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

Affordable housing gains highlighted at Kent summit

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — Since 2019, 583 affordable homes have been completed or are under construction in Litchfield County, state housing officials said Thursday, Sept. 24, at the fifth Litchfield County Housing Affordability Summit.

The summit brought volunteers from affordable housing groups in 12 towns to the Kent Community House. Exhibits ringed the room as volunteers described their projects.

Speakers emphasized the co-operation needed to move those projects forward and encouraged the groups to keep going.

David Rich, who is stepping down after 20 years leading The Housing Collective, which works to address homelessness and expand affordable housing, praised the local groups' persistence.

"You are catalysts for housing in northwest Connecticut," he told attendees.

Rich said progress requires tenacity and grit. Despite uncertainty



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Attendees at the Litchfield County Housing Affordability Summit on Sept. 24 in Kent.

surrounding homelessness and the housing shortage, he said, "working in the Northwest Corner gives me hope."

Jocelyn Ayer, director of the

Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity, urged the volunteer groups to share ideas and celebrate what they had achieved. The center works with towns and

nonprofit groups to develop affordable housing.

State Housing Commissioner Seila Mosquera-Bruno, who provided the figure of 583 homes, pointed to progress in the region, including the groundbreaking for Salisbury's Holley Place and the

See SUMMIT, Page A8

Salisbury commits \$113,000 to Holley Place cleanup

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Board of Selectmen voted Tuesday, Sept. 22, to put \$113,000 in available Small Cities grant funds toward cleaning up contaminated soil at the Holley Place affordable housing site in Lakeville.

Construction of the planned 14-apartment building at 11 Holley St. stopped after crews digging the foundation detected the smell of heating oil in June. First Selectman Curtis Rand told the board early last month that the cleanup was expected to cost between \$165,000 and \$175,000.

The developer, the Salisbury Housing Committee,

See HOLLEY PLACE, Page A8

P&Z weighs hotel moratorium after Wake Robin controversy

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — The Planning and Zoning Commission is considering a nine-month moratorium on new hotel applications in the town's Rural Residential Zone while it reviews the controversial zoning regulation that allowed the expansion of the Wake Robin Inn.

"The idea is to give you three-quarters of a year to work on new language related to hotels in residential zones," said Jeremy De-Carli, a land use professional who has consulted for the town since the departure of former Land Use Director Abby Conroy, during the commission's Sept. 21 meeting.

The proposed nine-month moratorium was part of a series of amendments to the town's zoning regulations discussed during the meeting, although most of the other proposed changes were minor revisions intended to improve clarity and consistency.

The regulation under scrutiny resulted from a 2024 amendment affecting the Rural Residential Zone, known as RR-1, that allows

hotel development by special permit.

The amendment cleared the way for an application from New York City-based developer Aradev LLC to redevelop the historic Wake Robin Inn, which sits within the RR-1 zone between Wells Hill Road and Route 41 in Lakeville.

The project, which calls for expanding the room count and adding a restaurant, an event space and other facilities, became the focus of more than a year of deliberations and public hearings. It drew strong

opposition from neighbors who argued that the proposed redevelopment was too large and intensive for the area.

The plan was eventually approved by P&Z in a 4-1 vote in October 2025. Current Chair Cathy Shyer, who was vice chair at the time, was the only member to vote against it, maintaining throughout the application process that the project was too intense for the neighborhood.

See WAKE ROBIN, Page A8

Region One widens public role in school study

By Ruth Epstein

FALLS VILLAGE — Seeking broader community input on Region One's organizational study, the ABC Committee plans to recruit residents from each of the region's six towns to take part in the process.

At the committee's Sept. 23 meeting, Sharon's Philip O'Reilly said he had heard concerns from constituents that the study needed

greater public involvement. The ABC Committee is made up of the chairs of the region's seven boards of education.

Last spring, Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley proposed a comprehensive kindergarten-through-grade-12 study examining the region's school structure amid declining enrollment and rising operating costs, including

See REGION ONE, Page A8

Salisbury portrait heads to New York museum

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Association is loaning a painting to the American Folk Art Museum in New York, but first the portrait had to come off the wall of the Academy Building.

On Tuesday, Sept. 22, Caleb Von Gardey and Paul Guerino of Northeast Transit Fine Art Services of Waterville, New York, arrived to collect the 1844 portrait of Maria Birch Coffing and Jane Elizabeth Winslow, painted by Edwin White.

The painting shows Maria Coffing in the foreground and, behind her, a young Black woman looking out from a doorway. Both women lived in Salisbury. Maria's husband, John Churchill Coffing, was an ironmaster; Winslow, known as Jennie, came to live with the Coffings as a child and remained with the family for decades.

The museum selected the portrait for an exhibition on how girls and young Black women were rep-



PHOTO PROVIDED

The restored 1844 painting by Edwin White is in New York.

resented in early American art. It aims to draw attention to their often-overlooked lives.

"We are honored by this special opportunity to share Jane Winslow's representation and her story with our visitors," said Emelie Gevalt, the museum's deputy

See PORTRAIT, Page A8



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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.

Crash in Sharon

On Saturday, Sept. 19 at approximately 11 p.m. Mark Davis, 32, of Goshen, was traveling eastbound on Route 4 in Sharon in a 2024 Kia Forte when he lost control of the vehicle and drove off the left side of the road. The vehicle struck a rope guardrail and was later towed from the scene. Davis was found to be at fault and received a written warning.

Disorderly conduct arrest

Troopers were dispatched to a residence on Eno Hill Road in Colebrook at approximately 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 23 for the report of a suspicious 911 call hangup. During an on-site investigation it was determined that Timothy Lapp, 33, who resides at the Eno Hill Road address, was physically aggressive. Lapp was arrested

on the scene on a charge of disorderly conduct and released on a \$1,000 non-surety bond to appear in Torrington Superior Court.

Evading the scene

On Saturday, Sept. 26 at approximately noon, James Czaja, 73, of Goshen, was traveling westbound on the Sharon Turnpike Road (Rt. 4) in Goshen in a 2017 Ford C-Max hatchback. A second vehicle was traveling behind Czaja and collided into the rear of the C-Max, which pulled over and stopped. The second vehicle evaded the scene and was described as a gray pickup truck, possibly an older style Dodge Ram. No injuries were reported, and the Ford was driven from the scene. Trooper Randolph Howell requests that anyone who may have witnessed the crash to contact him at Troop B (860-626-1820).

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

Connecticut heating oil prices climb 86% from a year ago

By Christian Murray

Connecticut households that heat with oil are facing sharply higher costs as winter approaches.

The statewide average price was \$5.91 a gallon on Sept. 21, compared with \$3.18 during the same week last year, according to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. That is an increase of about 86%.

At those averages, a 200-gallon delivery would cost about \$1,182, compared with \$636 a year ago — roughly \$548 more.

The amount a household pays depends on its supplier, delivery size and payment terms. Prices advertised by Litchfield County suppliers over the weekend were somewhat lower than the state survey average.

HomeHeat, a service that tracks advertised cash-on-de-

livery prices, listed an average of \$5.69 a gallon among 17 county suppliers on Sept. 27.

Its listed prices ranged from \$5.30 to \$6 a gallon

The rise in heating oil prices comes alongside a surge in diesel prices stemming from the conflict with Iran.

The two fuels are closely related and face many of the same pressures on supply and price.

Connecticut's average diesel price reached a record high last week, according to AAA figures. The price was \$6.49 a gallon.

Heating oil was high at the outbreak of the Ukraine war in 2022. DEEP recorded a statewide average of \$6.37 a gallon in May 2022.

For low income residents, applications are now open for the 2026-27 Connecticut Energy Assistance Program, which helps eligible residents pay their home heating costs. Details are at CT.gov.

North Canaan home sales rise; median price tops \$350K

By Christine Bates

NORTH CANAAN — The median sale price of a single-family home in North Canaan was \$350,500 for the 12 months ending Aug. 31, up 25% from \$279,900 a year earlier. The number of sales also rose from the previous 12-month period.

The median sale price was \$235,000 for the 12 months ending August 2024 and has remained above \$300,000 for the past year.

Twenty-seven single-family homes sold in the 12 months ending Aug. 31, compared with 20 in the previous 12-month period and 16 in the period ending August 2024. Annual sales peaked at 47 in the 12 months ending August 2021.

As of the end of September, eight single-family homes and one two-family home were listed for sale. The eight single-family listings represented roughly four months of inventory at the recent pace of sales. Two were priced below the



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

This three unit income producing property built in 1877 at 121 Railroad Street sold on Aug. 24, 2026 for \$335,000.

\$350,500 median, while five were listed above \$500,000.

August Transfers

49 Reed St. - 3 bedroom/2 bath house on .32 acres transferred by Richard Knapp to Jovan Momcilov for \$156,500
7 Locust Hill - 3 bedroom/1 bath on 4.62 acres transferred by Joseph Green to Taylor Allyn for \$184,250
121 Railroad St. - 4 bedroom/3 bath/3 kitchen multi-

family transferred by Michel Michels to Julia Ujvari for \$335,000

14 Railroad St. - Restaurant currently Industry Kitchen transferred by Auro Properties LLC to SBPSG Realty LLC for \$300,000

* Town of North Canaan real estate transfers recorded between August 1, 2026, and August 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.

Rain and wind fail to deter Salisbury CROP Hunger walkers

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — More than 100 people turned out on a blustery, wet afternoon for the CROP Hunger Walk in Salisbury and Lakeville on Sunday, Sept. 27.

Organizer Patricia Palmer said she had been watching the weather forecast and decided Sunday morning to go ahead with the walk.

Participants came from Salisbury and nearby towns, with sizable contingents from Salisbury School, Indian Mountain School and The Hotchkiss School.

The event, now in its 43rd year, supports Church World Service's international efforts to end hunger and poverty, as well as local food pantries. Individuals and teams register for the walk, and donors sponsor them.

Palmer said she wouldn't have a final amount raised for a week or so, but added that last year's walk raised \$49,571.

The walk began at the Congregational Church, followed the Rail Trail to Patco in Lakeville, then returned along Main Street to Brook Street, where walkers rejoined the trail and headed back to the church.

Adam Smedberg of Church World Service gave an example of how donations are used.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Rev. Erik Karas of Christ Trinity Church in Sheffield addresses the participants before the CROP walk.

In a rural part of Cambodia, he said, the rainy and dry seasons each last about six months. Children in one village must cross a river to get

to school, which requires a boat during the rainy season.

After a boat capsized and sank one year, villagers were reluctant to send their chil-

dren to school despite the boat being replaced.

Church World Service provided life jackets and training in how to use and store them so they would last for years.

Smedberg said that gave the villagers the confidence to send their children to school again.

Palmer noted that 25% of the money raised goes to local food banks.

The Rev. Erik Karas of Christ Trinity Church in Sheffield said the CROP Hunger Walk is part of an ongoing effort to end hunger worldwide.

"It's easy to forget when everybody has enough," he said. "We'd like it to be one and done and the world is fixed. But it doesn't work that way."

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Our Towns

Salisbury School tunnel under Route 44 nears completion

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Construction of a tunnel beneath Route 44 connecting Salisbury School's north and south campuses is nearing completion. Vafa Vahid, the private boys' school's chief financial officer and chief operating officer, said Monday, Sept. 28, that the tunnel will likely be ready for use by mid-November. He did not have a date for the removal of the temporary lane barriers on Route 44. Vahid said construction began in May but stopped in June while the school awaited state permits. Dayton Construction Company of Watertown is the contractor.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The tunnel under Route 44 at Salisbury School is nearing completion.

Vahid declined to give a specific cost but confirmed that it is "a multi-million dollar project." The tunnel will allow students, faculty and staff to walk between the campuses without crossing busy Route 44. The north campus includes faculty and staff housing and athletic facilities. Currently, pedestrians use a crossing marked by signs and a cone, sometimes with a crossing guard present. Vahid said the primary reason for building the tunnel "is the safety of the kids."



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A crew from Whitetail Landscaping and Excavation plant a new tree in front of the Academy Building in Salisbury.

Sugar maple replaces memorial elm outside Academy Building

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — A new tree stands outside the Salisbury Association's Academy Building on Main Street, continuing a memorial to Susan Getzendanner, the town's only victim of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The Princeton American elm planted in her honor fell during the July 4 storm. Its accompanying plaque remained, but the loss of the tree left a gap in front of the building. Getzendanner was a vice president at Fiduciary Trust. She was working on the 97th floor of 2 World Trade Center when the South Tower was struck on Sept. 11. Getzendanner divided her time between New York City and a cottage near Mount Riga, where she enjoyed hiking and gardening. On Wednesday, Sept. 23, a crew from Whitetail Landscaping and Excavation of Salisbury came to the Academy Building to remove the elm's stump and plant a 20-foot sugar maple donated by Old Farm Nursery in Lime Rock. Whitetail Landscaping and Excavation donated its services. Removing the stump left a sizable hole. The crew enlarged it to make room for the maple, then worked with shovels and a small excavator to set the tree in place. Salisbury Association director Chris Abeel said he consulted members of Getzendanner's family before replacing the elm. The original plaque honoring her will remain, he said, and the association will add a second plaque explaining why the memorial tree was replaced. The new tree restores the living part of the memorial. After the crew had settled the maple into place, the association's Lou Bucceri stepped back to take a look. "It looks like it's been there for years," he said.

