H. Callahan

On Sunday, Sept. 6, Lime Rock Park will host a screening of the documentary “Winning: The Racing Life of Paul Newman” at the Colonial Theatre in North Canaan at 7 p.m.

Newman was one of the most celebrated actors of the 20th century, known for films including “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof,” “Hud” and “Cool Hand Luke.” His 1969 film “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” also began a decades-long friendship with co-star Robert Redford.

That same year, Newman starred alongside Robert Wagner as a race car driver in “Winning.” Director James Goldstone wanted the actors to drive real race cars, so they were trained for the role. Wagner didn’t much care for the experience. Newman, however, fell in love.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

INSIDE

SPORTS

Housatonic tops Torrington 2-0 in soccer scrimmage

CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events

FASHION

At Peggy Mercury, prep meets punk in ‘Imaginary Concerts’

By D.H. Callahan

Last month, James Boehmer and Greg Fricke of Peggy Mercury launched their first fashion line, “Imaginary Concerts,” wearable art sold exclusively at their store in the Kent Barns section of Kent, Connecticut.

The two fashion industry veterans opened Peggy Mercury more than two years ago, and a quick visit will tell you that people are finding what they’re looking for at the beauty and lifestyle store. But what they’re looking for is never standard.

Fricke and Boehmer are not there to stock their shelves with the same products customers find at standard makeup retailers. They’re there to help customers find what works for them. That usually means asking customers about themselves and learning about their beauty habits, skin, style and the way they like to present themselves. Fricke and Boehmer believe it’s their job to help customers bring out the qualities that suit them and determine what works best for their look.

So much of the Peggy Mercury world is about emboldening people to become more creative, and possibly bolder, versions of themselves. Some of this comes through the store’s creative collaborations with artists, designers and stylists.

It’s part of an ethos that encourages them and their friends to use the shop as a kind of laboratory, trying out new creative experiments without knowing how they might turn out. Whether in fashion, paint-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Greg Fricke and James Boehmer, co-owners of Peggy Mercury in Kent, recently launched their first fashion line, “Imaginary Concerts.”

ing, fiber arts or photography, the projects almost always turn out marvelously.

A line of sterling silver charms they sell started as a small project by their friend Nolan Percival. In the beginning, the pieces were for close friends and loved ones. But Boehmer and Fricke encouraged Percival to get a little more serious about the project and create a whole line for the store. Today, it’s one

of their top-selling collections.

“Imaginary Concerts” has the duo taking their own advice.

The project started as a way for Boehmer to connect with his mother, who had been diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. Taking old concert shirts from his own collection, Boehmer and his mother began cutting out the graphics with the idea that they would make a quilt together. Unfortunate-

ly, she died before they could complete the project in 2025. The pieces, which were ready for production, were put on the back burner as Boehmer and Fricke dealt with their loss and the whirlwind of projects that never seemed to cease at Peggy Mercury.

But the harsh winter of 2026 presented an opportunity to take some time and focus on themselves. Part of that meant revisiting and redefining the concert T-shirt project. This time, instead of looking to the warmth and comfort of a quilt, they turned to another passion — fashion.

Taking a page from their own book, they wanted to create something that felt comfortable to them. They took two disparate loves — one rooted in simple preppy style, with clean lines and classic silhouettes, and the other in the nitty gritty worlds of punk rock and pop — and blended them together to create something entirely new. Pulling from the staples of vintage Brooks Brothers and Charvet collections, they applied the graphic elements with bold stitching reminiscent of punk jackets of the ‘70s and ‘80s, but with a much more sophisticated air.

But the remixing isn’t just the pairing of prep and punk. The pieces are not canon. They take liberties with the realities of concert tours, combining one band’s dates with another band’s logos, mixing them all up until the reality is lost and imagination is the only truth.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

BOOKS

Spencertown’s 21st Festival Of Books

By D.H. Callahan

On Saturday, Sept. 5, the Spencertown Academy Arts Center in Spencertown, New York, will host its 21st annual Book Festival.

With over 20,000 gently used books, CDs, DVDs and vinyl donated by the community, it took volunteers 45 days — and an estimated 750 hours — to set the whole thing up. Most of that time was spent sorting through the vast troves of donations and organizing them by category.

The event is a fundraiser for the Spencertown Academy Society, which was founded in 1972 after the Academy Building was shut down as a working school. Since 1847, when the Rev. Timothy Woodbridge, a blind pastor from a local church, opened a teaching college, the building had been used for education. Today, it serves Chatham residents as a gallery and performing arts space.

The Festival started in 2005 as a way to raise money for the Society, and help support the upkeep of the building. Over the years, the Society has add-

ed appearances by featured authors. This year’s lineup is particularly robust, with a focus on nonfiction, along with several fiction writers and even one cookbook author.

In the nonfiction category, the festival will feature James

Baldwin biographer Nicholas Boggs, whose book “Baldwin: A Love Story” is a New York Times bestseller and winner of the National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Prize as well as the PEN/Jacqueline Bograd Weld Award for biography.

Historian and author James M. Bradley, known for editing “The Encyclopedia of New York City,” and the Papers of Martin Van Buren project, will discuss his new book, “Martin

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... ‘Girlbomb’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

of Black Rabbit Farms on a cannabis strain named Girlbomb.

“I was an early adopter of cannabis,” Erlbaum said. “I’m smoking weed throughout the entire book, so it made sense to collaborate with my longtime friend and come up with a special Girlbomb strain.”

Erlbaum said Broughton was the first person she knew when she began contemplating a life outside New York City.

“I wanted to move near somebody who knew what the hell they were doing already,” she said with a laugh. A “true New Yorker,” Erlbaum still doesn’t even drive a car. “I was like, ‘I’m not just gonna move to a farm.’”

