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Summertime
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The Lakeville Tournal TriCornerNews.com

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

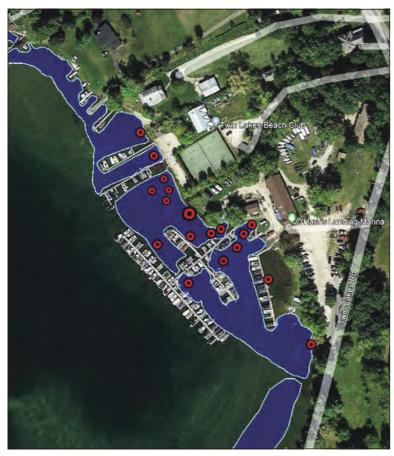


PHOTO FROM NORTHEAST AQUATIC RESEARCH

The blue sections on this map show the search areas in the shallow portion of East Twin Lake. The red circles are the locations where hydrilla plant groupings were found. Northeast Aquatic Research maintains a GPS database of the locations, from which a treatment plan can be built and given to the herbicide applicator.

Aggressive strain of hydrilla at East Twin Lake a growing concern

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY — The results of an emergency herbicide treatment on Tuesday, Sept. 19 of a four-acre area of East Twin Lake near the marina to control hydrilla's spread won't be known for several weeks, but state and lake officials are hopeful it will help keep the highly invasive weed in check.

The aggressive, non-native plant, discovered in the lake's waters on June 21 by the Twin Lakes Association's limnologist, had been sent to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for genetic testing and was identified as the Connecticut River variant of hydrilla verticillata, which is far more robust and unlike any hydrilla previously found in North America.

Grant Bogle, president of the Twin Lakes Association (TLA), described the invasive that has taken a toehold in Twin Lakes as a "unique variant that had only been found in the Connecticut River in North America, and now in Twin Lakes."

Matt Goclowski, supervisory fisheries biologist for the state



"There are all kinds of ecosystems that we are trying to protect, so there is a real urgency here to move with all the scientific folks we can gather."

Grant Bogle, Twin Lakes Association president

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) confirmed that East Twin is "the first location in Connecticut where the Connecticut River variant has shown up. It has been in the Connecticut River since 2016 and it's really exploded everywhere throughout the river."

TLA officials suspect the plant hitched a ride with an unsuspecting boat owner and may have overwintered in the lake.

d in the lake. **'There will be a trade-off'**

The threat hydrilla poses not only to the Twin Lakes, but also to other ecosystems, is so severe and urgent that the use of the chemical herbicide, ProcellaCOR, to spottreat affected areas outweighs the potential collateral damage to some native aquatic plants, according to

See HYDRILLA, Page A10

Whiting wins North Canaan GOP primary

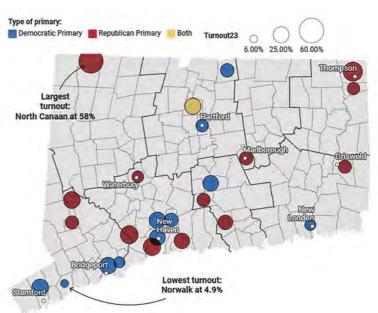
By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — In a Sept. 12 Republican primary election for selectman candidate in North Canaan, 409 registered Republicans cast their votes. When the tallying was complete, the registrars announced that incumbent Second Selectman Craig Whiting defeated Jesse Bunce 296 votes to 113.

The results cemented the Republican ticket for the upcoming November election with Brian Ohler running for first selectman and Whiting running for selectman.

Bunce, who was seeking cross-endorsement by the Republicans, will remain on the Democratic ticket for the election in November. Bunce will run for selectman along with current Third Selectman Christian Allyn running for the seat of first selectman for the

See ELECTION, Page A10



Note: Turnout data is as of September 15. Numbers subject to change by the SOTS.

Map: José Luis Martinez • Source: Connecticut Secretary of the State • Created with Datawrapp

INFOGRAPHIC FROM CTMIRROR.ORG

North Canaan had the highest voter turnout in the state during 2023 primary races, according to CT Mirror.

Looking at governance options in modern-day municipalities

By Tom Condon CT Mirror

Part II

The town meeting/selectmen structure is still used in more than half of the state's 169 municipalities. But it was created for small communities with common interests. A number of towns have either dropped the town meeting/selectmen form in recent years or altered it, by in bringing professional town managers.