Kent town officials get first look at Emery Park's proposed master plan

By Alec Linden

KENT — Bringing public swimming back to Kent remains the top priority for planners of a major upgrade to Emery Park, which took a step forward last week with the completion of a highly anticipated master plan. Meriden-based Cardinal Engineering presented preliminary designs to the Parks and Recreation Commission at a special meeting Sept. 22. The town commissioned the plan in May to guide improvements to the hillside park and make it more accessible. Cardinal's Roy Seeley, who oversaw the master plan, said it quickly became clear that reopening the swimming pond, which has been out of use for six years, would also require broader improvements to the park's infrastructure. The engineers recommended addressing accessibility early to avoid problems and added expense later. Landscape architect Phil Barlow outlined a design featuring a reconfigured parking lot with an adjacent picnic area, an upper level with a redesigned playground built mostly from wood, and a lower level with an oval walkway encircling a lawn and a pavilion with room for 50 people. The plans also call for two new buildings: one to house a Parks and Recreation Department office and another for pond-related facilities, including restrooms. Since the site is hilly, the work would require grading to keep walkways at a slope of less than 5% for accessibility. "Everything would be accessible," Barlow said. Cardinal Vice President Timothy Cermola, who also attended the meeting, said the swimming pond remains the focus despite the broad scope of the proposed improvements. "The goal here is to get the pool open," he said. "And to make sure everyone can use it," added Parks and Recreation Commissioner Heidi Wilson. Architect Michael Fortuna outlined his proposal for the swimming pond. A natural brook feeds a smaller pond just above the approximately 8,500-square-foot swimming area. "The more naturalized a filter you have the better," he said. Fortuna suggested converting approximately 2,500 square feet of the deepest part of the swimming pond into a "regeneration zone," where native wetland plants would filter the water in place of mechanical filtration or chemical treatment. The swimming area would have a maximum depth of five feet. "If you can have a couple thousand less feet of swim area, this is your better way forward because it gives you cleaner water," he said. "Aesthetically it would be very nice too." Fortuna said keeping the swimming area a pond rather than turning it into a pool would give the town more flexibility in its design and use. "The goal here is to keep it naturalized ... keep it a pond," he said. "The idea of losing the entire deep end is disheartening," Wilson said, "but the concept of natural filtration is a good thing."

"The goal here is to get the pool open." Timothy Cermola, Cardinal Vice President

Earlier in the summer, the engineers were concerned that the pond's entire foundation would have to be replaced. A subsequent investigation found it was sound and would need only resurfacing of the concrete shell. Still, the overall project carries a substantial price tag: Cardinal estimates it would cost approximately \$4 million. Cermola said the work would be phased, with reopening the swimming pond the first priority. The plans remain general, Cermola said. The next step is to submit them for review by regulatory agencies, including the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission and the state Department of Public Health. Details will be refined as that process moves forward. The park remains open while planning continues. Beyond the central area covered by the proposed improvements, Emery Park has fields, other recreational areas and a rugged trail system with views over the village and the Housatonic River Valley.

LEGAL NOTICES

Elections Notice
In accordance with Connecticut General Statute (Sec 9-16 & 9-17)all Registrars of Voter's Offices in CT will hold a statewide to prepare the "preliminary voter list" for the November 3, 2026 Election. Following this date, these list will be available for inspection at each office. Voters may still register to vote by mail online Until October 18th and in person from October 21st through Election Day by utilizing same day voter registration during Early Voting on November 3rd. The Norfolk Voter Registration session will take place in Norfolk Town Hall, 19 Maple Ave, Norfolk CT on September 29 from 2:00pm through 4:00 pm. Any person wanting to register to vote, or update their registration, can appear in the Registrars office during these times.
10-01-26

Legal Notice
The Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Application ZBA-26-2 by Christopher Lancto for a variance of Sections 304 and 300.2 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations pertaining to a property owned by Jodi Luby located at 288 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury, CT 06068, map 63 lot 07. The hearing will be held on October 13, 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/agenda/>. 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
10-01-26
10-08-26

Notice of Agent Decision Town of Salisbury CT Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission
Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Agent of the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on September 16, 2026:
Approved - Application IWWC-26-41 by Laurel Miller for/to "Install Propane Generator for emergency power". The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map as lot 06 12 and is known as 214 SHARON ROAD, LAKEVILLE. The owner of the property is BRADY TERRANCE + MILLER LAU-

REL TRUSTEES.
Any person may appeal this decision of the agent to the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury within fifteen days after the publication date of this notice.
10-01-26

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on September 21, 2026:
Approved - Special Permit Application #2026-0329 by owner Salisbury School Incorporated, for renovation of existing dwellings and establishment of accessory apartment use in accordance with Section 208 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 69 as Lot 18 and is located at 508 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury.
Approved - Special Permit Application #2026-0330 by owner Sharon Electric Company LLC, for a

storage warehouse in accordance with Section 205.2 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 56 as Lot 56-1 and is located at 19 Railroad Street, Salisbury. Any aggrieved person may appeal these decisions to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §8-8.
Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
Robert Riva, Secretary
10-01-26

Warning for November 3, 2026, State Election
The electors of the Town of Kent are hereby warned to meet at their respective polling places in said town on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the following purposes:
To cast their votes for Governor and Lieutenant Governor, State Senator, State Representative, Secretary of the State, Treasurer, Comptroller, Attorney General, Judge of Probate.
Notice is hereby given that the location of the polling

place for Absentee Ballot Counting, Early Voting, Same Day Registration and Election Day is: Kent Town Hall, 41 Kent Green Blvd., Kent, CT 06757
Voting tabulators will be used. The polls will be opened at six o'clock in the morning (6:00 a.m.) and will remain open until eight o'clock in the evening (8:00 p.m.). Early voting will take place from Monday, October 19, 2026, to Sunday, November 1, 2026. Early voting hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. each day, except that the hours are extended to 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday and Thursday, October 27 and 29, 2026. Each early voting location will offer Same-Day Election Registration (SDR). Dated at Kent, Connecticut, this 19th day of September, 2026.
Darlene Brady
Kent Town Clerk
10-01-26

Salisbury voters to decide how to fund Lakeville station move

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Voters who have already approved moving the Lakeville railroad station building will be asked to vote again, this time on how to pay for the project.

At a Sept. 16 town meeting, voters authorized spending up to \$650,000 on the move.

The Board of Finance held a special meeting Tuesday, Sept. 22, to discuss funding for the project.

Comptroller Joe Cleaveland said the town's debt reduction account has about \$725,000 available. He said the balance includes money set aside for a construction project at Salisbury Central School that has not gone ahead.

Cleaveland said a town meeting must approve redirecting those funds to the railroad station project. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, Oct. 19.

The board also con-

sidered tapping the Bauer Fund, created through a bequest from Frederick Bauer in the early 1950s for the purpose of "maintaining a park and recreation center in Salisbury and to further the work of the Salisbury Welfare Association."

The original Bauer bequest also included funds for the town's purchase of the Lakeville railroad station, according to the 1950-51 town report.

The Board of Finance controls the fund, which has a current balance of about \$3 million. It has been used for the Town Grove, Bauer Park and to support Salisbury Family Services, the successor to the Welfare Association.

Ultimately, the board took the Bauer Fund off the table for the railroad station project. It appointed two members, Michael Voldstad and Emily Vail, to meet with Cleaveland and determine whether the legal language governing the fund needs an update.

Kent streetscape project enters second phase

By Ruth Epstein

KENT – Phase II of the Kent Village Center Streetscape Improvement project has begun.

Crews could be seen last week installing the pathways near the Swift House on the southern side of Maple Street (Route 341 East).

This initiative follows phase I completed in 2022, which focused mainly on North Main Street between the intersection of routes 7 and 341 northward to the railroad tracks, as well as along Bridge Street (Route 341 West). The purpose of phase II is to expand downtown pedestrian safety and accessibility in a number of areas:

South Main Street (Route 7) – install sidewalks and granite curbing south from the Civil War monument to the Kent Greenhouse and Gardens and South Common Road

Maple Street (Route 341) – install concrete sidewalks on the south side to the front

of the Kent Volunteer Fire Department's firehouse. A crosswalk with electric flashing lights will be placed at the entrance to Swift Lane, which leads to Templeton Farms senior housing.

Maple Street (Route 341) – north side extending to the edge of the railroad tracks

Lane Street – on the south side

The bid of \$1.6 million was awarded to Stone Construction of Southbury. Funding is from federal, state and local coffers, with the bulk, about 80%, coming from the federal Transportation Alternatives Program.

Similar to phase I, the old, deteriorating asphalt paths are being fully excavated and replaced to uniform concrete surfaces, ADA-compliant driveway ramps and matching granite curbs.

First Selectman Eric Epstein said this project "reflects an exciting time for Kent that will allow for safer pedestrian passage and a more attractive appearance in the center of town."

Brew-Ski Fest returns to Salisbury on Oct. 11 for beer, food, music

By Christian Murray

SALISBURY — The 16th annual Brew-Ski Fest will bring craft drinks, live music and an unique golf ball contest to Satre Hill on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The festival, presented by Stateline Wine and Spirits, raises money for the Salisbury Winter Sports Association. The organization supports young ski jumpers and hosts Jumpfest and the Eastern Ski Jumping Championships at Satre Hill each February.

More than 25 craft breweries, cideries and spirits makers are expected to take part in the tasting event.

The Steve Dunn Band will perform, and "Sunday in the Country Food Drive," a local charity, will serve brats, burgers and hot dogs. The event will be held rain or shine, with the ski jump towers providing the backdrop.

The festival's Ski Jump Golf Ball Roll gives visitors a chance to buy a numbered ball and watch it tumble down the ski jump landing hill alongside hundreds of

Dahlias fill Sharon Historical Society for Best in Bloom festival

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON — Dahlias filled the Sharon Historical Society and Museum for the inaugural Best in Bloom Dahlia Festival on Sept. 26 and 27.

Every room was filled with flowers that featured the brilliance of color, the uniqueness of shape and the sheer beauty of the blossoms.

Abbey Nova, the society's executive director, came up with the idea for the festival. "I'm a dahlia grower myself and we're always looking at ways to expand our mission and get people into the building. I was thinking of something other than pumpkins for the fall."



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Organizers of the Best in Bloom Dahlia Festival held at the Sharon Historical Society and Museum on Sept. 26 and 27 are, from left: society director Abbey Nova, Allison Chase and Stephanie Chase.

She was surprised at the response when the call went out to bring dahlias to the festival, where they would be judged and put up for sale. Forty-two participants came forth bearing more than 210 blooms. They were placed in seven categories: dinner plate, ball and pompom, decorative, water lily, cactus and semi-cactus, junior growers and a collection of single, peony flowered, anemone and collarette.

Nova said most entries came from Sharon residents, but the competition did draw growers from other local towns, as well as some who came from a distance.

Helping to organize the event were Allison Chase and Stephanie Chase of Dahlia Daughters. Their late mother, Amanda Chase, had a dahl-

ia business, which they took over upon her death. Allison Chase explained there are a number of varieties. "They are really event flowers used for weddings and parties because there are so many colors, shapes and sizes."

One tuber can yield a great many flowers and they can also be hybridized. Once the flowers are gone, the tubers are dug up and placed in dark cool places to be ready to plant the next year.

But dahlia growers often have to battle the elements, Chase said, noting one year she was faced with an invasion of Japanese beetles.

She is grateful that this year was a great one for her dahlias, which she sells from a stand outside her home on Amenias Union Road.

Nova said dahlias bloom later in the growing season, often in late July or August. "They like the cool nights and will remain right up until frost."

A cocktail party took place Saturday evening which filled the museum with hundreds of guests. Steve Ketterer, Allison Chase, Sarah Coon of Paley's Farm Market and Lynden Miller, noted author and garden designer, were tasked with awarding ribbon winners.

Best in Show went to

Betsy Ennis. First place winners in their categories were: Linda Sloane (dinner plate), Juliet and Leila Bell Scimeca (ball and pompom), Kathleen Fanning (decorative), Kathleen Fanning (water lily), Betsy Ennis (cactus and semi-cactus), Myra Plescia (collarette) and Adelaide Lee (junior grower).

On Sunday, local artist Colleen McGuire helped youngsters paint pictures of dahlias, while guests viewed all the submissions and made purchases.

Also on Sunday, the People's Choice Award was given to Steve Ketterer for his dinner plate entry.

Vote on Swift House's future expected next year

By Alec Linden

KENT — Voters are expected to decide early next year whether the town should keep the historic Swift House, following a Sept. 15 discussion of the building's condition, restoration costs and possible sale.