Now well settled in Millerton, having moved to the village in 2021, the city girl has discovered something she never expected.

“I have discovered such joy in nature,” she said. “I look at a flower and I’m like, ‘I know what flower that is.’”

She laughed. “And it’s also great for a writer. You get a lot of peace and a lot of quiet.”

The girl who walked away “Girlbomb” begins with a girl making a decision.

Looking back four decades later, Erlbaum describes the moment she left home not as a grand plan but as something

purely instinctive.

“It was really the first time that my true survival instinct kicked in,” she said. “There was all of a sudden a clarity of like, ‘Oh, I’m leaving.’”

She was 15. All along, Erlbaum kept journals and calendars. She saved notes passed between friends. Those scraps of the past became part of the architecture of the book — and now, 20 years later, part of its afterlife.

Erlbaum has been publishing excerpts from those old journals on her website as “the girl bomb diaries,” calling them an “unofficial sequel” to the memoir. Her site is also marking the anniversary with photographs and stories.

She was, she said, a writer almost before she knew what that meant.

Not knowing it would become integral to her survival, her parents gave her a typewriter when she was 9.

“I read and I wrote. That’s what I did,” she said. “So that part wasn’t ever really in question for me.”

But writing “Girlbomb” was not easy. Erlbaum began and abandoned versions of the story in her 20s before finally completing the memoir in her

30s. She had been writing autobiographically, performing slam poetry and comedy, going to therapy and trying to make sense of the life she had survived.

The actual writing, she said, was painful.

“It was rendering,” she said. “Kind of like method acting, you have to do method writing. You have to put yourself in the mind space that you were in.”

Sometimes she had to close the laptop and walk away.

“And then I would nap,” she said. “I took a lot of naps.”

Twenty years later Erlbaum now sees parts of “Girlbomb” differently. She is candid about the privilege and blind spots of the woman who wrote the book in her 30s.

“I’ve grown over the past 20 years,” she says. “I see now a kind of insensitivity.”

But she also refuses to rewrite the consciousness of the girl she was.

“It’s difficult with memoir because the character only knows what the character knows,” she said. “And if you butt in and you’re like, ‘Little did I know,’ then that’s just intrusive.”

That honesty is part of what has allowed the book to endure.

“With memoir... the character only knows what the character knows.”

JANICE ERLBAUM

DANCE

Community to take center stage at Dive Barn

By D.H. Callahan

On Sunday, Sept. 6, PS21 in Chatham, New York, will host a celebration of community through dance at its second annual Dive Barn performance at the organization’s Dance Barn.

Dive Barn is the brainchild of dancer, teacher and choreographer Sayer Mansfield, who has dedicated her life to contemporary and experimental dance. She studied in the Department of Dance at NYU Tisch School of the Arts and at the Salzburg Experimental Academy of Dance. She’s performed with companies including Pilobolus, Compagnie Marie Chouinard and Mark Morris Dance Group. Her work has been featured in films including “Little Women,” “Maestro” and “Sproutland.” She has served on the faculties of Jacob’s Pillow, Phillips Academy Andover, as well as Harvard and Yale Universities.

Recently, though, Mansfield’s been focusing on her community in Columbia County, New York. As has been a theme since the COVID-19 pandemic, a groundswell of creative people have pulled up their city roots to plant itself in the fertile soil of the countryside.

For the past year, Mansfield has been teaching these recent transplants and lifelong residents alike to dance at her Tuesday Night Dance group, or TND, as it’s known at PS21.

The group became so popular that she had to add a second night, so now TND can mean either Tuesday or Thursday Night Dance. Each group has a rotating enrollment of 30 to 60 locals, fueled by fervent word of mouth, but the classes can



PHOTO BY STEVEN TAYLER

A scene from last year’s Dance Barn.

get even bigger. They meet at the Dance Barn at PS21, Mansfield’s new home away from home. There, she teaches actors, painters, musicians, desk workers and farmers how to get comfortable moving their bodies.

Dive Barn will feature two unique performances, both choreographed by Mansfield, with music by local musicians Raena Jade and Elori Saxl. One dance will be a more intimate performance by Mansfield and her collaborator, actor and dancer Ashley Hill. The other

will feature a large group of her class regulars, most of whom have never performed dance onstage. This is a chance for many non-dancers to show what they’ve learned through the TND group classes and celebrate the diverse mix of bodies that Mansfield’s been molding over the past several months.

Dive Barn is part of a bigger multiday event at PS21 called Commonground. PS21 describes it as a “free festival of large-scale live performance and spectacle” taking place Friday, Sept. 4, through Monday,

Sept. 7. Alongside Dive Barn will be world premiere performances of “FIELD” by director, writer and electronics artist Andrew Schneider, which was commissioned by PS21, as well as “SUPERDRUM X.”

SUPERDRUM has been an ongoing project by Dutch musical arts collective Touki Delphone. For this iteration, the collective collaborated with theater company Veenfabriek to build 100 self-playing drum machines that use found twigs from forests and sidewalks as drumsticks. The drums are connected to a system that can control them all together or individually. Each night, a human drummer will collaborate with the piece.

As if all of this weren’t enough, PS21 will open its expansive campus to the community before the performances, offering apple picking, lawn games, West African food from Chez Diarra and free ice cream. “FIELD” will be presented Friday, Saturday and Sunday. “SUPERDRUM X” will take place every day of the Commonground Festival.

To learn more about Dive Barn, PS21 and to get tickets to Commonground, visit ps21chatham.org.

... Paul Newman

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO PROVIDED

“Winning: The Racing Life of Paul Newman,” will be screened Sunday, Sept. 6, at the Colonial Theatre in North Canaan.