There are three major forms of municipal governance in Connecticut: selectmen/town meeting, may-

or-council and council-manager, plus some hybrid variations, such as the representative town meeting or RTM, where members are elected to participate in town meetings.

Selectmen-town meeting is still the most common. It is the state's default form of government.

The question of what municipal government structure works best in small towns was raised in a recent study in Chester (population 3,749). Towns such as Chester that do not have a charter are required by state law to use the selectmen/town meeting system. According to a study done by Chester's selectmen, 56 towns without a charter use the traditional system, as do

42 with a charter (data from the 2020 census and may have changed slightly).

Unless modified by charter, the board of selectmen is the executive branch and the first selectman is the chief executive officer, and the town meeting is the legislative branch — it votes on expenditures, ordinances and other matters.

The format is used by small towns. Town meetings become unwieldy when towns get bigger, and towns tend to move toward a representative government structure, that is, where elected officials make decisions on behalf of the voters

See MEETINGS, Page A10

Region One reports enrollment numbers

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Region One Superintendent Lisa Carter provided the Region One Board of Education with unofficial enrollment numbers for the 2023-24 school year at the board's regular monthly meeting Monday, Sept. 11.

Carter stressed that these numbers are not official until Oct. 1 Cornwall Consolidated School

has 96 students, up from 93 in the 2022-23 school year.

Lee H. Kellogg School in Falls Village has 82 students, up from 75. Kent Center School has 190 students, down from 194.

North Canaan Elementary School has 245 students, up from 237.

Salisbury Central School has 299 students, up from 297.

Sharon Center School has 104 students, up from 100.

And Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) has 309 students, down from 327.

Carter reported that all seven Region One schools will have a school safety audit, starting in Cornwall. The audit begins with a review of the school's All-Hazards School Security and Safety Plan (as

required by the state) and a review of the physical infrastructure precautions as well as drills and other safety practices adopted by each school. Each school board will receive a report when the audit has been completed.

All Region One schools wiill also receive threat assessment training in October. This training provides a specific protocol to be followed when students exhibit anxiety or stress that may negatively affect their behavior toward themselves or others. While the capacity to con-

See ENROLLMENT, Page A10

CELEBRATING 127 YEARS of Fostering the Free Flow of Information and Opinion

\$100,000 Matching Challenge

For The Lakeville Journal & The Millerton News

Dear Supporters, **Good news from your local newspapers**, The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News!

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We have until October 31st to meet the challenge.

Any amount - large or small - goes towards the \$100,000 Matching Challenge to enable us to continue to expand AND upgrade local reporting in print and for digital.

Your investment in local journalism will drive the momentum we have achieved so far.

Please make a donation at www.tricornernews.com/2023matching or by mailing a check to The Lakeville Journal Foundation, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039.



Regional

In The Journal this week

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OUR TOWNS A8-9	CLASSIFIEDSB5-6

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.

Interfering with officer

On Thursday, Sept. 7, at approximately 5 a.m. Troop B was asked by the Winchester Police Department to assist in an investigation. During the course of the investigation, Jehu Mubarek, 46, of North Canaan was placed under arrest for interfering with a police officer. Mubarek was unable to post a \$5,000

Leaving the scene

On Friday, Sept. 8, at approximately 11 a.m., Oscar Obrien, 23, of West Cornwall, was traveling westbound on West Cornwall Road in Sharon and negotiating a left-hand curve when an eastbound white Ford crossed into the westbound lane sriking Obrien's 2011 Toyota Tacoma. The driver of the white Ford left the scene. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Trooper Miranda

Hitting low hanging line

On Tuesday, Sept. 12, at approximately 6:30 p.m., Brian Yearwood, 31, was traveling westbound on Clark Hill Road in Sharon when his

vehicle struck a low tension utility line that was hanging across the roadway. The vehicle was driven from the scene with minor damage to the top of its trailer. No enforcement action was taken.

Criminal mischief

On Wednesday, Sept. 13, at approximately 1:15 p.m., Jennifer Redmond, 55, of Salisbury, arrived at Troop B in North Canaan to complain about her adult son, who lives with her at her residence. Redmond became agitated and exited Troop B aggressivly slamming the front door and causing damage to the door. Redmond was charged with criminal mischief third degree.