"The time has come to ask the voters to decide on the fate of the property," First Selectman Eric Epstein said. He proposed holding a vote in the first quarter of 2027, allowing time for legal advice and a possible appraisal.

The town has owned the Maple Street property since 1974. The late 18th-century house has been closed to the public since the COVID-19 pandemic, and officials have spent years debating whether it can be put back into municipal use.

The Swift House Investigative Committee, a seven-member group appointed by the Board of Selectmen in



BY ALEC LINDEN

The historic Swift House on Maple Street in Kent. Voters are expected to decide early next year whether the town should keep or sell the building.

February to study the building's future, outlined four possible approaches: sell the property, either with or without preservation restrictions; retain it and restore it in phases over five to 10 years; or maintain it while the town considers other options.

The committee recommended placing a preservation easement on the building regardless of which approach the town chooses.

Several committee members, including selectman Lynn Harrington and Kent Historical Society Curator Marge Smith, who spent many years working inside the building when it housed the Society's offices, were motivated to keep the building under town ownership when the group was established in February.

At the September meeting, however, both said the committee's research had persuaded them that selling the house to a buyer committed to historic preservation, with restrictions to protect it, would be the best course. Harrington pointed to the extent of the repairs the town would face.

"It's just a huge, huge undertaking," said Harrington. "Not just the cost, but just like everything that has to be

done. It's almost like everything has to be fixed."

Epstein said the boiler needs replacing at an estimated cost of \$90,000. Returning the house to public use would also require upgrades to meet Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. Estimates for a full renovation range from \$2 million to \$4 million.

Smith said that she had grown close to the building over the years.

"I know every inch of that house—I love it so much," she said, but agreed that a responsible private owner may be a better steward than the town.

The selectmen have yet to set a date for the town vote.

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OBITUARY

Beatrice Humes Bunce

NORTH CANAAN — Beatrice Humes Bunce, 89, of Brooksville, Florida, formerly of North Canaan, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on Sept. 13, 2026.

Born on July 29, 1937, in North Canaan, to Douglas E. Humes Sr. and Claudine Good-

sill Humes, Bea grew up in Clayton and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Bea worked as a school bus driver for Dufour Brothers and later cherished her time at home caring for her grandchildren. She loved soaking up the sun by the pool, camping at Deer Run, and attending concerts at Hunter Mountain. She was also an avid knitter, creating cherished blankets for every grandchild and great-grandchild, as well as for many dear friends.

Her grandchildren will always remember mornings with “Ne”/Gramma, especially her legendary heart-shaped waffles and Tang. She always had treats and coffee ready for friends who stopped by to visit. Family was the cornerstone of Bea’s world, and she deeply valued every friendship she made

throughout her life.

Bea was preceded in death by her parents; her first husband, Thomas Bunce Sr.; and later, her second husband, Don Kerr.

She is survived by her children, Thomas Bunce Jr. (Terri), Guy Bunce (Wendy), and Claudia Bunce

Dionne; her grandchildren, Adam Bunce (Tina), Lindsey Crane (Chris), Brooke Riva (Jared), William Bunce (Polina), Steven Bunce (Cortney), Mollikate Tanner (Richard) and J J McNulty; her great-grandchildren, Cooper and Annabelle, Christopher, Connor and Charlene, Elo-die and Vallie, George and Mary, and Forrest and Cassie; and her brothers, Douglas Humes Jr. (Robyn) and Orville Humes (Elina).

A celebration of Bea’s life will be held on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the North Canaan VFW, 104 South Canaan Road, Canaan, CT.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to The Little Guild, 285 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike, West Cornwall, CT 06796.

Bea will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by her family and friends.



David A. Godding

WINCHESTER — David A. Godding Sr., 82, of Winchester Center, Connecticut, passed peacefully at home surrounded by family and friends on Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2026. He was the loving husband of Cheryl Godding for 36 years.

David was born Oct. 17, 1943, in Sharon, to the late Leonard and Gladys (Robertson) Godding.

Dave graduated in 1961 from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1963 until his honorable discharge in 1969, having served in Vietnam.

Upon returning, Dave settled in Norfolk, with his then wife Roberta (Grith) and children. He worked for several local plumbing contractors before starting Godding Plumbing & Heating with his son David Godding Jr. For many years he was a licensed Master Plumber in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont, and retired in 2003.

David loved so many things in life. He served as assistant fire chief in Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department and devoted time as an EMT for Norfolk Volunteer Ambulance as well. He enjoyed physical activities of all kinds, including running, hiking, biking, canoeing, swimming, and played volleyball at Botelle school in Norfolk for many years. Hobbies included building construction, working on

equipment, and generally coming up with a solution for any type of problem. David loved music and discovered talents for banjo and bass. He played and sang in several bands including Wild Abandon and Dark Horse, and regularly hosted popular music

jams in his home. Always an animal lover, he discovered a passion for horses later in life, both riding and carriage driving. He and Cheryl raised and trained Morgan horses on their farm in Winchester, which he took great pride in.

He is survived by his wife Cheryl, his beloved children David Jr, Jennifer Hamza, and Patricia Custer; his stepchildren Julia Smith and Alan Colwell. He also leaves behind his granddaughters Ashley Errichetto and Emily Ronalter, his great grandchildren, his sister Barbara Brown, and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his brother Leonard Jr. and sister Gloria Arata.

A graveside service with military honors will be held on Saturday, Oct. 3rd at 11 a.m. at the Winchester Center Cemetary on South Road in Winchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Norfolk Volunteer Fire Department, or an animal rescue organization of choice.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



NORFOLK — David L. Davis, 84, of Norfolk, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on Sept. 15.

Born in Nottingham, England, David was educated at Bromsgrove School and later graduated from hotel school in Birmingham, England. His education and natural talent for hospitality became the foundation of an extraordinary career that took him from England to some of the finest hospitality establishments in the United States.

In 1964, David came to the United States to work in Hartford, Connecticut, with Sonesta Corporation. He later became head of purchasing for the renowned Plaza Hotel in New York City, where he gained invaluable experience in the world of fine hotels and hospitality.

In 1974, David embarked on one of the most memorable chapters of his career when he purchased the Stonehenge Inn in Ridgefield, Connecticut. Under his ownership, the five-star inn and restaurant became known for exceptional food, gracious hospitality, and an atmosphere that attracted a remarkable array of guests. Among those who enjoyed the Stonehenge were celebrities such as Joanne and Paul Newman, corporate CEOs, devoted lovers of gourmet food, and couples celebrating weddings and other special occasions. David took great pride in creating a place where people could gather, celebrate, and enjoy themselves.

After retiring from the Stonehenge Inn, David moved to Norfolk, Con-

necticut, to his wife’s family summer home. Retirement, however, lasted only about a month.

True to his entrepreneurial spirit, David purchased the local pub and transformed it into an authentic English-style pub. Featuring an extraordinary selection of 153 beers, the pub became a destination for those interested in unusual and imported beers. David was, in many ways, ahead of his time, introducing patrons to the variety and character of foreign and specialty beers long before they became widely popular.

David’s adventurous spirit led to yet another unique chapter in his life. Following his time at the pub, he spent a year consulting for T. Boone Pickens, advising on the hospitality aspects of Mr. Pickens’ vast 70,000-acre ranch. It was an unforgettable adventure and another reflection of David’s broad experience and love of hospitality.

David also founded Hill-home Country Products, sharing his passion for food through a collection of specialty products. Among the most popular were his Texas pickles, fudge sauce, caramel sauce, mango chutney, English orange marmalade, and Christmas Morning marmalade. His products reflected the same creativity and attention to quality that characterized so much of his life and work.

Service to Norfolk David’s contributions extended well beyond his pro-

fessional life. After settling in Norfolk, he became deeply involved in the community and gave generously of his time and energy.

He served as President of Meadowbrook Housing and President of the Norfolk Library Associates. He was also a member of the Bishop’s Committee of the Church of the Transfiguration for 20 years, a testament to his long-standing commitment to his community and his church.

Throughout his remarkable career and community life, David was known for his entrepreneurial spirit, his appreciation for fine food and hospitality, his English heritage, and his ability to turn an idea into something special. Whether running a renowned inn, creating an English pub, advising on a Texas ranch, developing specialty foods, or serving his community, David approached life with curiosity, energy, generosity, and a



David L. Davis



Worship Services

Week of October 4, 2026

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Growing together in God's love Rev. John Allison Priest-in-Charge All are welcome 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627	St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232 FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org	Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, October 11 at 10:30 a.m. COURAGE: Making GOOD trouble For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome
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	ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
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 Lakevilleumethodist@snet.net	UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community
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 Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates
The 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	St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org
All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us	Canaan United Methodist Church 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!
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	

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LET'S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

With colder weather on the way, households across the region are starting to look ahead to the cost of keeping their homes warm this winter. Home heating oil prices have surged in recent months, with prices reaching record levels in several states. For households that rely on heating oil, those increases could make a significant difference in winter heating bills.

Are rising home heating oil costs a concern for you this year?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, Oct. 5 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

What approach should towns take toward data centers: ban them, regulate them, or allow them under existing zoning rules?

"It seems like not much good comes from the construction of data centers. Between the loss of open space, destruction of habitats, depletion of water sources and noise pollution-Ban them!"

— Johnny Martin, Millerton

"Ban. The noise alone would make me abandon my home." — Nat Baker

"Ban. The energy usage, water usage, noise pollution, and environmental damage are unacceptable." — Roxann Steinberg Whitaker

Hi. Yeah, I'm in cybersecurity... dont ruin this area. Please. Please do not allow these data centers to be built. I am quite literally begging you guys to be more intelligent than the rest of the country, we need a promise of a complete ban indefinitely. No loopholes, no backdoor, no way to get around it. No data centers! — Caitlyn Ellis

"Seems the only way is to have them and regulate." — Joseph Zerres

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cardona neglected public school alternatives

Last Friday the Salisbury Forum sponsored a program given by the controversial former U.S. Education Secretary Dr. Miguel Cardona. Yes, the same Secretary who championed the Biden administration's gender ideology in classrooms and sports, as well as the unconstitutional forgiving of student loan debt. No mention of these banished concepts was mentioned.

Controversy still seems to cling to Dr. Cardona. Governor Lamont had made his company's selection to head up an advisory panel for education planning. No competitive bids. No public comment. What an irony to choose someone this way. Especially someone chosen who is one of the biggest supporters of teacher's unions.

The speaker's perspective was strictly partisan. Whenever schools were said it was always with the qualifier "public school." Neglected was no mention of other schools or home schools that parents may choose for their children.

If there was any sense of bipartisanship to this talk Dr. Cardona would have mentioned present U.S. Education Secretary Linda McMahon's efforts. Her mission is to provide a choice for parent's for their children's

education. Legislation passed in 2026- the Big Beautiful Bill- will allow taxpayers a credit of up to \$1700 by contributing to state registered nonprofits that will award scholarships. The Education Freedom tax credit will be launched in January 2027.

It will allow donors to contribute to organizations that will fund scholarships for students. These scholarships can be used for private school tuition, tutoring, or home school costs. The scholarships would be given out by local nonprofits given the name, scholarship granting organizations or SGO's in partnership with school districts. Connecticut is presently a non-school choice state however the administration has allowed the governors of each state to opt-in for this program.

The U.S. Treasury has said more information is to be released by the end of September. The scholarships can also aid public school districts via arts and music and after school programs. The argument that the Education Freedom tax credit would take away from public schools is misleading. This administration has it's focus on a state level rather than the top heavy federal bureaucracy.

Joe Agli

Kent

We need Harding for 30th

I am writing this letter to give my strong support to Stephen Harding as he runs for reelection to his position as State Senator of Connecticut in the 30th district.

Senator Harding is widely respected on both sides of the isle, because of his efforts to get the serious financial problems with the State budget under control and eventually eliminated. He has also been outspoken about protecting local government's role in de-

termining planning and zoning policies for their towns and municipalities. Both of these are issues that currently threaten the future of small towns in Connecticut. It is shocking to find out how serious these problems are. We must have Stephen Harding continue his leadership. A vote for him is a statement of how much you value life in the northwest corner of Connecticut.

Don Mayland

Lakeville

Opinion



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks for supporting Summer Mountaineers

On behalf of the Summer Mountaineer Experience staff, our campers, and their families, we would like to publicly express our sincere gratitude to the organizations whose generous support helped make this summer's program possible: Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 21st Century Fund, Region 1 Athletic Fund, Sharon Community Foundation, and the Canaan Foundation.

This summer, 77 students from across Region 1 participated in the Summer Mountaineer Experience. Thanks to the support of these organizations, students were able to participate in meaningful experiences, such as rock climbing, canoeing, stream walking and making bagels, at no cost to their families.

One of the most rewarding parts of the Summer Mountaineer Experience is watching students encourage one another, try something new, discover something

they enjoy, and form friendships with students they may not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet.