While he didn’t start out as a particularly good or fast driver, he couldn’t stop. Soon, he was jumping at every opportunity to get behind the wheel. Since he lived in Connecticut, there was one place with the challenges he needed to practice: Lime Rock Park.

Newman started racing in his mid-40s, an age when most drivers have already retired. But his patient, studied approach saw him improve with every turn. Soon, he was winning races against drivers half his age, who didn’t have all the Hollywood hubbub to distract them.

Exploring the highs and lows of Newman’s lesser-known career as a race car driver and team owner, “Winning: The Racing Life of Paul Newman” features original interviews with Redford, Jay Leno and racing legend Mario Andretti.

Another of Newman’s passions was philanthropy. Known for his Newman’s Own line of snacks, sauces and salad dressings, the company gives 100% of its profits to charity, supporting nutrition education and school food programs, Indigenous food justice and the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp in Ashford, Connecticut.

The camp, named after Butch Cassidy’s Hole in the Wall Gang, was founded by Newman in 1988 as a place where children with serious illnesses could simply be kids.

The documentary screening is part of the 44th Lime Rock Historic Festival, and half of the proceeds from ticket sales will go to benefit the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

Tickets are available at canaancolonial.com.

Welcoming new voices

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BOOKS

Laurie Lane-Zucker’s pioneering path to the regenerative economy

By Richard Feiner and Annette Stover

Longtime Northwest Corner resident Laurie Lane-Zucker sees hope everywhere for positive economic and social change. For the past 15 years, he has been building Impact Entrepreneur, a global online media and community platform from his base in Sheffield, Massachusetts. Today, Impact Entrepreneur reaches more than 70,000 change-makers across the globe. The platform publishes Impact Entrepreneur Magazine, produces a live webinar series and convenes field-building conferences focused on the impact economy.

His new book, “The Impact Entrepreneur Breakthrough: A Field Manual for the Regenerative Economy,” was just published by Berrett-Koehler on Sept. 1 and is distributed by Penguin Random House. The book serves as a manual for shifting to a system in which business, capital and culture create lasting value for people, communities and the planet. It maps the full



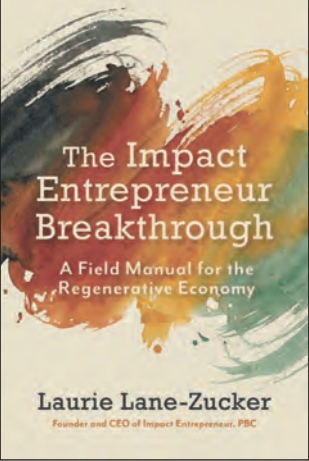
PHOTO PROVIDED

Laurie Lane-Zucker is founder and CEO of Impact Entrepreneur, PBC, a company dedicated to fostering the Impact Economy.

architecture for the transformation to a regenerative economy and is the culmination of Lane-Zucker’s 35-year commitment to sustainable and responsible development

and his love for the Berkshire-Taconic region.

“I love being here. Some years ago, I realized that I spent most of my life along Route 7. I grew up in Fairfield



County, not far from Route 7. I went to Salisbury School. I went to Middlebury College, also right on Route 7. It’s this region’s geography — the whole Taconic range — that just has a hold on me, and I love it.”

Early in his career, Lane-Zucker worked in Manhattan with Orion Magazine. When the magazine outgrew its office space, he advocated for its relocation to Great Barrington, Massachusetts. He then served as the founding director of The Orion Society, the non-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

... Festival of Books

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Van Buren: America’s First Politician.”

Featured author Joshua Jelly-Schapiro was a member of Yale University’s first Ethnicity, Race and Migration program and earned his Ph.D. in geography from the University of California, Berkeley. His award-winning doctoral thesis explored the global impact of Caribbean culture. His new book, “Daylight Come: Harry Belafonte and the World He Made” was released in August.

“Lincoln’s Lady Spymaster” by Gerri Willis was a New York Times bestseller when it was released last summer. Willis, known for her financial reporting on CNN and Fox Business, tells the story of a Southern Belle inspired to help the Union during the Civil War.

Willis isn’t the only author who wrote about women spies in wartime. Michelle Young, an award-winning journalist, author and adjunct professor of architecture at Columbia University’s Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, is best known as the founder of online magazine “Untapped New York.” She’ll be in Spencertown to discuss her 2025 book, “The Art Spy: The Extraordinary Untold Tale of WWII Resistance Hero Rose Valland.”

Pivoting to fiction, “Hazel Says No” is the first novel by author and Vasar graduate Jessica Berger Gross. The novel shifts perspective and voice from one family member to another. Her first book, “Estranged: Leaving Family and Finding Home,” was an intimate memoir about leaving her close-knit family in search of a healthier, more independent life.

Fulbright Scholar Casey Scieszka will discuss her novel, “The Fountain,” which was named one of the most anticipated books of the year by publications including The Boston Globe, Literary Hub, Book Riot,

Goodreads and Town & Country before its release in March. Scieszka runs the Spruceton Inn: A Catskill Bed & Bar, known in part for its artist residency, which hosts painters and award-winning authors.

But one local hotelier isn’t enough for Spencertown. Cook, food stylist, photographer and bed-and-breakfast owner Melina Hammer will discuss her cookbook, “A Year at the Catbird Cottage: Recipes for a Nourished Life,” which draws on her work with local, natural ingredients prepared for guests at her Hudson Valley home.

Rounding out the appearances will be children’s book favorite Pete the Cat. The Pete the Cat series was created by Eric Litwin and James Dean (not that one) nearly 20 years ago and has spawned an animated series with holiday specials. Notable voices in the series include Elvis Costello, Diana Krall, Dave Matthews and Jason Mraz. For this appearance, though, expect one big, groovy cat.