Failure to appear

On Thursday, Sept. 14, at approximately 10:30 p.m. Troopers responded to a call involving Derrick Burleski, 30, of Amenia, New York. A subsequent investigation led to Burleski's arrest for failure to appear, second degree, based on an active warrant. A cash-surety bond was set at \$1,000.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Contact us by mail at P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send an email, with "police blotter" in the subject line, to johnc@lakevillejournal.com.

Online This Week

Checking in at chestnut grove

Hybrid chestnut trees are growing in Falls Village. Full story on www.tricornernews.com

Falls Village appoints new treasurer

Selectmen in Falls Village named a new treasurer and discussed efforts for a solar farm in town. Learn more on www.tricornernews.com

Literacy & Music Night set at Douglas Library; Book bag sale

NORTH CANAAN — A Preschool Literacy & Music Night will be held at the Douglas Library on Monday, Sept. 25, from 6 to 7 p.m.

The story "The Cuckoo" by Lois Ehlert, will be read by Leigh Ann and Geoff Merrill, teachers at North Canaan Elementary School. Geoff will also provide music. Families in attendance will receive a copy of the book. For info call 860-824-7863.

The library will hold a \$5 a bag book sale on Saturday, Sept. 23 from 10 to 1 p.m.

Bags are provided and the special sale is for the upstairs rooms only. Call 860-824-7863 for more info.

Bridging county's broadband gap

By Riley Klein

LITCHFIELD — Nearly \$200 million in grant funding will soon become available to achieve total broadband coverage in Connecticut.

With the Northwest corner notably lacking in coverage, leaders from across the region discussed steps to take in order to ensure high-speed connectivity in every home at a meeting of the Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG) on Thursday, Sept. 14.

Kevin Pisacich, Director of the Office of Telecommunications and Broadband at Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), explained how COG towns can access the forthcoming grants and which will qualify.

Funding will be available from two distinct streams: \$144 million will come from Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) and \$41 million in America Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds will also be put toward high-speed connectivity in "unserved" and "underserved" areas.

"If you have less than 100-megabits down and 20 up, you're what's called 'underserved.' So all these federal programs are going to look to make sure everyone get access to at least that 100 by 20," said

The state plans to partner with existing service providers to achieve its high-speed goals as quickly as possible.

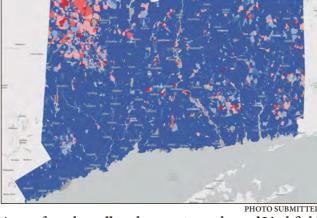
BEAD funding will become available in November of 2023 with ARPA funds expected to be cleared before the new year.

'This program has a timeline of all projects needing to be completed by the end of 2026, so this will be an infrastructure grant program likely to applicants who would build out broadband to underserved areas," said Pisacich.

Following the presentation, COG members inquired on how to utilize this funding to improve regional coverage.

"On the map you showed it was very obvious the Northwest Corner is sort of, you know, the one big elephant in the corner there," said Kent First Selectman Jean Speck.

"I would like to see us take a regional approach to trying to figure out how, through the COG, how we could approach you for getting coverage in those areas that are skipped," said COG Chairman and Falls Village First Selectman Henry Todd



A map from broadbandmaps.ct.gov showed Litchfield County towns are disproportionately affected by a lack high-speed internet coverage.

to Pisacich.

"That is explicitly the intent of the BEAD program. Those locations that are being left behind... if they show as underserved on those maps then they would be eligible for funding," responded Pisacich. He added that ARPA funds will be "very simple" for underserved regions to access, and applications will be released this fall.

Following the broadband presentation, COG members provided updates from their towns during a municipal roundtable. Norfolk First

Selectman Matthew Riiska said his town has faced a challenging year.

"We're still working on our clean up from the gas spill... After the flooding in July, which we had two bridges completely washed out... This past weekend we had a structure fire in town and the house is completely destroyed."

Riiska said flood damage has caused more than \$6 million in damages to Norfolk's roads and bridges.

In August, representatives from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and state agencies toured Litchfield County to review storm damage.

John Fields, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Region 5 Coordinator, said although Litchfield County reached the threshold for reimbursement, FEMA funding will not be available for Northwest corner towns because the state threshold was not met.