Programs like this are possible because of organizations and community partners that believe in investing in our young people. We are incredibly grateful to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 21st Century Fund, Region 1 Athletic Fund, Sharon Community Foundation, and the Canaan Foundation for recognizing the value of giving our students the opportunity to build connection, confidence, curiosity, and self-awareness.

Thank you for your generosity, your commitment to our Region 1 students, and for helping make the Summer Mountaineer Experience another memorable summer for our Region One students.

Barbara Hockstader

Anne MacNeil

Jill Pace

Program Coordinators

A vote for Matt Corey for Lieutenant Governor

Matt Corey's name probably sounds familiar when you think about Connecticut's recent political landscape. He ran in the general election against Democratic representative, Chris Murphy, in 2018 and again in 2024. Still energetic and passionate about representing the citizen of our state, Matt has thrown his hat into the ring again. This time, as the Republican candidate for Lieutenant Governor alongside Ryan Fazio for Governor.

As a Navy veteran, small business owner, and long-time Connecticut resident, Matt brings a perspective that I respect. His campaign has focused on addressing several of these issues:

- Lowering business taxes and reducing red tape for small businesses, expanding manufacturing, and encouraging skilled trades and apprenticeships.
- Reducing electricity

rates, taxes, and regulatory costs. Matt believes Connecticut's high price tag for power hurts both families and businesses in our state.

Moving Connecticut in the direction of a smaller, more efficient government that in turn will make our state a more desirable place for businesses to operate.

Connecticut needs leaders who are willing to listen to residents, stand up for common sense, and work to make our state a better place to live, work, and raise a family. Matt Cory brings that commitment, along with the energy, integrity, and determination needed to serve effectively.

As a member of my town's Republican Town Committee, I am proud to support Matt Corey on Election Day – November 3, 2026.

Harriet Weiss

Salisbury

Kindness of our community is overwhelming

When our dog, Wally, ran away recently, we were overwhelmed by the kindness of this community.

Falls Village Animal Control put us in touch with the volunteers at CT Dog Gone Recovery who put us in touch with a local man who volunteered hours over several days to search for our dog with a thermal drone. Various neighbors called to check in or report hearing barking in the woods behind their homes. Several gener-

ously allowed us to search their properties. A local school bus driver called in a sighting. When, after six days, Wally emerged from the woods, smelly and hungry, other neighbors recognized him, called his name, and kept him safe in their kitchen until we could arrive.

We were deeply touched by everyone's care and generosity. Thank you.

Peter and

Alice Alderman

Falls Village

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — 1901

On Wednesday of last week, while William Brazee was lifting a heavy barrel from his wagon, he slipped and the barrel fell upon his leg and broke it. Dr. Bissell was called and gave the kind of attention needed.

On Friday last, while workers were jacking up the drug store building, preparatory to moving it, a corner of the foundation wall on which one of the jacks rested partially gave way, and the center of the building gradually began to settle. Timbers were immediately put in position as supports, but to no effect, for in a few moments the building broke in the center and went crashing down into the cellar, a complete wreck. None of the goods had been removed from the store, consequently bottles, jugs, cans, boxes and other goods too numerous to mention were crushed by the falling timbers, making a conglomerated mass, with many odors, which floated out to remote parts of the village. Dr. Knight estimates the damage done to his stock at about \$1,000.

100 years ago — 1926

The auto may be a great blessing, but it has certainly done things to the railroads.

SALISBURY — Master Robert T. Mercer left on the 22nd to attend the Lenox School in Lenox, Mass. Mr. E.C. Mercer, his father, leaves tomorrow to see first World Series baseball game in New

York and will begin his fall work Sunday, Oct. 8, in St. George's Episcopal Church in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Mr. E.C. Mercer is driving a new Nash roadster.

Fire losses resulting from rubbish fires, which total high in Connecticut, may be materially reduced in the near future by the use of the gas-fired incinerator, according to the Connecticut Committee on Public Service Information. It has been estimated by the committee that approximately fifty per cent of all fires are the result of attempts to destroy rubbish in unprotected devices, chief of which is the back-yard bonfire.

LOST — 3 cows, black and white, with tags on ears, reward. Please notify Joe Brown, East Canaan, Tel. 179-2.

One day last week Miss Doris Peabody swam across the lake starting at the raft and finishing at the Hotchkiss Boat House. Miss Mignon Taylor rowing a boat accompanied her over the course.

50 years ago — 1976

A study of the Housatonic River for possible federal protection as a Wild and Scenic River was authorized by the House of Representatives Monday, and according to the Senate's Interior Committee, was confirmed by the Senate late Tuesday. The omnibus bill now awaits only President Ford's signature.

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

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Viewpoint

Hedge your home heating oil now

The airways are chock full of stories bemoaning soaring gasoline and diesel prices lately. Much less attention is focused on rising heating oil prices this coming winter.

All the inflation data is reflecting how these rising energy costs are impacting your pocketbook. For diesel, which fuels the transportation industry and most of commercial America, the problem is even more acute than gas.

Some readers, depending on where you live, may also be facing another challenge besides higher gas prices. A close cousin to diesel fuel in the world of refined energy products is home heating oil. Around my town, regular gas is above \$4.35, and diesel is now over \$6.50 a gallon.

Diesel is now at an all-time high. Heating oil is following the diesel price higher. Fortunately, if there is a silver lining, many homes in the country run on gas or electric. The problem turns ugly in the Northeast, however. Over 4 million homeowners depend on heating oil, the most expensive way to heat a home and stay warm in the winter.

U.S. heating oil futures recently surpassed 2022 highs and have climbed almost 30% over the last quarter. Since the start of the year, they are up 120%. The Energy Information Administration forecasts the average price this year at \$4.80/gal-

THE RETIRED INVESTOR
BILL SCHMICK

lon, up 33% from last year. The catch is that prices vary widely depending on where you live.

In some states, heating oil use is greater than in others, such as Maine (50% of homes), Alaska (28%), Massachusetts (20%), and New York (15.53%), so the impact will be greater. I recommend calling your local oil company for a quote once you read this column. Don't be surprised if the price is at least \$2.00 or more per gallon above the government-forecasted average.

Before you ask, yes, you can blame the war in Iran. Part of the price increase is due to the closure of the Straits of Hormuz and other exit routes for crude oil and refined products out of the Middle East.

But some of the shortfall is also happening because the war that was supposed to be resolved on "Day One" of Trump's re-election is still very much in contention. Ukraine is now able to hit Russian oil refineries thousands of miles away in retaliation for the devastation of its own energy resources over the last five years.

This matters because Russia is a major exporter of all kinds of petroleum

products, including diesel and heating oil. As a result of the Ukrainian drone attacks, Russian production has fallen to the point that they have banned exports. This has created a supply shortfall for global customers, leading to much higher prices for diesel and heating oil outside the U.S.

Oil refiners in general, and U.S. refiners in particular, have been exporting some of their diesel and heating oil overseas to take advantage of price discrepancies between domestic and overseas markets. As a result, some refiners are experiencing even wider profit margins. There has been talk among legislators this week in Washington about restricting diesel exports from the U.S.

The Biden-era attempt to reduce LNG exports was a dismal failure. All it did was increase LNG prices worldwide. The same would happen if the government reduced diesel exports. Trump has not decided whether to restrict diesel exports, despite a massive lobbying effort this week by the energy trade.

The situation has escalated to a point where President Trump has asked Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky to cease fire on Russian refineries. You may remember Zelensky; he is the same man the U.S. President and Vice President publicly humiliated in the Oval Office a

year ago for not being grateful enough for U.S. assistance during Russia's war of aggression.

Trump this week claimed in a post on Truth Social that "Ukraine has agreed not to hit Russian energy targets. Russia has agreed to do likewise." Neither side has agreed yet, even after Zelensky met with the president at the United Nations assembly this week.

Zelensky reiterated his position that he would be willing to back off if Russia agreed to de-escalation as well, with assurances from his "partners." Does that mean Trump is his partner again?

In any event, aside from

praying for a mild winter, I suggest readers take advantage of your oil supplier's standard pricing program, if you haven't already. It is a way to hedge your upcoming fuel costs if administration-induced price spikes continue throughout the winter.

If you're unfamiliar with hedging your oil costs, current program types include fixed-price plans, where you can lock in your per-gallon rate for the entire heating season (typically October through April). You pay the agreed price regardless of market changes. Premiums over spot prices are usually \$0.10-\$0.25/ gallon.

Price cap plans also set a

maximum per-gallon price for the season. You pay the lower of the market rate or the cap. In this plan, the premium over spot you pay is typically \$0.25 to \$0.50 per gallon. Or you can take the risk that the war is over in the next month or so and opt for variable pricing, which is the spot market rate, without a cap or lock.

Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onota Partners, Inc., in the Berkshires. Bill's forecasts and opinions are purely his own and do not necessarily represent the views of Onota Partners, Inc. None of his commentary is or should be considered investment advice.



PHOTO BY MADI LONG

Fall ahead

OUR TOWNS

Six months after ban, kratom remains a concern for local clinicians

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — Six months after Connecticut outlawed kratom — a substance made from the leaves of a Southeast Asian tree and sold in smoke shops, gas stations and convenience stores for its stimulant and opioid-like effects — treatment providers say they continue to see people struggling with dependence and withdrawal.

At Mountainside Treatment Center in North Canaan, medical director Karen O'Flynn said more patients are seeking treatment for dependence on 7-OH, a potent compound derived from kratom.

"Here at Mountainside Treatment Center we are seeing a definite increase in the number of admissions for the treatment of 7-OH dependence, though we cannot know whether that is a direct result of the ban," O'Flynn said.

Short for 7-hydroxymitragynine, 7-OH acts on the brain's opioid receptors. Concentrated products containing the compound can cause tolerance, dependence and withdrawal.

The increase in treatment began before the ban. Mountainside recorded 184 admissions involving kratom use in 2025, up from 67 in 2024, The Lakeville Journal reported in March. Clinicians warned then that people already dependent on kratom could experience withdrawal if they suddenly lost access to it.

Connecticut classified kratom — including its leaves, stems and extracts, and 7-OH — as a Schedule I controlled

substance effective March 25. Possessing or selling the product in the state is prohibited.

Access across state lines

The ban was quickly visible in North Canaan. The Lakeville Journal found that two local smoke shops had removed kratom from their shelves. Nevertheless, residents could still find it minutes away across the New York or Massachusetts borders.

That changed on the Massachusetts side Aug. 28, when a temporary one-year ban on all forms of kratom took effect. Four retailers have sued to block the measure, arguing that it treats traditional kratom leaf the same as concentrated or synthetic 7-OH products. The ban remains in effect while the case proceeds. New York continues to allow regulated adult sales of

kratom.

"It's not like Montana, where you have to drive four hours to get to another state," said Jana Wu, Mountainside's director of clinical integration.

Wu said she has heard from people obtaining kratom across state lines and online. Mountainside's weekly clinician-led "Let's Talk Kratom" support group draws participants from New York, she said, and its detox program is treating a growing number of people for kratom dependence.

Wu said Mountainside recorded a 50% increase in kratom-related treatment cases from March through September. She cautioned that the center cannot determine whether Connecticut's ban caused the increase.

Some people who were al-

ready dependent on kratom may have sought treatment after the ban disrupted their supply and they began experiencing withdrawal. Mountainside cannot say whether that explains the rise. Wu said other possible factors include growing use, more potent products and greater recognition of kratom-related problems.

Mountainside's numbers reflect people seeking care at the center, not kratom use throughout the Northwest Corner. Wu's 50% figure covers kratom-related cases, while O'Flynn's observation concerns admissions for dependence on 7-OH specifically.

Products found after the ban

Authorities have found prohibited products in Con-

necticut since March. In August, Greenwich police arrested a New York man accused of selling 7-OH from his vehicle and seized what they valued at about \$20,000 in kratom products.

This month, Wallingford police announced the arrests of two smoke-shop employees after investigators found products containing 7-OH and 7-hydroxymitragynine pseudoindoxyl. Police said the products had remained on sale after the ban.

For people already dependent on kratom or 7-OH, removing the products from Connecticut shelves does not necessarily end their use.

O'Flynn urged families to carry naloxone, commonly known by the brand name Narcan, and to administer it in a suspected overdose even if they do not know what

substance was taken. They should also call 911.

"Some of the substances coming onto the market require several doses of Narcan," she said. "You will not harm someone by giving them Narcan, though you may precipitate sudden opioid withdrawal."

O'Flynn said treatment providers are also watching whether people who can no longer obtain kratom turn to other substances.

"A ban on any substance, like a reduction in availability for any other reason, always carries a risk of people moving to other substances," she said.

"Historically, this has led to different substances entering the market. Some can be more potent than the substances they replace and carry a greater overdose risk."

How to talk with teens about kratom and other drugs

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Kratom products are banned in Connecticut, but young people may still encounter kratom, or its potent derivative 7-OH.

Jana Wu, director of clinical integration at Mountainside Treatment Center in North Canaan, recommends starting conversations before a crisis. Ask teenagers what they have heard at school, online or from friends, rather than opening with an interrogation.