To learn more about the Book Festival and become a member, with early access to the sale, visit spencertownacademy.org.



PHOTO BY MIRISSA NEFF

Joshua Jelly-Schapiro, author of “Daylight Come: Harry Belafonte and the World He Made” is one of the featured authors at the Spencertown Academy Festival of Books on Saturday, Sept. 5.

... Peggy Mercury

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Adding to the mix is an element of perpetual creativity. Art can be messy, both figuratively and literally, and many of Fricke and Boehmer’s artist friends carry evidence of their work on them at all times. As a nod to these tireless creatives, the duo added haphazard splashes of bright color, giving the line an even more distinctive feel.

For them, “Imaginary Concerts” passes the “Peggy Test.” The mythical Peggy Mercury is a fictional figurehead for the company,

a character who thrives on creativity and change. The name, much like the clothing line, is a mixture of interests: Mercury is a planet, a deity and an elusive, transformative element, while Peggy is the wonderfully stylish and boundary-pushing Peggy Guggenheim.

Everything Fricke and Boehmer put in their store has to pass this test: Would Peggy Mercury approve? For their first collection, the answer is a resounding yes.

Peggy Mercury is at 9 Maple St., Unit 2, Kent.



Classic styles, bold colors, and creative concerts make up the “Imaginary Concerts” line at Peggy Mercury.



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Shirts from Peggy Mercury’s first fashion line, “Imaginary Concerts,” hang on display.

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“London Sky,” a vintage settee reimaged by Pryor and Peacock with a dramatic view of the London skyline.

LIFESTYLE

A family business gives old furniture a second act

By D.H. Callahan

If you’ve ever seen one of those updated episodes of Antiques Roadshow, you know a lot of old furniture doesn’t hold its value the way it used to.

Gone are the days when the Keno brothers could tell you that your great-grandmother’s old chairs could pay off your mortgage. Instead, a younger market of buyers is looking for more simply designed furniture, often in the form of factory-made pieces using more affordable materials. Think Crate & Barrel or even IKEA, versus the ornate craftsmanship of yesteryear.

The women at Pryor and Peacock — two sisters and their mother — thought that was a shame. They decided to save these carefully crafted pieces and breathe new life into them using old designs and new technology. The results are one-of-a-kind pieces of furniture, each with its own feel, design and story.

It started with a crazy idea. Interior designer Luca Shapiro, one of the sisters, was trying to revitalize an old telephone chair — the kind with a little table built onto the side for a phone and notepad. She wanted to upholster the chair with pages from a phone book. The idea was so specific, she knew she’d never be able to find the fabric she was looking for, so she began researching ways to make it herself.

What she and her business partners — a.k.a. her mom and sister — discovered was digital textile printing. The method first came about in the late 1980s, and the process has become more precise through advances in dyes, inks and the inkjet printers now used by manufacturers. Pryor and Peacock use the process both as the only practical way to achieve their specific designs and as a means of reducing waste associated with traditional furniture making.

One aspect of that waste has been a hot-button issue of late: water. According to the World Bank Group, textile dyeing and treatment account for an estimated 20% of industrial water pollution. With the onslaught of data centers, conserving water seems to be more important than ever. While P&P is a relatively small



“Squirrels in the Shire,” a one-of-a-kind furniture piece created by Pryor and Peacock.

operation, which couldn’t possibly consume the levels of water being used by big data, the company believes that every drop matters.

Fast-furniture is another detrimental trend the women wanted to address. Cheaper, lighter and more convenient pieces are now favored over carefully made and designed furniture.

P&P finds unique statement pieces from the past and gives them new life through period-appropriate design and cutting-edge textile technology. It also sees this as a way to protect wildlife. While the company is committed to abstaining from leather and fur in its production, reducing the need for new wood means less deforestation, and the preservation of animal habitats.

Sustainable practices aside, the work is really about pairing artworks in unexpected ways. The designs are mostly sourced from old art books, featuring

illustrations from centuries past. Sometimes P&P finds a piece of furniture, and looks for ways to enhance its beauty through design. Other times, the design comes first, and they scour antique shops, auctions and flea markets to find its perfect canvas.

The results are always completely unique, and frequently come with fun, inspiring stories of the art, the “frame” and sometimes both. It’s thanks to these unique pairings that you won’t find anyone with the same piece as you. Of course, that means if you see something you love, you better get it before somebody else does.

P&P presented its first pop-up shop in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, last month, and is looking for other in-person opportunities to show its work.

To learn more about the business and browse its current inventory, visit pryorandpeacock.com.

... Lane-Zucker

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

profit that now publishes the magazine. While there, he co-developed and coined the term “place-based education,” an approach that prioritizes local community and landscape as primary resources for learning.

He has never left the area, despite several professional opportunities.

“I couldn’t do it. I couldn’t leave this place. I had too many roots here. My kids all went to Great Barrington public schools at different points. My older son Liam went to the Salisbury School and still lives in the area and my daughter Anna went to the Waldorf School. I just love this place so much.”

Determined to forge his career here, Lane-Zucker set out on his own entrepreneurial path. He started the Triad Institute, an international think tank focused on sustainability. One of his projects was a digital media initiative called Hotfrog, which became a founding Certified B Corporation, with verified standards for social and environmental accountability.

These professional experiences and his passion for the region all come together in his work. In 2011, he coined the term “impact entrepreneur,” giving a name to the hopes and actions of a growing community of social innovators

“One of the things that I am happiest about is that my grandchild, if I am lucky enough to have one, or anyone, will know what I did with my work.”