"Because it was very specifically located and it's not widespread across the state, the county threshold was pretty easy to make," said Fields. "But the state threshold, when you start getting up into tens of millions, we're not going to meet that from one particular county."

Fields stressed the importance of each town calculating total damage costs following severe weather events to increase the likelihood of receiving FEMA reimbursement for repair costs.

"Make sure you submit all your costs because you know maybe we were missing some and it could have been the difference," said Fields.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE SALISBURY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The Salisbury Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 9:05am to act on an Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Installation of a Sign on Stiles Meadow, Main Street, Salisbury, CT, 06068. This Public Hearing will be a Remote Meeting by Live Internet Video Stream and Telephone. The Meeting Link will be posted on the Town of Salisbury website: www.salisburyct. us/agendas/. The application is available for review by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk's office: www. salisburyct.us.

09-21-23

NOTICE TO **CREDITORS ESTATE OF ESTELLE GORKOFSKY Late of Sharon** (23-00352)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated September 5, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

> The fiduciaries are: Kevin Gorkofsky and Terri G. Kravitz

c/o Theresa Benedict D'Alton

Law Office of, Theresa B. D'Alton LLC, 25 NO. Main St., PO B 297, Kent, CT 06757

Megan M. Foley Clerk 09-21-23

LEGAL NOTICE TAX COLLECTOR **TOWN OF** SALISBURY CT

Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut Statutes, the taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified that the second installment on the Grand List of October 1, 2022 is due and payable on October 1, 2023. Payments must be received or postmarked by November 1, 2023. If said

Real Estate and Personal Property taxes are not paid on or before November 1, 2023, interest at the rate of one and one half percent $(18\%\,\mathrm{per}\,\mathrm{year})\,\mathrm{will}\,\mathrm{be}\,\mathrm{added}$ for each month or a fraction thereof which elapses from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until the same is paid. Minimum interest charge is \$2.00.

Taxes can be paid by mail addressed to: Tax Collector, P.O. BOX 338, Salisbury CT 06068 or at the Town Hall in Salisbury CT. There is a drop box in the vestibule of the Town Hall which is available 9am-4pm., Monday - Friday. The Town is urging taxpayers to mail checks or use the option of paying by credit card or e-check. Please check the Town website salisburyct.us for additional information. Dated at Town of Salisbury CT this 13th day of September, 2023.

Jean F. Bell, CCMC Tax Collector 09-21-23 10-05-23 10-19-23

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Arnoff Moving & Storage, Inc. has a storage lien against the property owned by:

Debora Suby, L117 Lakeville, CT, HHG

Anthony Carter, Jr., Millerton, NY, M64, HHG

Stephen Lowell, M59, Millerton, NY, HHG

All such properties will be sold unless the lien is satisfied. Such liens are claimed for occupancy charges, processing fees, cleaning and miscellaneous services of the total reasonable value agreed upon price now due and owing and that a detailed statement of such charges, services and storage with a statement of dates has been previously mailed to the said accounts by certified letters, the said accounts are further notified that if said balance is not paid by Monday, October 2, 2023 at 12:00 p.m., the personal property above described will be sold by Absolute Auction and Realty online

at www.aarbids.com on

Tuesday, October 3, 2023

as provided under the Lien Law of the State of New York and the Lien Law of the State of Connecticut. Please register to bid under www. aarbids.com if you wish to participate.

09-14-23 09-21-23

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on September 11, 2023:

Approved - Application 2023-IW-019 by Anne Brit McGrath for dredging two ponds filled with silt. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 16 as lot 1 and is known as 143 & 181 Housatonic River Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Anne McGrath.

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

09-21-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF LOUISE D. NICHOLSON AKA

Lisa D. Nicholson **AKA Louise Armstrong** Nicholson, AKA Lisa **Armstrong Nicholson** Late of Antigua (23-00343)

The Hon.Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated September 5, 2023, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

> The fiduciary is: Sarah Louise Nicholson c/o Linda M Patz Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP

7 Church Street, P.O. Box 101, Canaan, CT 06018

Megan M. Foley Clerk 09-21-23

Publish your engagement, wedding, birth or anniversary announcement in The Lakeville Journal The fee for an announcement is \$50 for text with a picture, \$25

for text without a picture. Maximum length is 125 words. Text and a reproducible photograph are due two weeks before the desired publication date. If sending a photograph (.jpg or .tiff file), please include the names of everyone in the picture in the body of your email. For more information, or to submit your paid announcement, please email publisher@lakevillejournal.com.