The goal, Wu said, is to keep communication open so teenagers feel comfortable

asking for help. Parents can discuss the risks of dependence, the varying strength of products and the possibility of unknown ingredients. They can also make clear that a teenager can call them for help without fear of punishment.

Changes to watch for

No single behavior proves that a teenager is using drugs. Changes worth discussing include shifts in friends or activities; unexplained changes in sleep, appetite or energy; falling grades; withdrawal from activities once enjoyed; increasing secrecy; unexplained spending or missing money; and unfam-

iliar pills, powders, gums, packets or vapes.

Connecticut's Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services lists nausea, vomiting, dizziness, agitation and drowsiness among possible effects of kratom use. People who use it regularly may also experience withdrawal symptoms when they stop.

If someone cannot be awakened, is breathing slowly or shallowly, or is making choking or gurgling sounds, call 911 immediately. Give naloxone if it is available and stay with the person until help arrives.



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With hunting season arriving, it is good to know the seasons and regulations established by CTDEEP. Learn more about what you need to hunt certain species, including hunter safety certifications (firearms or bow), equipment, licenses, and more by visiting: portal.ct.gov/deep/hunting/roadmaps/hunting-roadmap. For the required hunter and firearms safety classes, please see: portal.ct.gov/deep/hunting/cefs/connecticut-hunter-education. Good luck and be safe!



JOHN HARNEY
Associate Broker with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty
Office: 19 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068
Email: jharney@wpsir.com
Cell: 860-921-7910
Instagram: @johnharneyjr

ADVERTISEMENT

WAKE ROBIN

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The 2024 zoning amendment itself also became the focus of public controversy and litigation. A lawsuit challenging the regulation was dismissed by a judge in February.

While residents argued that the zoning change unfairly favored Aradev’s interests over those of neighbors of the inn, P&Z members and town land use staff have repeatedly said the amendment was intended to address longstanding zoning issues involving hotels already operating in the district. Along with the Wake Robin Inn, the nearby Interlaken Inn also sits within the RR-1 zone.

Shyer reiterated that po-

sition during the Sept. 21 public hearing.

Darrell Peck, who has been a vocal opponent of the Wake Robin project, was the only resident to speak.

“Why are we not just undoing the change that was made in 2024 that led us down this road?” Peck asked.

Shyer replied that the purpose of the moratorium is to give the commission time to evaluate the issue in a way that takes into account the interests of residents as well as the hotels.

“We want to now just take a look and say ok, what is really required here to allow the hotels in that area to improve and come up to

the standard that the owners would like and make them conforming?” Shyer said.

The proposed moratorium includes an exemption for existing hotel development approvals that remain valid, meaning the Wake Robin Inn project would not be affected if the moratorium is adopted. No other hotel applications are currently pending.

Since its approval, the Wake Robin project has been delayed by litigation over the 2024 zoning amendment as well as an appeal of the special permit approval itself. Both actions were brought by Wells Hill Road residents William and Angela Cruger,

who also participated as intervenors during P&Z’s public hearing process.

The Crugers withdrew their appeal against the special permit on Sept. 9, leaving the Wake Robin project with no outstanding legal challenge. Salisbury’s Land Use Office said the developers have not yet applied for the additional building permits required for construction.

The public hearing on the proposed moratorium and other zoning changes was left open following the Sept. 21 meeting. Residents will have another opportunity to comment when the hearing continues at P&Z’s next meeting on Oct. 15 at 6:30 p.m.

PORTRAIT

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director and chief curatorial and program officer.

The Salisbury Association acquired the portrait in 2012. It was restored by Val Michalski of Egremont, Massachusetts, who had previously restored a companion portrait of John Coffing. It was a difficult task. At the time, Michalski described the painting’s condition as “quite appalling.”

At some point, the painting had been revarnished with a substance that resisted Michalski’s array of solvents.

“I was stymied,” he said. “I had one technique left.” He used a very small scalpel to physically lift the varnish off. As he painstakingly worked the size 15 scalpel under the layer, “Lo and behold — the varnish just shattered.”

From that point, the process went fairly quickly. He was able to use a bigger scalpel, a size 20. “You could take a leg off with that one.”

The shattered varnish came off easily, but it left a faint gray haze and a couple of damaged areas that had been touched up with black wax.

Removing the varnish made the young woman in the background easier to see. Michalski called Katherine Chilcoat of the Salisbury Association, who was also Salisbury’s town historian.

Regina Madigan had researched and appraised the painting for the association before the restoration.

“I almost fainted” when she saw the clearer image of the young



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Caleb Von Gardey (kneeling) and Paul Guerino carefully fit the 1844 portrait into a custom-built crate.

Black woman, she said. Madigan said Black people were included in some American portraits of the period, but were usually both thematically and literally apart from the main subject — working in a field in the background, for example.

In this painting, Winslow is physically close to Maria. Michalski described her expression as “very caring but also commanding.”

The association’s research identified her as Jane Elizabeth Winslow. Orphaned at about age 5, Jennie joined

the Coffing household around 1830. The 1840 census lists a free Black person in the household whom the association believes was Winslow.

The 1850 and 1860 censuses list her by name. She stayed in the Salisbury house for several years after Maria died in 1865 and later married Egbert Lee.

According to Chilcoat, John Coffing was 37 and a widower with four children when he married Maria Birch, a 30-year-old schoolteacher, in 1813. Coffing

made the first move in the courtship with a letter.

“Miss Birch, as the first advance belongs to the part that I am, this is to directly inform you madam that I have it in contemplation to make some pertinent propositions to you,” he wrote. Maria replied: “I am bound to tell you that my heart is buried with a man who lies I know not where, but if you still wish it, I will marry you, and be a mother to your children to the very best of my ability.”

Getting her portrait to New York began with a slight detour caused by faulty internet directions. There was another delay when the transporters reached the Academy Building and realized they did not have the right wrench.

Regular human directions to Herrington’s hardware store in Lakeville were supplied, and they returned in 15 minutes.

The men carefully lifted the portrait off the wall, placed it on thick plastic sheeting and bundled it up. Outside on Academy Street, a specially built crate lined with black foam awaited.

The painting fit snugly inside.

Von Gardey said the truck’s cargo area is controlled for temperature and humidity. The men strapped in the crate and were on their way to New York by 11 a.m.

The portrait will be part of Locating Girlhood: Place and Identity in Early American “Schoolgirl” Art, which runs from Oct. 9 through Feb. 28.

SUMMIT

Continued from Page A1

development of 10 net-zero homes at Haystack Woods in Norfolk.

She said the 583 affordable homes completed or under construction in the county since 2019 have received \$49 million in department funding and another \$100 million in public and private investment. Developers of five proposed projects, totaling 93 additional homes, have been invited to apply for financing.

“For a rural region, that is remarkable momentum,” Mosquera-Bruno said. “Litchfield County continues to show what rural communities can accomplish when collaboration leads the way.”

Nandini Natarajan, CEO of the Connecticut Housing Finance Authority, said rural communities face challenges involving the scale and cost of housing projects that call for flexible solutions. “I’m struck by the commitment and energy of the affordable housing groups,” she said.

Natarajan cited the authority’s role in financing a

Sharon project to rehabilitate six homes as affordable residences and create four units in the former Community Center building.

After the speakers, attendees broke into groups for “Table Talks.” Representatives of the local housing groups were stationed around the room to explain their projects and answer questions. Groups from Barkhamsted, Cornwall, Falls Village, Goshen, Kent, Litchfield, Morris, Norfolk, Salisbury, Sharon, Winchester and Washington took part.

State Rep. Maria Horn, D-64, closed the program with a discussion of state and federal housing legislation.

Ayer sent attendees off with a call for community: “Let’s put the us back in housing.”

The summit was hosted by the Center for Housing Opportunity in partnership with The Foundation for Community Health and The Lakeville Journal. Torrington Savings Bank and Northwell Health sponsored the event.

HOLLEY PLACE

Continued from Page A1

is responsible for raising the balance.

Rand said the town has some responsibility for the cleanup because it owns the property.

The Holley Place allocation was one of four motions approved unanimously at the special meeting.

The selectmen also assigned \$81,600 from the current budget’s affordable housing line to the Salisbury Housing Trust to renovate a two-bedroom house at 51 Bostwick St. in Lakeville. The trust bought the property in August and plans to sell the

renovated home to a family.

The selectmen also designated \$100,000 from the current budget’s affordable housing allocation for the Salisbury Housing Committee’s proposed Dresser Woods development, which would bring 20 affordable units to Railroad Street in Salisbury.

In a separate vote, they made what Rand called a “verbal, philosophical commitment” to earmark another \$100,000 for the Dresser Woods project in next year’s budget. That second amount has not been appropriated.



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Fall Festival at the Congregational Church!

TREASURE TROVE
TAG SALE
Friday & Saturday, 10am-5pm
Sunday, Noon-3pm (1/2 price sale!)

QUILT SHOW
Friday & Saturday, 10am-5pm
(Raffle drawing, Sat. 3:30pm)

HOT DOG TENT
Friday & Saturday, 11am-5pm

FACE PAINTING
Saturday, 12-2pm

ANTIQUE CAR RIDES
Saturday, 12 – 3pm

PETER JAMES
MAGIC SHOW
Saturday, 11am and 2pm

SALISBURY BAND
HOTSHOTS
Saturday, 12noon-1:30pm



The Congregational Church of Salisbury
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Meeting in Grace • Transformed by Love • Serving with Joy

... Dick Hermans

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

The award honors outstanding leadership in community service and was inspired by Mary Lou and Robert Estabrook, former owners of the newspapers who believed that strengthening a community extended well beyond the work of publishing a newspaper.

For Hermans, the award has prompted some reflection about why he has spent so much of his life involved in community projects.

“I was thinking about it this morning: Why do I do what I do?” he said. “And I think no matter what I’ve done, whether it’s been school board or rail trail, I’m trying to be useful to the communities I’m associated with.”

Hermans is perhaps best known as the longtime co-founder and steward of Oblong Books in Millerton, a business that began almost by accident. He and his first wife, Holly Nelson, were living in Millerton and looking for something to do during the winter. They had been painting houses, including the Grange Hall in Millerton, a job Hermans got through his aunt, who belonged to the Grange.

At the time, Hermans was also working in insurance for his father, doing collections.

“It was fine except I was doing collections, and it really kind of left me cold,” he said.

He and Nelson began thinking about what they might do together. Nelson was an avid reader, while Hermans had studied journalism and had worked in a record store. They noticed a chain of book and record stores operating elsewhere in the Hudson Valley and decided to follow that model.

And so Oblong was born. “We really learned it by the seat of our pants,” Hermans said.

The business would eventually become a beloved and integral part of Millerton’s



Dick Hermans in the Oblong Bookstore on Millerton’s Main Street in 1985.

commercial life. But although Hermans may have learned the book business as he went, his affinity for retail — and for the connections that happen across a counter — had begun much earlier.

As a child, his second-grade teacher operated a little cardboard pencil shop in the classroom, and Hermans still remembers the satisfaction of selling a pencil for a nickel.

“I really liked selling somebody a pencil for a nickel,” he recalled. “I can remember that experience, and it was so pleasant.”

Later, while living in Arizona, he helped establish a food co-op and worked at the counter.

“I kind of knew that I liked doing that kind of thing,” he said. “It’s a nice way to be pleasant with people, but without making too much commitment to them.”

His relationship with Millerton also predates Oblong. His grandparents lived in the village, and he first came to Millerton as a baby. Over the years, he has watched the town change through several generations.

He remembers a Millerton

with a much broader array of businesses, when stores such as Delson’s, the Main Street department store that stood for nearly 40 years in what is now Millerton’s Antiques Center, seemed to carry almost everything a resident might need.

“You could find everything from a set of dishes to a shotgun,” he recalled.

The rise of shopping malls changed that kind of downtown retail, he said, but Millerton has remained a lively commercial village.

“For us, it’s been a great place to have business,” Hermans said. “It’s a busy village.”

For Hermans, running a store was never simply about selling books and records. It was a way of being part of a place.

Music has remained another constant. Hermans continues to sell music at Oblong and hosts the radio program “New Harmony” on WKZE. The business of selling music has changed dramatically over the years, particularly with the rise of streaming, but Hermans has adapted.

He was initially reluctant to

“No matter what I’ve done, I’m trying to be useful to the communities I’m associated with.”

DICK HERMANS

bring vinyl records back into the store because of their expense. But about four or five years ago, he began stocking LPs again, and they have become the main form of music the store sells.

He finds that many of the customers buying them are reconnecting with music they loved years ago.

“I do best with classic albums that people may have had when they were young,” he said. “And now that they’re retired, they want to hear it again.”

Hermans still reviews between 700 and 1,200 new music releases each week through the store’s distributor, Alliance Entertainment, carefully deciding what belongs on Oblong’s shelves.