LAURIE LANE-ZUCKER

and practitioners — a new archetype of changemaker, who understands the need to reinvent the way we engage with the world through business and finance.

“Impact Entrepreneur is more than a brand or description,” Lane-Zucker said. “It is an identity that people increasingly embrace. It is who they are. The term is now widely used in the media and in conversation at every conference I go to. It is one of the great successes of this project.”

Lane-Zucker’s book celebrates the movement toward a regenerative economy and makes the case for security that rests on investments in ecological stability, public health, equity and community cohesion. He shines a light on business models and practices that marry profit with purpose and are inspired by the region’s special sense of place — this “landscape of deep memory where the earth itself seems to speak in whispers.”

He also includes 36

beautiful original watercolor images in which colors flow and form one continuous gesture. They offer a visual interpretation of the book’s call for a unified economic system in which human intention guides complex systems rather than dominating them.

Lane-Zucker also sees the book, in part, as his own memoir.

“One of the things that I am happiest about is that my grandchild, if I am lucky enough to have one, or anyone, will know what I did with my work.”

Lane-Zucker is doing something new and needed — giving voice and leadership to transformative change and providing a roadmap for others to join in and take action.

As he said, “There are a lot of models and tools that exist now. This is not a pipe dream or niche thing. This is the next step; the next stage of the economy; a rightful human evolution that’s happening.”

For more information and to order a copy of the book, visit impactentrepreneur.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

All owners of motor vehicles registered in the Town of Kent are hereby warned that the Board of Assessment Appeals of the Town of Kent will be meeting in open session at the Kent Town Hall, 41 Kent Green Boulevard on Saturday, September 19, 2026 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. for the sole purpose of hearing appeals related to the assessment of motor vehicles.

All persons claiming to be aggrieved by the doings of the Assessor of the Town of Kent with regard to motor vehicles assessment on the Grand List of October 1, 2025 are hereby warned to make their appeal to the Board of Assessment Appeals at this meeting.

Kent Board of
Assessment Appeals
09-03-26

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 Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on August 24, 2026:

Approved - Application IWWC-26-34 by Dennis Fisher for a "16' x 20' Living room addition in the upland review area." The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 23 and lot 37-11 and is known as 50 Hammettown Road, Salisbury, CT 06068. The owners of the property are Carol A & Colin S Magowan.

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

Town of Salisbury
Inland Wetlands and
Watercourses
Commission
Sally Spillane,
Secretary
09-03-26

arts
Local Matters

News and Arts reporting in Northwest
Connecticut and Eastern Dutchess
County in New York

The Lakeville Journal
lakevillejournal.com The Millerton News
millertonnews.com



PHOTOS BY JOHN COSTON



Left, Book lovers lined up around the block along Route 44 in Norfolk on Saturday morning, Aug. 29, waiting for the Norfolk Library book sale to open. At exactly 10:30 a.m., they streamed through the gate as Bridget Taylor, foreground, hurried to clear the entrance after announcing the start of the sale.

Below, the tent quickly filled with browsers and buyers at the Norfolk Library book sale Saturday, Aug. 29, where 20,000 books in 30 categories were available.

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Tri-Corner Calendar

SEPTEMBER 4

Foxtrot Fridays with Fair Play
Foxtrot Farm & Flowers, 6862 N.Y. 82, Stanfordville, N.Y. Celebrate the honey harvest with DC Combworks at Foxtrot Farm's monthly community gathering, featuring food by Fair Play, beverages by Ten Mile Table and live music by Tim Hauf. The flower shop will be open late, with seasonal pick-your-own flowers and raspberries available. 5 to 9 p.m., rain or shine. Parking reservation required. For reservations and information: foxtrotfarmflowers.com/events.

Labor Day Weekend Benefit Art Sale
Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org Sept. 4 to 7

The Cornwall Library's eighth annual Labor Day Weekend Benefit Art Sale features artwork ranging from antique to contemporary, realistic to abstract, and jazzy and colorful to classic black and white. Works include prints, watercolors, posters, photographs, paintings and occasional small three-dimensional pieces, with prices starting at \$25. New works will replace those sold throughout the weekend. A cocktail reception opens the sale Friday from 6 to 8 p.m.; sale hours are Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Labor Day, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Proceeds support the library's collection and year-round programming.

SEPTEMBER 5

Book Sale
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., the David M. Hunt Library will host its monthly book sale. New books upstairs, used books downstairs. A great selection of books of all kinds, audiobooks, music cds, dvds, gifts and more. All used children's books downstairs are free.

"Dreamt in Stone"
27 Old Post Rd. #2, Millerton, N.Y. Sept. 5 and 6

The evocative stone sculptures of the late Ukrainian artist Oresta Szeperowycz will be exhibited at the Millerton studio of abstract painter David Crum. Created from local shale sourced throughout Dutchess County, the sculptures reflect Szeperowycz's deep connection to nature and the earth. The exhibition is free and open to the public, noon–4 p.m. More info at 518-248-6154 or kbc29@kbc29.com.