CONTACT US

John Coston Editor-in-Chief johnc@lakevillejournal.com 860-435-9873, ext. 601

Riley Klein

Managing Editor rileyk@lakevillejournal.com 860-435-9873, ext. 604

Alexander Wilburn

Compass and Special Sections Editor compass@lakevillejournal.com 860-435-9873, ext. 605

Sandra Lang Circulation Manager

circulation@lakevillejournal.com 860-435-9873, ext. 303

Susan Hassler Publisher, CEO

susanh@lakevillejournal.com 860-435-9873, ext.606

James Clark Chief Operating Officer jamesc@lakevillejournal.com 860-435-9873 x401



Cornwall Planning & Zoning hearing packs Town Hall

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — A loaded agenda for Cornwall Planning and Zoning Commission's public hearing on Tuesday, Sept. 12, drew roughly 100 audience members at Town Hall to weigh in on a proposed farm cidery and farm store at Ridgway Farm, a temporary facility for the Little Guild animal shelter, and the fate of recreational marijuana in town.

Originally designated to take place at the library, high attendance numbers forced a migration to Town Hall just before the meeting began at 7 p.m.

Topping the agenda was Ian and Jayne Ridgway's application to build a farm cidery, tasting room, farm store, and accessory apartment at Ridgway Farm, 142 Town Street (owned by First Selectman Gordon Ridgway and his wife Jayne Ridgway). Due to considerable written testimony regarding this proposal, P&Z Chair Anna Timell noted that all speakers at the public hearing would be limited to four-minute remarks following the presentation by the applicants.

Ian Ridgway shared detailed plans for the cidery building and accessory additions at Ridgway Farm.

"The proposed building is an 80 by 30-foot barn," he said. "The first floor would consist of cold storage area, processing room, farm store, and tasting room. The second floor would offer office/storage space and an apartment."

There would also be 15 total parking spaces on a gravel lot; 10 for visitors, one handicap spot, two for the apartment unit, and two for employees.

Ridgway said the cidery

would be open three days per week (Saturday, Sunday, and one weekday) from noon to 5 p.m. and guests would be limited to 16-ounces of hard cider while visiting.

He outlined how the proposal adheres to town regulations and aligns with the goals laid out in Cornwall's current Town Plan to promote small businesses, agriculture, and affordable housing opportunities.

"Our farm is proposing this project in a time of tremendous climatic challenges," he said. "This project would allow us to diversify our crop production and increase our climatic resilience."

The new building would be 360 feet from Town Street and 118 feet to the nearest property line. The proposal stated this was the furthest back the building could be set due to easements on the property.

Timell said she walked the site prior to the meeting and saw, "no visible homes on the property."

Opponents of the plan expressed concern about creating a business in a residential area and primarily pushed for the building to be set further back in the Ridgways' property.

Ian and Diane Ingersoll, the closest neighbors to the proposed cidery, urged the commission to reject the application, stating their property value would decrease and their peace would be disturbed.

"This building is only 225 feet from our house. Anna said she couldn't see our house from there but we can certainly see everything over there," said Mr. Ingersoll. "We're happy about the making of cider. We're happy about everything. It's the location that's the problem."

"They have planned out-



Residents gathered inside Cornwall's Town Hall for a Sept. 12 Planning and Zoning Commission public hearing on a new cidery at Ridgway Farm and the temporary relocation of the Little Guild to Foote Field.

side patios, which will disturb us day and night. We will have no peace from this, especially on weekends when they ask to be open Sunday night hours. How dare they?" said Mrs. Ingersoll.

A satellite image put forth by neighbors Barbara and Joe Ellis showed that eight homes sit closer to the proposed building than the Ridgways' home. Other opponents cited increased traffic in a residential area as a negative side effect.

Proponents of the application expressed excitement over creating a new agricultural business in Cornwall and explained how the benefits outweigh the negatives.

"This endeavor supports agriculture, small business, and affordable housing. And these three activities are the preeminent concepts in our current Town Plan," said Richard Bramley. "I'm the premier alcohol distributor

in town and I can assure everyone that hard cider is not as popular as beer."