That same commitment to place has led Hermans into a wide range of community projects. His work with the Harlem Valley Rail Trail is among the efforts he mentions when reflecting on his years of civic involvement. He has also served on the school board and has been involved with the Millerton Business Alliance and the Irondale Schoolhouse. He is now involved with The New Pine Plains Herald, which he sees as complementary to the work of The Millerton News and The Lakeville Journal.

“I really think that the important thing about this award is that people understand what a newspaper does to connect them to their community,” he said. “And if that means anything to their lives, they gotta support it.”

Hermans knew Mary Lou and Robert Estabrook and remembers them as people who were deeply conscious of their responsibilities to the community.

“They were really nice folks,” he said. “They were very conscious of what their role in the community was.”

There is, in fact, still plenty on his plate. Hermans admits he needs to scale back because he has taken on more than his current abilities can comfortably accommodate.

“To be given this award is very special,” he added. “But I don’t feel like I’m done.”



PHOTO BY JEFF MOUSSEAU

Ledbetter (left) and Wojda (right) on the set of “A Number” at Ancram Center for the Arts.

... ‘A Number’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

in the past, “A Number” is much more stripped down, highlighting Churchill’s chosen themes and the skills of both actors on stage.

In “A Number,” Churchill explores the existential ramifications for a man who discovers he’s been cloned. With only two actors — John Wojda playing the father and Drew Ledbetter as the son and his clones — the play play uses a spare, intimate structure to explore complex questions. Premiering in 2002, “A Number” examines identity, individuality and the implications of human cloning.

Ledbetter, who takes on multiple versions of the same person, has performed in a variety of Off-Broadway and regional productions, including “Hamlet” and “King Lear.” He’s appeared in “The Blacklist” and HBO’s “Succession” and was featured in the WordPlay e-Book version of Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet,” which pairs acted video scenes with the original written word.

Wojda, who’s appeared in several Broadway productions, also has extensive experience with Shakespeare, including “The Merchant of Venice” and “MacBeth.” He has toured nationally with “Spring Awakening” and internationally with “West Side Story,” itself an adaptation of “Romeo and Juliet.” Like Ledbetter, Wojda has also appeared in “The Blacklist” but boasts a robust list of other television productions, including “Blue Bloods,” “Mr. Robot,” “Madam Secretary” and iterations of “Law and Order.”

For tickets to “A Number,” visit www.ancramcenter.org.

...Doug Tallamy

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

creating an opportunity to target the invasive vine with less risk to the native plants growing alongside it.

Tallamy will be seeing Windacre for the first time at the event, and that, too, is part of the point. Rather than presenting a finished landscape as a model to reproduce, “Work in Progress” offers the property as a living question.

“How much is mowed? I don’t know,” Tallamy said. “Everybody wants to maintain their viewscape. They don’t wanna block anything. But there are ways to do that. You know, where should a meadow be? Where should the forest be?”

He will also look for some of the ecological clues already present: milkweed, fall asters, goldenrods and, especially, oaks.

“Oaks are the most productive woody plant that we have,” he said.

For migrating birds, even one well-chosen tree can matter.

“Even if you have one tree in your yard, migrating birds will stop there if it’s the right tree,” Tallamy said. “It’s the diner. It’s where they stop to eat when they’re migrating.”

That image gets to the heart of Homegrown National Park. The organization asks people to imagine millions of privately controlled pieces of land not as isolated yards, gardens and properties, but as potential pieces of a connected eco-

logical network.

Every restored property, he said, can help fill a blank space between larger parks and preserves. Even isolated efforts can have remarkable results. Before a neighbor joined their efforts, Tallamy and his wife were essentially an ecological island. Yet they documented 62 species of birds breeding on their 10 acres. Tallamy has also photographed 1,388 species of moths there.

“We’re trying to change the culture so that this is not the odd way of landscaping,” Tallamy said. “We want this to become the dominant, the default landscape.”

Right now, he argues, the default is essentially reversed.

“Everybody starts with a dead landscape, and then you have to work hard to change it,” he said. “That’s just backwards.”

Tallamy’s sense of urgency comes from his life as an entomologist. The disappearance of insects and birds is not, in his telling, simply a sad loss of nature around us. Biodiversity is part of the machinery that makes human life possible.

“We’re losing our birds. We’re losing our insects. We’re losing everything,” he said. “And if we do, we’re gonna lose humans too, because those are the organisms that run the ecosystems that generate our life support.”

He offers a deliberately

stark analogy.

“If I said we had an oxygen crisis, we were losing oxygen on the planet, people would listen,” he said. “Well, biodiversity is the oxygen of our ecosystems. That’s what keeps us going.”

Yet Tallamy’s prescription is strikingly accessible. A landscape, he said, has four basic ecological jobs: support pollinators, support a food web, sequester carbon and manage the watershed in which it lies.

“You can look at those four things and look at your property and say, ‘What can I do to my property this year to improve each one of those functions?’” he said.

“Even if it’s just one little thing.”

And if that one little thing fails?

Tallamy has a story for that, too. Years ago, he planted an ash tree in the wrong soil. It survived but sat there for 20 years without growing an inch.

“So, I did that wrong. So what?” he said. “I learned that wasn’t the right place to put it, so next time you put it someplace else.”

“Work in Progress: Toward Native Fields” will be held Sunday, Oct. 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Windacre, 133 Morrison Road in Millerton. The event includes a seasonal brunch and an opportunity to explore the property; walking shoes are encouraged. For information and registration, visit bit.ly/4yYkzAP.



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... Homelands PowWow

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

ing organizers described as the first of its kind in the region in centuries.

This year’s theme, “Tending the Fire,” reflects an intention to make that return an enduring tradition.

“Our goal is to continue building an annual gathering that honors the history, culture and traditions of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans in their original Homelands,” organizers state on the event website.

The weekend is open to the public and will feature traditional dancing and live drumming, as well as Indigenous artists, makers and food vendors. Grand Entry, the ceremonial opening of the powwow, takes place at noon both days.

Among those helping organize the gathering is Shawn Stevens, an enrolled member of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans and a Mohican language scholar who has served on the Tribal Language and Culture Committee and Historic Preservation Committee. Stockbridge-Munsee elder



PHOTO BY JOSEPH PLANTE NEW MEDIA STORYTELLERS

Members of the Stockbridge-Munsee tribe at Homelands PowWow in 2025.

Ginger Stevens, a traditional dancer and longtime advocate for cultural preservation, serves as the organization’s Mohican travel coordinator.

Organizers are also careful to distinguish

the nonprofit behind the powwow from the tribal government: Homelands PowWow does not officially represent or speak for the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribal Council. Instead, its work is centered on creating oppor-

tunities for connection and helping Stockbridge-Munsee people return to their ancestral homelands.

For tickets, a complete schedule and more information, visit homelandspowwow.org.

Dispatches from the Farm

“Dispatches from the farm” is a new, periodic column offering a firsthand look at the rhythms, challenges and rewards of farming through the eyes of a local farmer.

The thing about plants is that they can’t get up and move. When a storm like last weekend’s nor’easter threatens to roll through, you can’t just round everybody up and settle them safely on the sofa for movie night.

Over my 15 years of growing vegetables in Falls Village, I’ve exerted my will over all kinds of conditions, from drought to humidity to crowds with a taste for cantaloupe. That’s what farming is all about. You zip around the field, hopping on and off tractors, moving hoses and chasing weeds, all in an effort to arrange conditions in favor of your crops. It is the crops’ job to gulp up sunlight and move water through their stems, to transform solar energy into your next pesto or ratatouille or butternut squash soup. It is the job of the farmer to irrigate just enough but not too much, to slice dandelion leaves without damaging delicate cabbage roots, to pander and pamper and stay in tune with what plants need to thrive.

The easy part of farming is trusting plants’ resilience. I have seen bright green shoots barrel ahead out of a plant torn to shreds by hail. I’ve watched wilty, heat-stressed seedlings turn rigid overnight and greet the next morning with vigor. The hard part is letting go of what you can’t control. As our crops lapped up Friday’s gentle sunshine and I considered the weekend forecast, I imagined roots holding tight to wet earth and branches supporting each other in sideways, pelting rain. I made sure all of our storage crops were already harvested and tucked away. I battened down the sides of our greenhouses and wished the remaining field crops good luck.



Adamah Farm crew members planning the day’s tasks on a late September day.



The nor’easter didn’t materialize too dramatically in our corner of New England. A few broken branches and debris blown about, nothing like the July Fourth storm that sent half a tree crashing onto the deer fence and left crates of fresh veggies in coolers without power.

Farming is an exercise in acceptance. To do it well and return year after year, you have to balance hubris and humility. The prize can often be a certain equanimity, a training in the art of moving into the next day even when the last one scrambled all your plans.

Epic change is not always about the unexpected. It also comes like clockwork on the seasonal calendar. As I type, the last of summer’s watermelons wait naively on the vine for a few hot days to finish ripening. Broccoli are holding their leaves wide as they did in June and July, only to find that the hours of sunlight decrease with



PHOTOS BY JANNA SILLER

Fall storage crop harvests amid soil building cover crops at Adamah Farm in Falls Village.

each earlier sunset. Plants can’t pick up and go south or call the manager to order a bonus round of sunshine. Their growth slows and they get a resigned look to the hue of their leaves, so different from the frenzied growth of summer.

The release of fall is not tragic or gloomy. It is not an ending because so many fall tasks are about setting up for the new beginnings in spring.

We turn the vines that yielded thousands of pounds of fruit into the soil, where healthy microbes feast on their rotting stems. Then we plant cover crops — a mix of cereal grains like rye and oats and legumes like peas, vetch and clover. Cover crops hold the soil and its

nutrients in place over winter, feeding the soil food web and adding organic matter that next season’s crops will need to grow.

We sort sprinklers and repair hoses. We inventory tarps. We take notes about which plants did well where and how we might try a new approach for this or that. We stack crates of cured garlic and onions and winter squash in a cool, dark room.

We save seeds from tomatoes and beans and lettuce, carefully labeling each variety for next season’s long, sunny days.

Janna Siller is the farm director at Adamah, a community farm in Falls Village offering CSA shares, educational programs and a food access program.



PHOTO BY CHERYL MAZAK

Pinchas Zukerman to perform at Hotchkiss Oct. 4

MUSIC

Pinchas Zukerman brings an all-Beethoven program to Hotchkiss

By Thomas Jensen

for what follows.

The passion, drama and energy of Beethoven will fill Katherine M. Elfers Hall at The Hotchkiss School on Oct. 4, when world-renowned violinist Pinchas Zukerman is joined by pianist Shai Wosner for a special recital.

The 4:30 p.m. program at the Esther Eastman Music Center will feature three of Beethoven’s celebrated violin sonatas: Violin Sonata No. 4 in A minor, Op. 23; Violin Sonata No. 5 in F major, Op. 24, “Spring”; and Violin Sonata No. 7 in C minor, Op. 30.

Beethoven’s Violin Sonata No. 4 in A minor, Op. 23, is a three-movement chamber work marked by stark emotional contrasts and dramatic energy. Its three movements take the listener on quite a journey.

The first, a Presto in A minor in an unusual 6/8 meter, is propelled by an urgent, relentless, tarantella-like rhythm. Intensely minor and austere, it creates tension and sets the mood

Next, an Andante scherzoso, più allegretto in A major serves as both a slow movement and a playful, subtle scherzo. It features intricate, delicate fugal textures and a trilling second theme. The third movement is an Allegro molto, back in A minor. An anxious, turbulent rondo finale, it features middle sections in which Beethoven playfully misaligns the timing of the violin and piano, creating a tense, out-of-sync dialogue that eventually collapses into a quiet, gloomy conclusion.

Violin Sonata No. 5 in F major, Op. 24, “Spring,” was Beethoven’s first violin sonata to depart from the traditional three-movement Classical format by adding a brief scherzo. Its four distinct movements will give Zukerman and Wosner ample opportunity to display their technique and musical interplay.

Driven by a soaring, lyrical opening theme shared between violin and piano, the first move-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

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Pickett and Prueher on stage.

FILM

Found Footage Festival brings laughs to The Triplex

By D.H. Callahan

On Sunday, Oct. 4, the Found Footage Festival makes its way to the Triplex Theatre in Great Barrington with a treasure trove of lost and forgotten VHS tapes scraped from the piles of distant memories and discarded physical media.

The Found Footage Festival is a “celebration of the videos that time forgot” hosted by two Brooklyn-based comedy writers and childhood friends, Joe Pickett of The Onion and Nick Prueher of The Late Show.

Back in 1991, the duo found a discarded McDonald’s custodial training tape in their home state of Wisconsin, and since then, they’ve been collecting all the VHS tapes they could find and mining them for untapped comedic gold. Today, they are the undisputed champions of lost media, having collected and archived over 15,000 videocassette tapes.

Prueher and Pickett’s brand of comedy values the missteps and accidents that come with amateur video productions more than it does the carefully crafted wordplay of the comedic superstars of our time. But it’s not just bloopers

from birthday parties that they find. Some of the most popular clips come from instructional videos, taped religious services, fully produced movies, music videos and, of course, the ever-popular news bloopers.