Nature Journaling
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
Join local writer Mark Gonsky for two nature journaling workshops focused on responding to nature through art, writing and other creative practices. The workshops will explore examples of nature journaling, personal approaches and aspirations, outdoor exercises and group discussion. Participants may attend one or both sessions and will receive a notebook for journaling. 10:30 a.m. Registration requested at huntlibrary.org

Fine Art Festival
Main Street, Millerton, N.Y. Sept. 5 and 6

Browse fine and functional art by artists from the region and beyond at The Voice of Art's sixth annual outdoor juried Fine Art Festival, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. The festival will feature painting, sculpture, mixed media, photography, printmaking, ceramics, jewelry, fiber arts, woodwork and more. Free and open to the public. A list of artists at thevoiceofart.org

SEPTEMBER 6

Housatonic Heritage Hike to Campbell Falls
Campbell Falls, on the Massachusetts-Connecticut border
Join Erik Reardon, Housatonic Valley Association's Berkshire Watershed director, for a two-hour hike to Campbell Falls, a 50-foot waterfall on the Whiting River. The hike will explore the area's forest and land-use history and HVA's efforts to protect river and stream health in the Berkshires. Noon. Part of the 24th Annual Housatonic Heritage Walks. More info at hvatoday.org

"Basketweaving with Angela Eastman"
Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y. Learn the art of basketweaving during this hands-on workshop with artist Angela Eastman. Participants will create a functional handwoven basket while exploring traditional weaving techniques and working with natural materials. The workshop runs from 1 to 5 p.m. and is suitable for beginners and experienced makers alike. Registration and details at cottagecourses.com.

SEPTEMBER 8

Cardio Dance at The Center on Main
The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. Sept. 1, Sept. 8, Sept. 15, Sept. 22, Sept. 29

Move to the beat with a high-energy cardio dance class every Tuesday in September from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The class is open to all levels, and participants can attend one class or all five. Bring comfortable shoes and a water bottle. No registration is required. Presented in partnership with the Falls Village Recreation Commission.

Life Drawing Workshop with Peter Cusack
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Join artist Peter Cusack for a weekly life drawing workshop from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Working with a live, clothed model, participants will focus on understanding and drawing the human form. No prior drawing experience necessary. Registration requested at scovillelibrary.org.

"Memory in Story": A Discussion Series
Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 10 and Dec. 15

Join literary scholar and book discussion leader Mark Scarbrough for a four-part discussion series exploring the role

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

memory plays in novels from the Netherlands, England, the United States and Bulgaria. Discussions take place at 2:30 p.m. in the Hayes Community Room. Titles include Cees Nooteboom's "The Following Story" on Sept. 8, Samantha Harvey's "The Wilderness" on Oct. 6, Katie Kitamura's "Audition" on Nov. 10 and Georgi Gospodinov's "Death and the Gardener" on Dec. 15. Attend one or all sessions. A limited number of copies of each book will be available at the library. Registration is requested at https://bit.ly/MemoryInStory. For more information, visit hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org or call 860-364-5041.

SEPTEMBER 10

Genre Fiction Book Club
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Join this informal book group from 6 to 7:30 p.m. for good snacks, good company and a discussion of "The Spellshop" by Sarah Beth Durst. Registration requested at scovillelibrary.org. Copies are available for loan at the library.

SEPTEMBER 11

"The Guys"
American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. Herstory Theatre presents Anne Nelson's one-act play "The Guys," a drama about loss, connection and the power of language in the aftermath of Sept. 11. The play follows a New York City fire captain tasked with writing eulogies for eight firefighters killed in the attacks and the journalist who helps him find the words. Doors open at 5 p.m., with the performance at 5:30 p.m. Tickets at americanmuralproject.org

"Fall Colors: Seasonal Influences"
Tivoli Artists Gallery, 60 Broadway, Tivoli, N.Y. Sept. 11 through Oct. 11

A group exhibition featuring work by more than 20 Hudson Valley artists explores the colors, textures and moods of autumn through abstract painting, photography and relief sculpture. Opening reception Saturday, Sept. 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. Free. More information at tivoliartists-gallery.com.

SEPTEMBER 12

Contra Dance Lessons
The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. Sept. 12, Oct. 10 and Nov. 14

Learn the basics of contra dancing in this three-part beginner series with instructor Tom Scott and fiddler and caller Rachel Gall. Participants will learn dance structure, etiquette and common figures while enjoying live music and meeting other dancers. Classes are 6–8 p.m. and cost \$15–\$20 on a sliding scale. Registration requested; walk-ins welcome. More info at thecenteronmain.org/events.

Current Fiction Book Group with Claudia Cayne
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Claudia Cayne leads this informal book discussion from 4 to 5 p.m. This month's selection is "Wilderness" by Angela Flournoy. All are welcome;

registration is not required. Copies are available for loan at the library.

Family Day: AMPasaurus Rex!
American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. American Mural Project hosts a dinosaur-themed Family Day featuring interactive story time, a scavenger hunt, a dinosaur excavation activity and a hands-on exploration of dinosaur adaptations led by paleontologist Patrick Murphy of Jurassic Classroom. Activities begin at 11 a.m. Admission is free for families, and advance registration is recommended at americanmuralproject.org

Teen Art Studio

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. American Mural Project's drop-in Teen Art Studio welcomes ages 13 to 18 for creative exploration, new materials and community. A teaching artist will guide participants as they develop their own ideas in a relaxed, supportive environment. The program runs from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Advance registration is recommended at americanmuralproject.org

SEPTEMBER 13

Closing Reception for 2026 Summer Exhibition at Wassaic Project
Wassaic Project, 37 Furnace Bank Road, Wassaic, N.Y. "Because, now is the time of monsters" closing reception from 2 to 5 p.m. with artists talks, open studios, Ace Lehner's Barbershop performance and more.

"Every Landscape Tells a Story: Introducing Frederic Church's Olana"
Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
Author, photographer and lecturer Annik LaFarge presents an illustrated talk and book signing introducing Olana, the Hudson Valley landscape created by 19th-century painter Frederic Church. LaFarge's book, "Composing Olana," explores the history of the landscape, from Ice Age geology and the Native peoples who lived there to the artists and conservationists who shaped and preserved it. The program takes place at 3:30 p.m. and is free and open to all, but registration is required. Books will be available for sale. Register at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/16527163.