"We're talking three days a week, five hours a day. A total of 15 hours a week. I highly doubt this is going to become the Cornwall version of 'Road House,'" said Richie Dolan.

"If there's not viable economic opportunity in Cornwall, this town will die. And people not wanting stuff in their backyard, despite the fact that it meets the regulations, is not a good enough reason to say 'no' to this viable project," said Angus Gracey.

After nearly an hour of testimonies, P&Z voted to continue the hearing on the Ridgway's application on Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall.

The commission then moved on to an application

from the Little Guild seeking to lease a portion of Foote Field on Route 4 to temporarily house its facilities during construction of its

main building.

The Little Guild operates as the town's dog pound and is thus an essential town service. The Board of Selectmen have conditionally approved the use of town land to house the Little Guild.

"This is a temporary facility for 18 months tops," said Karen Doeblin, chair of the Little Guild's board of directors. "We don't want to be in trailers for a minute longer than we need to."

The proposal requested four of the current parking spots at Foote Field and showed two 10 by 50 foot trailers plus a 42 by 15 foot prefabricated kennel. It also included a temporary foot path and fenced area.

The Little Guild agreed to return the field to its current condition once the lease reaches its conclusion.

P&Z unanimously approved the Little Guild's application during the regular meeting that followed the public hearing.

The commission then discussed the fate of recreational marijuana in Cornwall. A survey completed in the spring showed support for each available type of marijuana license in town.

Concerns at the state level, however, caused hesitation on the part of the commission to move forward with allowing licenses to be issued in Cornwall.

"The state has encountered a large number of problems in actually bringing the new statute into policies and procedures. Currently all licensed applications have been put on indefinite hold until things are organized. There is also a class action lawsuit against the state pertaining to the fact that we still have a federal statute that makes cannabis illegal," said Timell.

P&Z voted to extend the moratorium on cannabis licenses for an additional 18 months, which will run through May 31, 2025.





THE SALISBURY FORUM

in partnership with

Berkshire Taconic

HOUSING + JOBS + CONSERVATION: A ROADMAP FOR ACTION



Steve Rosenberg Moderator Co-convener Hudson Valley Affordable Housing and Conservation Strategy



Jocelyn
Ayer
Director,
Litchfield County
Center for
Housing
Opportunity



Michael Polemis Chair, Land Trust Alliance



Gordon Ridgway First Selectman, Cornwall, CT

F

A panel will explore the challenges of housing affordability and conservation in the NW Corner

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2023

The Salisbury School, Seifert Theater, Salisbury, CT

Join us at a reception in the Centennial Room at the Salisbury School from 5-6 pm, including *free* beverages and light hors d'oeuvres. Program begins at 6:30 pm.

REGISTRATION

Please register for both the reception and the program at www.salisburyforum.org. Seating may be limited.

www.salisburyforum.org

FV CDC



ANNOUNCING A NEW PARTNERSHIP TO EMPOWER THE FALLS VILLAGE COMMUNITY

Over the last three years, the FALLS VILLAGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORP (FV CDC) has provided small grants to help the village's economy and quality of life.

To date, the FV CDC has supported a range of projects, including the Kellogg School's MLK and Juneteenth programming, a building inspection in support of the Falls Village Housing Trust's purchase of a multi-family rental property, and regenerative farming equipment for Adamah Farm.

NCCF will work diligently to assist the Falls Village CDC in community

the trust the CDC has placed in us. Guy Rovezzi CEO, NCCF

building, to honor

To boost the FV CDC's impact, the organization has partnered with the Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation (NCCF) to create the Falls Village Community Fund.

Starting in January 2024, Falls Village groups and individuals can apply to the FV CDC for micro-grants that benefit the local environment, housing, equity, and community building.

You are invited to show your support for this new fund with a tax-deductible gift to the Northwest CT Community Foundation Falls Village Community Fund.



DONATE

To make a gift to the Northwest CT Community Foundation Falls Village Community Fund, visit www.yournccf.org/fallsvillage or scan this QR code with your phone.