For more than eight years, Pickett and Prueher have been hosting a video podcast they call “VHS Party,” complete with their own rabid fans who send them tapes and comment along online with the streams. Their YouTube page is chock-full of interesting clips, many of which are featured and discussed on “VHS Party” with their two co-hosts and occasional guests from the comedy world, including Jon Glaser, Jo Firestone and David Cross.

The duo started the Found Footage Fest in 2004 as a way to raise money for their documentary, “Dirty Country,” about a vulgar country music performer looking for a bigger audience than his garage. Since then, they’ve taken the show on the road, bringing new selections of their favorite clips and their signature comedic stylings to theaters around the world.

For tickets to the Found Footage Festival, visit the-triplex.org.



The Found Footage Festival is a “celebration of the videos that time forgot.”

MUSIC

Luis Felber at home at Cornwall Music Bowl

By D.H. Callahan

Luis Felber is excited about creating in the Northwest Corner. Coming of age in the British countryside, all he wanted to do as a teen was move to London, the creative heartbeat of England. At 17, he started a band called the Eraserheads and went for it. Since then, he’s been in so many bands he struggles to list them all. But on Saturday, Oct. 3, he’ll be taking the stage at the Cornwall Music Bowl all by himself.

Felber has always felt more comfortable on stage than interacting with people. There’s a sense of purpose in being at a concert. Everybody in the room is there for the same reason: to witness the act of making music. So whether he’s on the stage or in the audience, he feels at home in a venue.

For Felber, a venue doesn’t have to mean a traditional setup with a stage and bar and all the other trappings of clubs or theaters. When he was starting out in London, he quickly grew sick of the repetitive process of working with managers and promoters, trying to get booked. In response, he and his friends started their own club nights, where they and other local acts could play music, have fun and forget about the constructs of established society. Those club nights turned into a record label called Young Turks, named after the events they hosted. Now just called Young, the label is home to acts like FKA Twigs, the xx, Sampha and modern jazz legend Kamasi Washington.

Felber’s current band is called Attawalpa, which is actually his middle name. It’s a reference to Atahualpa, the last Inca emperor. It might seem strange for a kid from the English countryside, but Felber’s mother



Luis Felber performs at the Cornwall Music Bowl on Oct.3.

is Peruvian, and Luis spent several years growing up in Lima, where his mother still lives.

Felber is tapping deeper into those roots on his next album. It’s a pretty quick turnaround for such a busy guy. His last album, “Experience” was released just last year. Some of those songs were featured in “Too Much,” the Netflix series he created and is writing for with his wife, Lena Dunham. Based on a young American

woman looking to turn her life around in England, the album was necessarily in English. But for the next one, he’s written — and will be singing — some of the songs in Spanish.

Felber is excited to talk about his forthcoming album. In addition to his regular Attawalpa bandmates, he collaborated with Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth and Debbie Googe of My Bloody Valentine. For him, collaboration is half the fun of creating art. That’s why he’s so excited about the acts he’ll be sharing the stage with in Cornwall. He raves about the famil-

iar sound with new edge of Amelia Jackson, the low-fi indie-pop of Jess Yaffa and the indisputable talent of local singer-songwriter Simone White, whose credits and accolades merit their own article. The bill seems marvelously cohesive and intentional.

While he splits time with London, Felber is now settling into life back in the countryside — this time, the Northwest Corner. He’s enchanted by its inescapable beauty and the friendly, creative energy he sees in the people he meets.

For more info, videos and music, visit attawalpa.com.

... Pinchas Zukerman

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

ment is an Allegro in F major. Next comes an Adagio molto espressivo in B-flat major, a deeply sentimental, songlike dialogue that builds on gentle variations.

The third movement, Scherzo: Allegro molto, is a brief, comic interlude featuring rhythmic playfulness as the two instruments purposefully fall out of sync. The fourth movement, Rondo: Allegro ma non troppo, is a grand finale written in a pleasant, courtly style with contrasting dramatic shifts.

Beethoven’s Violin Sonata No. 7 in C minor, Op. 30, begins with an Allegro con brio featuring a dramatic and tense opening movement. It is the first of Beethoven’s sonata-allegro movements to break with tradition by omitting the exposition repeat.

Next comes an Adagio cantabile in A-flat major. Serene, deeply lyrical and comforting, it contrasts with the intensity of the first movement, flowing like an expressive song and offering a momentary emotional respite.

The third movement, Scherzo: Allegro, is short, playful and sharply rhythmic, contrasting with the overall somber gravity of

the sonata. The finale, Allegro: Presto, returns to C minor. Restless, suspenseful and driving, it builds immense tension before exploding into a furious Presto coda. Beethoven ends the work with a sizzle.

Zukerman and Wosner perform Sunday, Oct. 4, at 4:30 p.m. at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville. Admission is free and first-come, first-served.

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Jim Shepard with his dogs.

PHOTO BY BARRY GOLDSTEIN

BOOKS

Jim Shepard and Joe Donahue talk shop at the White Hart

By D.H. Callahan

Jim Shepard has published eight novels and six collections of short stories. He's written for publications including The Paris Review, The Atlantic, Harper's, Esquire, McSweeney's and The New Yorker. For more than 30 years, he taught film and creative writing at Williams College. One of his novels was adapted into a movie. His wife, with whom he has three children, is a formidable author and educator in her own right. He has two dogs who he loves enough to include in his publicity photos.

Jim Shepard is one impressive guy.

On Thursday, Oct. 1, that impressive guy will talk about his newest collection of short stories, "The Queen of Bad Influences," at the White Hart Inn in Salisbury.

Joining Shepard in conversation is Joe Donahue of WAMC Radio. Donahue is also an impressive guy, having spent more than 25 years talking to people — and, as he's quick to point

out, Muppets — on the radio.

"The Queen of Bad Influences" is one of 13 short stories in this collection of the same name and was originally published in The New Yorker. Many of the stories in the collection are drawn from historical events, including the Great Fire of 1910 in Idaho, the sinking of the Lusitania and the 1935 Labor Day hurricane in Florida. The collection also revives some classic tales, including Robert Louis Stevenson's "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," which Shepard tells from the perspective of the much-maligned Mr. Hyde.

Shepard's writing is so lush and distinctive that taking on material already mastered by other writers seems more like a fun challenge than a daunting task. The tale of the Great Fire has been masterfully told in the New York Times bestseller "The Big Burn" by Timothy Egan. "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" is still relevant today, 140 years after its initial publication.

While Shepard has been lavished with praise for his inventive stories, most notably "Project X" and "The Book of Aron," this collection implies that the story comes secondary to the style of this masterful writer.

Donahue is also a recognized master of his craft, having received awards for his interviews and analysis from the Edward R. Murrow Awards, The Associated Press and the National Press Club, to name just a few. He's interviewed some of the most important writers of our time and hosts "The Book Show," a weekly WAMC radio program exploring books and writers, as well as the general-interest program "The Roundtable" on the same station.

Familiar with Shepard's work or not, anyone with an interest in writing and literature should jump at the chance to witness these two literary figures talk shop.

The event is made possible by Oblong Books, the White Hart Inn, the Scoville Memorial Library and WAMC On The Road. For tickets, visit <https://bit.ly/4iRm3Io>

THEATER

Berkshire Theatre Group Presents David Auburn's "Summer, 1976"

By Richard Feiner and Annette Stover

Though the calendar says summer is over, Berkshire Theatre Group is helping to keep our sun-filled memories alive with its upcoming production of Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright David Auburn's "Summer, 1976." This 90-minute, two-character memory play, directed by Isadora Wolfe and starring two-time Tony Award nominee Kate Baldwin and acclaimed stage and screen actor Jennifer Van Dyck, is a funny and sharply observed exploration of friendship, motherhood and personal ambition — and how differently we remember the events that shape our lives.

During America's bicentennial summer, Diana (Van Dyck), an iconoclastic artist and single mother, and Alice (Baldwin), a free-spirited young housewife, form a close, temporary bond through their young daughters, who share a babysitting group. The play looks back on the months the two women shared, and their recollections reveal the lasting repercussions of the relationship.

The play's original 2023 Broadway production by Manhattan Theatre Club was a New York Times Critic's Pick, praised for its "bittersweet depth" and as "sharply observant and subtly, insistently feminist." The Times called it a "story of profound connection and awakening disquiet." The women belong to "a generation who came of age in time for the sexual revolution and took advantage of that freedom pre-Roe v. Wade ... they question what's gone wrong with their American dreams and they start, with poignant imperfection, to put things right."

"It is an exquisite piece of writing — smart, funny and poignant — brought to life by two of the finest actors on our stages today, Kate Baldwin and Jennifer Van Dyck," Wolfe said.

Baldwin recently completed an acclaimed run as Roxie Hart in the Broadway revival of "Chicago." She is a two-time Tony Award nominee and four-time Drama Desk nominee, having starred on Broadway as Irene Molloy in the 2017 revival of "Hello, Dolly!" and as Sharon McLonergan in the 2009 revival of "Finian's Rainbow."

Van Dyck has appeared



Isadora Wolfe



Jennifer Van Dyck



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Kate Baldwin

in many BTG productions, including "Dracula," "The Goat," "The Petrified Forest" and "Coastal Disturbances." She has performed recently at Clubbed Thumb Summerworks, Powerhouse Theater, Transport Group and Primary Stages' Fresh Ink series. Her Broadway credits include "Hedda Gabler," "Dancing at Lughnasa," "Two Shakespearean Actors" and "The Secret Rapture." She also frequently collaborates with Charles Busch and Sharon Playhouse's artistic director Carl Address.

"The play is so much about perspective — as well as the wonder and regret of roads not taken," Wolfe said. "It asks what it means to be an artist, to be successful and to put

oneself out into the world, all against the backdrop of the nation's bicentennial: a cocktail of celebration and disappointment, freedom and glass ceilings. I'm thrilled to be working on this piece."

Patrons who purchase tickets to eligible performances of "Summer, 1976" also receive access to discounted tickets for The Incredible Naumkeag Pumpkin Show. The holiday event transforms the historic property into an illuminated celebration of artistry and imagination.

"Summer, 1976" runs Oct. 7-31 on the Larry Vaber Stage at the Unicorn Theatre in Stockbridge, Massachusetts. For tickets and additional information, visit berkshiretheatregroup.org.

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On Saturday, Oct. 3, at 7:30 p.m., Stissing Center for Arts and Culture in Pine Plains, hosts its first Pumpkin Patch Dance Party. Dance band Jungle Love returns by popular demand for an autumn evening of music, dancing and community. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

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Tri-Corner Calendar

OCTOBER 1

Banned Book Club

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
The David M. Hunt Library and Falls Village Equity Project host a discussion of Toni Morrison's "Beloved." Copies are available at the library. Open to high school students and adults. 4 p.m. huntlibrary.org

A Number

Ancram Center for the Arts, 1330 County Route 7, Ancram, N.Y.
Oct. 1 to 4 and 8 to 11

Ancram Center for the Arts presents Caryl Churchill's psychological thriller about a father and his three sons, two of whom are clones of the first. Thursdays-Saturdays, 7 p.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m. Special performance Saturday, Oct. 10, at 2 p.m. More info and tickets at ancramcenter.org.

"The White Hart Series: Jim Shepard in Conversation with Joe Donahue" Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Oblong Books, in partnership with The White Hart Inn and Scoville Memorial Library, presents author Jim Shepard in conversation with WAMC's Joe Donahue about Shepard's new book, "The Queen of Bad Influences." 6:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets required. More info at oblongbooks.com.

"Grief Like Yours: Sharon Charde and Cindy Eastman" Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Join Cindy Eastman and Sharon Charde for an evening of readings, reflection and conversation around grief. The program will feature readings by writers in the anthology "Grief Like Yours," followed by questions and community conversation. 4 to 5:30 p.m. Registration required. More info at scovillelibrary.org.

OCTOBER 2

In Search of Proust: A Reading Group with Mark Scarbrough Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., discuss Marcel Proust's "Swann's Way" with Mark Scarbrough. This is the first in a series of monthly sessions on reading Proust.

Registration required at scovillelibrary.org.

"Grand Horizons" Ghent Playhouse, 6 Town Hall Place, Ghent, N.Y.
Oct. 2 to 4 and 9 to 11

Bess Wohl's comedy follows a married couple who decide to end their 50-year marriage. Directed by Cathy Lee-Visscher. Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. Tickets at ghentplayhouse.org

Open Mic Night

Copake Grange 935, 628 Empire Road, Copake, N.Y.
All are welcome to perform - music, stories, skits, readings, poetry, dance, songs, etc. Or you can just come to relax and be entertained. This is a great venue for both beginning and veteran performers. This event is Free. 7 to 9 p.m.