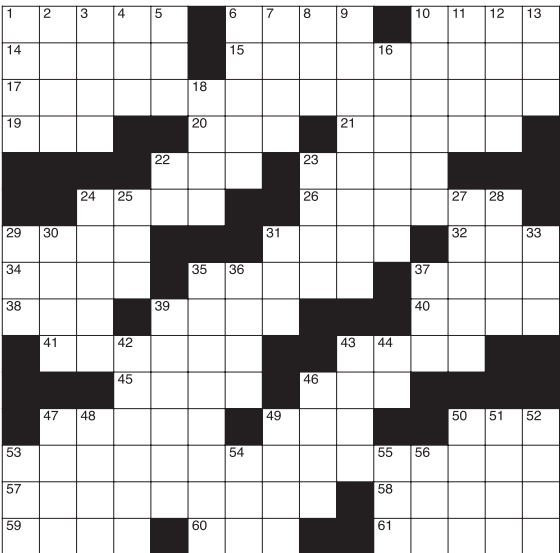
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Manila hemp plant
- 6. Turkish river
- 10. Something to read
- 14. In a way, initiated
- 15. Popular Apple TV series
- 17. King Charles is part of it
- 19. Earlier
- 20. Foot (Latin)
- 21. Zodiac sign
- 22. A browning of the skin
- 23. Remain as is
- 24. Turfs
- 26. It's used to slaughter animals
- 29. Volcanic crater
- 31. The mother of Jesus
- 32. One's life story
- 34. One-time Liverpool coach Slot
- 35. Counterparts
- 37. Jacob __, American journalist
- 38. Digital audiotape
- 39. River in South Africa
- 40. Kimono sashes
- 41. Rooting somewhere
- 43. American spy Aldrich
- 45. A way to call for
- 46. Taxi
- 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Popular type of video game (abbr.)
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal from a union
- 58. Performs spoken improv
- 59. Greek war god
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Helps to evade capture

CLUES DOWN

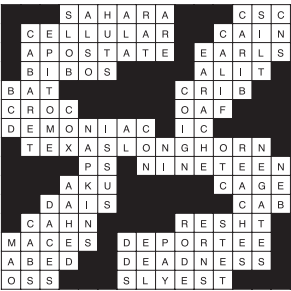
- 1. Swedish rock group
- 2. "Friday Night Lights" director Peter
- 3. Currency exchange fee
- 4. Feline
- 5. Folk singer DiFranco
- 6. Ghostly pale from distress
- 7. Rapid eye movements
- 8. Monetary unit of Macao
- 9. Lawmakers
- 10. Colorless mineral
- 11. At some prior time
- 12. American protest singer
- 13. Opener
- 16. Seldom
- 18. Relaxing places
- 22. Touchdown



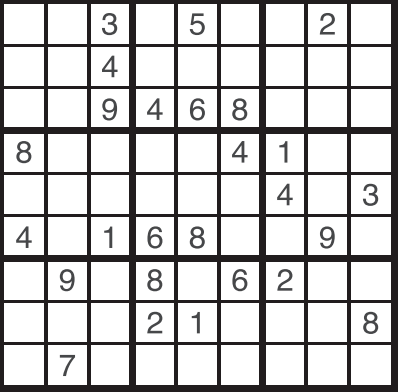
- 23. From end to end
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Metal-bearing solid
- 27. Skin care product manufacturer
- 28. Thirteen
- 29. Angry
- 30. Member of a Semitic people
- 31. One-thousandth of an inch
- 33. Former CIA
- 35. Most lemony
- 36. Engage in
- 37. Mass of fish eggs
- 39. Food supplies
- 42. Backbones
- 43. American real estate investment firm
- 44. Megabyte
- 46. "Three Coins in the Fountain" songwriter
- 47. Dutch colonist
- 48. Full-grown pike fish

- 49. Emergency prep expert Edwards
- 50. Flute
- 51. Dismissive sound
- 52. Slang term for marijuana
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Cosmopolitan city
- 55. Narrow isthmus in Thailand
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

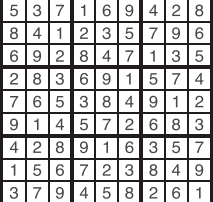
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PHOTO BY KEITH BODWELL

SWSA's Caleb Bodwell ready to jump off the 65 meter jump at the Karl Eid Ski Jump Complex in Anchorage, Alaska at midnight.

SWSA Ski Jumping Team Trains Across the Globe

By C. E. Tripler

Winter may be competition season for ski jumpers, but much of their development takes place during the summer, when athletes train without snow on metal inruns and water-slicked artificial landing surfaces.

Members of the Salisbury Winter Sports Association traveled from Alaska to Norway, Slovenia, and Austria this summer to train on unfamiliar hills and refine their ability to adjust to different speeds, surfaces, weather conditions, and hill configurations.

The traveling group included Caleb Bodwell, Camden Hubbard, Oona Mascavage, Charlotte Milner, Imogen Milner, Aerin Sheil, Henry Sheil, Islay Sheil, Wyeth Taylor, and Gus Tripler.

Bodwell traveled to the Karl Eid Ski Jumping Complex in Anchorage, as well as Fox River Grove, Illinois.

"It was amazing getting to jump the K65 at midnight while it was still bright and sunny out," Bodwell said of his experience in Alaska.

His development has accelerated since SWSA added a 36-meter hill to its complex at Satre Hill, giving young jumpers another step between the association's smaller training hill and its largest jump.

Ski jumps are commonly identified by their K-point, or construction point, which marks a designated location in the landing area and is used in scoring. Satre Hill has 20-, 36-, and 65-meter jumps. By comparison, the largest officially sanctioned ski jump in the United States is the 134-meter hill at Utah Olympic Park in Park City.