Learn more at fallsvillagecdc.org

 $Falls\ Village\ Community\ Development\ Corp\ is\ a\ registered\ 501 (c) (3)\ organization\ \#84-510723$

Touring Trinity Lime Rock's past and present

By Maud Doyle

LAKEVILLE — At a Housatonic Heritage Walk on Saturday, Sept. 16, Geoffrey Brown framed a tour of Trinity Episcopal Church with an unusual invitation: Could attendees discover the ways in which patron William Barnum, baron of the iron industry and Senator from Connecticut, "made economies" in the construction of the church?

In other words, how is Trinity lesser, or poorer than its sibling churches, those built by the same architect in the same era?

The church was begun in 1873, coinciding with the Panic of 1873, when the bursting of the American Railroad industry bubble caused, among many other problems, the collapse of the Northwest Corner's iron industry, until then the lifeblood of the industrial town of Lime Rock. The effects of the Panic lasted through the 1930s, said Brown, the author of "Trinity Lime Rock in Context: A History."

"And you know we called it the 'Great' Depression," said Brown. "It was pretty bad."

At least, Barnum found himself a little short. He made ends meet by substituting a wooden structure for stone, omitting a grand entrance into the nave, and allowing four lancets (two windows each) to remain paned with "filler glass," rather than commissioning art windows.

Barnum built the church "basically because his wife wanted a church" in town, said Brown. Though the church is Episcopal, it includes a chapel to St. Mary and windows featuring Catholic saints; some 80%

North Canaan gets new roadsigns

of Barnum's workers were Irish Catholic immigrants who had escaped the famine.

The tour was briefly diverted by a discussion of race tracks (the church sits just opposite Lime Rock Park).

"If you're a hot-blooded youth and you have a Triumph or an MGA, and you see a gravel pit, what better use can you make of it than to race in it," said Brown, explaining the origins of Lime Rock Park. But, he said, it was not the first race track in the church's neighborhood: The Goldenrod Cycle Track, a bicycle track erected during the bike craze of the late 1800s, used to encircle a field behind what is now the church parking lot.

"And there's no mention of it anywhere, not in the papers, not in The Lakeville Journal, it's not mentioned at all except for the story about a kid who sprinkled the bicy-



Geoffrey Brown, author of "Trinity Lime Rock in Context: A History," led the Housatonic Heritage tour of Trinity Episcopal Church on Saturday, Sept. 16.

cle track with tacks."

The graveyard, fittingly, was the tour's last stop. As we walked, the attendees chatted about their long-term plans and the scarcity of local real estate: "We've already bought the plaques," one woman explained to Brown. "There are so few plots left for sale," remarked another. "I hear that the columbarium"the section of the graveyard where ashes are interred with plaques—"is the popular place to go now," Brown offered. "The idea is that we're all going to be together," said the first woman, concluding her forever plans.

Finally, the tour arrived at Barnum's remains, interred beneath an imposing pillar.

"As we used to say in the army, RHIP," said Brown, noting the front row placement of Barnum's grave. "Rank has its privileges."



with Eagle Scout-candidate project

By John Coston

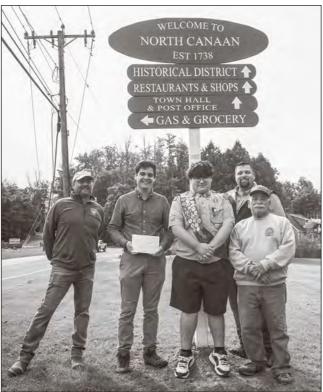
NORTH CANAAN Dylan Deane, a Life Scout in the Boy Scouts of America, was joined by politicians, parents, supporters and fellow Scouts on Saturday, Sept. 16 at the unveiling of welcoming road signs that he created as part of his project to attain Eagle Scout rank.

Four signs greeting motorists as they arrive in North Canaan were a year-long project for Deane, 17, a junior at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

A standing crowd of approximately 25 supporters watched as Deane and his father, Walter Deane and First Selectman Charlie Perotti pulled the covering fabric from the sign on Route 7 southbound across from Stateline Pizza.

"It went from paper to reality," Scout Deane said as he thanked numerous sponsors that contributed to the project. "Sometimes I thought it would never happen."

Local businesses and individuals helped Deane by donating materials and time. They included Crane's Outdoor Power Equipment, Herrington's, C.A. Lindell & Son, Inc., Larkin LTD Enterprises, and Jay Trotta in East Canaan. Deane also thanked Philip Ghi and Charlie Perot-



Dylan Dean stands with, from left, Craig Whiting, Christian Allyn, Brian Ohler and Charlie Perotti at the new sign on Route 7 southbound in North Canaan.

ti, along with members of his Scout Troop 22 that includes North Canaan, Falls Village and some members from Salisbury.