The Limelitters

The Grace Note at Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
Folk revival legends The Limelitters bring their signature

harmonies, humor and traditional folk music to The Grace Note at Stissing Center. 7:30 p.m. More info and tickets at thestissingcenter.org

OCTOBER 3

Doreen Cronin Storytime

Books & Cake, 8 Anthony St., Hillsdale, N.Y.
Award-winning children's author Doreen Cronin reads from her books, including the bestseller "Click, Clack, Moo: Cows That Type." Presented in partnership with the Roe Jan Community Library. 11 a.m. Free; reservations suggested at booksandcake.com/events.

Tag Sale

Le Gamin, 10 Gay St., Sharon, Conn.
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the front lawn of Le Gamin, stop by for the last vide-grenier (tag sale) of the season. Grab a coffee, take a spin at weekly backgammon, find unique finds at sale, finish it off with a bloody mary brunch. Vendors include Rosemary Rose Finery, BJohnstone Fashion, Half Shell Vintage and more.

The Beauty of Decay: Lessons from the Forest Hollister House Garden, 300 Nettleton Hollow Road, Washington, Conn. Elizabeth Merow of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association invites gardeners to see dead wood as vital habitat, an essential part of a healthy woodland system and a deliberate feature of managed landscapes. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Registration at hollisterhouse-garden.org.

Chinese Pork Belly Buns and Beyond Hillsdale General Store, 2635 Route 23, Hillsdale, N.Y. Food writer and cooking teacher Kian Lam Kho leads a demonstration class exploring Chinese comfort food, including red-cooked pork. Lunch included. Class limited to 10 participants. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Registration at hillsdalegeneralstore.com.

Reeve Schley and Courtney Puckett Geary Contemporary, 14 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. Opening reception 4 to 6 p.m. On view through Nov. 22.

Nature Journaling David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
Local writer Mark Gozonsky leads a nature journaling workshop exploring ways to respond to the natural world through art, writing and other creative practices. Notebooks provided. 10:30 a.m. Registration requested at huntlibrary.org

Monthly Book Sale David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
The Friends of the David M. Hunt Library host their monthly sale featuring new and used books, DVDs, CDs, cookbooks, children's books and more. All used children's books downstairs are free. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. huntlibrary.org

Julia Whitney Barnes: Cyanopaintings and the Botanical World Tyte Gallery, 3280 Franklin Ave., second floor, Millbrook, N.Y.
Opening reception for an exhibition of Julia Whitney Barnes' botanical works inspired by the 19th-century cyanotype photographic process. 5 to 7 p.m. On view through Nov. 15. tytegallery.com

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

Pumpkin Patch Dance Party

The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Celebrate fall with the Stissing Center's first Pumpkin Patch Dance Party, featuring popular dance band Jungle Love. Boogie the night away in Banning Hall from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

The First: Witchcraft in Connecticut Old Town Hall, 5 Mountain Road, Woodbury, Conn. Long before Salem, Connecticut held its own witchcraft trials. "The First: Witchcraft in Connecticut," presented by the Glebe House Museum, explores the people behind the accusations. Doors open at 5 p.m.; program begins at 5:30 p.m. Reservations at glebe-housemuseum.org.

Book Talk with Genevieve Wheeler Brown Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y. Genevieve Wheeler Brown, author of "Beyond Blue and White," will discuss the history and cultural significance of Delftware in conversation with interiors stylist, designer and author Mieke ten Have. Free; R.S.V.P. required at troutbeck.com

"Contemporary Printmaking: 10 Artists Explore the Range of Printmaking Today" Spencertown Academy Arts Center, 790 State Route 203, Spencertown, N.Y. Oct. 3 to Nov. 1

This invitational exhibition, curated by Karen Andrews, Meryl Enerson and David Lesako, features 10 artists exploring the range of contemporary printmaking. An opening reception will be held Oct. 3 from 3-5 p.m. Free and open to the public; works are for sale, with a portion of proceeds benefiting the Academy. For more information: spencertownacademy.org.

Writing and Process with Hudson Valley writers Amy Stephenson and Casey Childers Gridley Chapel, 36 Furnace Bank Road, Wassaic, N.Y. Wassaic Project presents a look at ongoing work by Hudson Valley writers Amy Stephenson and Casey Childers, former hosts of the podcast Old Wives, moderated by writer Jill Winsby-Fein. The day also includes the opening of public artworks by Liz Nielsen and akeylah wellington, an artist talk moderated by curator Katie Hood Morgan, and the debut of Tim Love Lee's Resonant Reflections, a music performance in the Gridley Chapel featuring repurposed instruments and vintage records.

OCTOBER 4

Learn About Black Bears Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
Master Wildlife Conservationist Ginny Apple discusses Connecticut's black bears, including their habitat, diet, behavior and reproduction, along with current research and practical tips for coexisting with the state's bear population. 4 p.m. Free. Registration required at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com.

Writers & Readers: "Single Girls" The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. The Stissing Center launches its new Writers & Readers lit-

erary series with novelist Jane L. Rosen in conversation with author John Searles about his newly released book, "Single Girls." Presented with Oblong Books and the Pine Plains Free Library. 3 to 5 p.m. in The Grace Note. Free.

Troutbeck Symposium Kick-Off Event Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y. Join historian and educator Dr. Hasan Kwame Jeffries for an afternoon of conversation, connection and exploration as Troutbeck kicks off its next Symposium. 1 to 3 p.m. Advance registration required. troutbeck.com

Reading: "In the Form of Bread" White Hart Inn, 15 Under Mountain Road, Salisbury Nurse, poet and essayist Mary Jane Nealon reads from her

new book of personal essays based on her 37-year career as a nurse.

Pinchas Zukerman and Shai Wosner Perform Beethoven Katherine M. Elfers Hall, Esther Eastman Music Center, The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn. Violinist Pinchas Zukerman and pianist Shai Wosner perform three of Beethoven's violin sonatas. 4:30 p.m. Free and open to the public; no reservations required. Seating is first-come, first-served.

OCTOBER 6

Understanding AI: Definitions & Hands-On Use with Steve Ledbetter and Kat Zdan Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
5:30 to 7 p.m., learn to demy-

stify the jargon surrounding artificial intelligence. Q&A and discussion follow. Registration required at scovillelibrary.org.

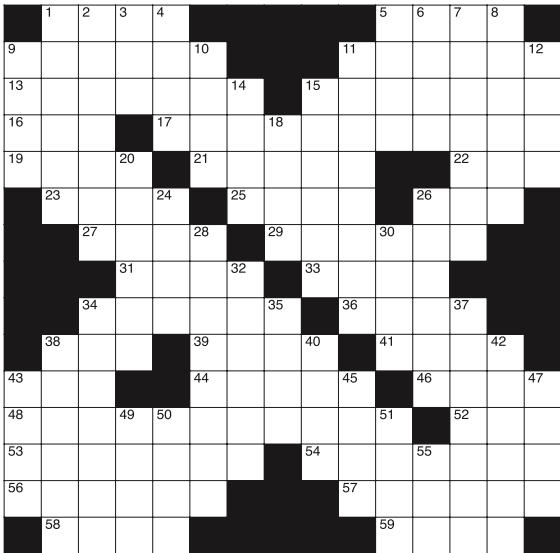
"Memory in Story": A Discussion Series Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 10 and Dec. 15

A four-part discussion series with Mark Scarbrough exploring the role 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. Registration is requested at https://bit.ly/MemoryInStory. For more information, visit hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org or call 860-364-5041.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

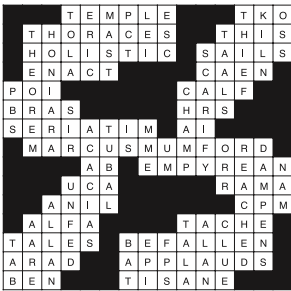
- 1. Difficult
- 5. Coarsely ground corn
- 9. A group of similar things ordered one after another
- 11. Loved Romeo
- 13. Something to solve
- 15. Pelvic areas
- 16. Informal debt instrument
- 17. Ineffective
- 19. A device attached to a workbench
- 21. Related on the mother's side
- 22. "Fresh Prince of ___ Air"
- 23. Astronomer Sagan
- 25. C. Utah city
- 26. Turkey
- 27. Informal terms for money
- 29. Awakens
- 31. Those who favored Prohibition
- 33. Blabbed
- 34. Looked through rebellion
- 36. Rhode Island
- 38. A type of "cast"
- 39. One's duty
- 41. Where golfers begin
- 43. Make a mistake
- 44. Semitic Sun god
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 48. Removed someone's head
- 52. A place to stay
- 53. Unwise
- 54. Most unnatural
- 56. "Dennis" is a notable one
- 57. Ointments
- 58. Examination
- 59. Leaked fluid



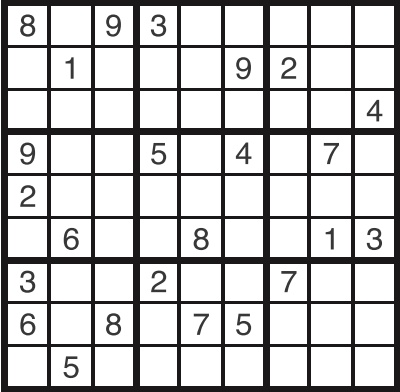
- Samoa
- 11. A list of woes
- 12. Weight unit
- 14. Alone, single
- 15. Broadway legend Bernadette
- 18. Monetary unit of Serbia
- 20. Worn by exposure to the weather
- 24. A body of traditions
- 26. Students seek one
- 28. Hydrophilic amino acid
- 30. Nasal mucus
- 32. Branch of U.S. Congress
- 34. Swinish
- 35. Russian assembly
- 37. Grant an exemption to
- 38. Set up in advance
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Felt

- 43. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 45. Witnesses
- 47. Strong insects
- 49. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 50. One of an ancient people inhabiting Scotland
- 51. Cheerless
- 55. Unhealthy

September 24 Solution

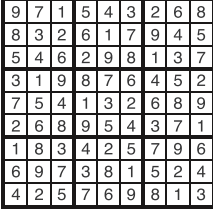


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Our Towns

Region One board hears update on HVRHS Land Lab

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Bruce Bennett, chair of the Agricultural Science and Technology Education (ASTE) advisory board at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, updated the Region One Board of Education on activities at the Land Lab during its monthly meeting Monday, Sept. 14.

The Land Lab occupies two acres leased from Ever-source north of the HVRHS campus on Warren Turnpike.

“It’s a hands-on experience in agriculture education,” Bennett said. “It’s no different than a chemistry lab or a physics lab.”

Students, staff and community volunteers have been working on the property for

about 18 months. In that time, an outdoor classroom has been built, and garden beds have been installed and fenced in.

Bennett said the site contained remnants of old houses and barns and was considerably overgrown in places. Students did most of the clearing work.

The site also has, or is slated to have, a rain garden, a pollinator garden and a research garden, along with fruit trees, berries and apiaries. The lab has a solar-powered irrigation system.

Bennett thanked Laurelbrook Farm in North Canaan, Cream Hill Farm in Cornwall, Falls Village Sawmill and Matt’s Landscaping in Falls Village for contributing materials and expertise.

“So it’s been a real community effort,” Bennett said.

In other business, HVRHS Principal Ian Strev-er reported that the Class of 2030 has 81 members, bringing total enrollment at the high school to 313.

Strev-er also said the Capstone program, a graduation requirement for HVRHS seniors, has been modified to better publicize students’ project presentations and encourage community interest and involvement.

The final six weeks of the revised schedule are called “Portfolio Synthesis and Public Exhibition.”

Strev-er likened the exhibition to a science fair, where students present and defend their projects before judges and the public.

Cornwall-based HVA expands conservation network

By Debra Aleksinas

CORNWALL — Five Connecticut municipalities have joined the federal Highlands Conservation Act region, making them eligible for grants to protect open space, wildlife habitat and water resources, the Cornwall-based Housatonic Valley Association announced last month.

Berlin, Bloomfield, New Britain, West Hartford and Windsor Locks join 43 Connecticut communities already eligible for grants administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Highlands region encompasses more than 3.4 million acres across Connecticut, New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Established by Congress in 2004, the Highlands Con-

servation Act supports the conservation of land important to drinking water, forests, wildlife, agriculture and recreation.

Since the program began, more than \$80 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund has been directed to projects across the four-state region.

In Connecticut, Highlands funding has supported 52 projects, conserving more than 9,000 acres and attracting more than \$18.5 million in federal funding, according to HVA.

Those efforts include a 276-acre conservation project in Salisbury that protects forested land important to water quality in the Twin Lakes and the Wild and Scenic Housatonic River. The project combined Highlands funding with a state grant, private support and community contributions.

The Highlands Conservation Act was reauthorized in 2022, expanding the area eligible to participate. Municipalities in areas identified by the Fish and Wildlife Service may voluntarily join with state and federal approval.

HVA helped 15 Connecticut communities join in 2024 and 2025. The latest additions bring the number of newly eligible municipalities to 20.

“The expansion of the Highlands region is ultimately about more than adding towns to the map,” said Julia Rogers, HVA’s conservation programs director. “It’s about giving communities another tool to turn local conservation priorities into action.”

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