Mascavage and Milner were among the SWSA athletes who traveled to Norway to train at the Holmenkollen Ski Jump Camp. Like other summer ski-jumping facilities, the hills are equipped with artificial surfaces that allow athletes to train without snow.

SWSA coach Seth Gardner accompanied the group and guided the athletes through the week of training. The experience allowed the jumpers to test themselves on new hills while training in a country with a deep ski-jumping tradition.

Islay Sheil traveled even farther, training on summer ski-jumping hills in Slovenia and Austria as she works toward earning a place on the junior national team, which can provide a pathway to higher-level international competition.

Despite spending months away from home, Sheil said the experience has been enjoyable.



PHOTO BY MARGARET BANKER

Charlotte Milner at the Holmenkollbakken Ski Jumps in Oslo.

Summer training is especially important in a sport that requires athletes to adapt quickly. While snow covers the landing hills during the winter, summer facilities generally use artificial surfaces kept slick with water. Changes in hill size, speed, wind, and equipment can require jumpers to make immediate adjustments.

SWSA has supported ski jumping in northwestern Connecticut for more than a century. Its best-known event is Jumpfest, held each February at Satre Hill.

The association also maintains ties with the New York State Ski Education Foundation. Salisbury athletes frequently travel to Lake Placid to train with experienced coaches and former Olympic ski jumpers, including Jay Rand and Salisbury's Larry Stone.

Traveling to training camps and competitions can be costly, particularly for families whose athletes must make repeated trips to reach suitable jumping facilities. SWSA raises money throughout the year to maintain its hills and help offset some of those expenses.

By Riley Klein

TORRINGTON — The Housatonic Valley Regional High School boys varsity soccer team opened its 2026 preseason with a confident, high-energy showing in Torrington Friday, Aug. 28.

HVRHS scored a pair of second-half goals against Torrington High School and maintained a clean sheet defensively in the scrimmage. The friendly match was played on a sunny afternoon at Robert Frost Athletic Complex with the temperature around 79 degrees.

The game was split into two 40-minute halves with a 3-minute pause for "coach's time" in each half. The intermissions were reminiscent of the hydration breaks that soccer spectators became accustomed to during the recent 2026 FIFA World Cup.

HVRHS coach Adolfo Portillo tested out different lineups throughout the game, alternating between a 4-3-3 and 4-4-2 formation. In each third, the Mountaineers' game-tested veterans provided stability and anchored the team.

On defense, seniors Wyatt Bayer and Ryan Segalla locked down the middle lane. Torrington's attacks were stifled before ever becoming threats. Sophomore Ryan Houghtaling started the game in goal for HVRHS.

In the center, senior Gustavo Portillo acted as a vocal on-field coach. The box-to-box midfielder directed his teammates in real time and provided encouraging affirmation for younger players. Portillo scored the first goal of the scrimmage: an unas-



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Gustavo Portillo goes for a header during a preseason scrimmage against Torrington on Friday, Aug. 28.

sisted strike from the right side to start the second half.

Up front, senior striker Jackson McAvoy created offensive opportunities through agile cuts and quick bursts of speed. Midway through the second half, a sharp, threaded ball from McAvoy set Peyton Bushnell loose on a fast break that ended in the day's second goal.

Last season, HVRHS ended as runners up in the Berkshire League tournament. The Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference ranked the Mountaineers as the 28th best team in the state's Class S boys soccer division in 2026.

The first regular season game for HVRHS was scheduled to be played in Winsted on Tuesday, Sept. 8, against Northwestern Regional High School.



Housatonic's Peyton Bushnell takes a shot during a preseason scrimmage against Torrington.

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Outdoor Mass Sunday, September 6 5:30 p.m.

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The Lakeville Journal

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Managing Editor

The Lakeville Journal, a nonprofit community weekly newspaper, seeks a dynamic, community-focused managing editor.

The managing editor will be primarily responsible for editing and writing articles to serve communities of Northwest Connecticut.

Working with the executive editor, duties include planning news coverage, ensuring there is a balance of quality stories and photos, and that deadlines are met. The managing editor is expected to work collaboratively with The Millerton News managing editor, Arts editor, and others to ensure readers across the region are well-informed.

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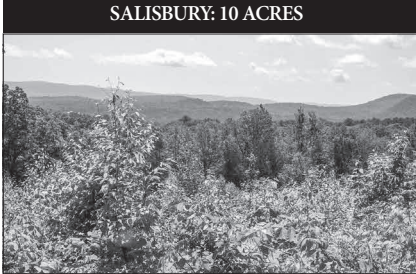
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Robinson Leech Real Estate Distinctive Country Properties

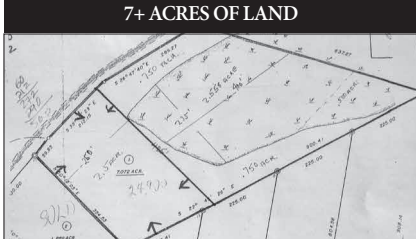
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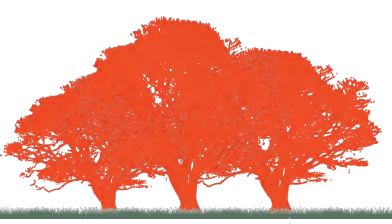
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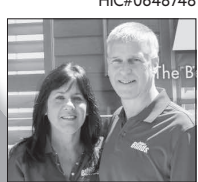
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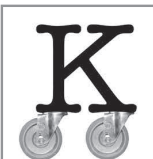
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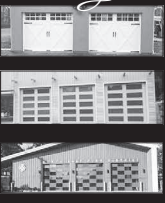
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