Troop 22 Commissioner Sandy Rhoades was on hand, along with Cindy Zwart, Deane's mentor on the project. Others in attendance included Craig Whiting, second selectman, and Christian Allyn, third selectman and

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candidate for first selectman, along with Brian Ohler, a candidate for first selectman in November.

Deane was gracious in thanking all his supporters, including his mother Miriam. The other three new signs are located on Route 7 north near the fire house and on Route 44 east and west where motorists will be greeted as they approach town.

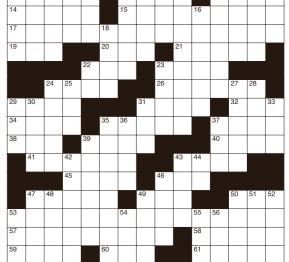
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of cat 6. Weaponry
- 10. Western Christian
- Church service 14. Significant eruption of
- pustules
- 15. Baltic nation
- 17. Start of American
- holiday season
- 19. Unhappy 20. Maintains possession
- 21. Metrical foot of one
- long and three short syllables
- 22. Mountain pass
- 23. Vestments 24. Type of dish
- 26. Escaped quickly
- 29. Zoroastrian concept of
- holy fire
- 31. Wings 32. Political action
- committee
- 34. Touches lightly
- 35. Stood back from
- 37. Philippine Island
- 38. Popular winter activity
- 39. Type of amine 40. Small freshwater duck
- 41. Filled with love
- 43. Without (French)
- 45. Vetch
- 46. Swiss river 47. Describes a sound
- 49. Sign language
- 50. Hair product 53. Have surgery
- 57. Quality of being imaginary
- 58. Far-right German
- party 59. Drove
- 60. Former French coin of low value
- 61. Hard, durable timbers

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Body art 2. Middle East military
- 3. Actor Pitt
- 4. Container 5. Speak incessantly
- 6. Relating to algae
- 7. Jacob ___, journalist 8. Rock TV channel
- 9. Boat's cargo
- 10. Most wise
- 11. Within

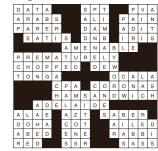


- 12. Chinese industrial city
- 13. Scotland's longest river
- 16. Not capable
- 18. Footwear
- 22. Savings account 23. Capable
- 24. Vaccine developer
- 25. Tax collector
- 27. Fencing swords
- 28. Native religion in China 29. Promotional materials
- 30. A shot in a film
- production 31. Afflict in mind or body
- 33. A passage with access
- only at one end 35. Breathing devices
- 36. Employ for wages
- 37. Kids' TV channel (abbr.)
- 39. Popular Boston song
- 42. Made amends 43. Selling at specially
- reduced prices
- 44. Atomic #18 46. With fireplace residue

- 47. Unleavened cornbread 48. Draw out
- 49. Southwestern Alaska island
- 50. Where the Pyramids are
- 51. People of Nigeria 52. Smaller quantity
- 53. Destroy the inside of 54. City
- 55. Chivalrous figure (abbr.)

Sept. 14 Solution

56. No (Scottish)



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OBITUARIES

Donna M. Barringer

Barringer, 71, of Stuyvesant

and formerly of Copake, passed away peacefully on Sept. 16, 2023, at Columbia Memorial Hospital surrounded by her loving family after battling leukemia.

She was born in Rutland, Vermont

on March 5, 1952, to the late Donald "Buzz" Cummings and Betty (Sisco) Cummings. In 1970, she graduated from Webutuck Central School and shortly thereafter she married Frederick Barringer.

Donna was the office manager for Copake Veterinary office for 37 years. She worked with Dr. George Beneke, who became more of a friend than a boss. After retiring from there she assisted with running the family dairy farm, Hill Over Farm. They also delivered bottled milk in glass bottles from the farm and their farm stand sold milk, cheese and served many ice cream cones over the years. She enjoyed birdwatching and especially enjoyed watching hummingbirds.

Donna is survived by her husband Fred, her daughters, Hope Barringer and her

Lakeville — Lola Martha

Brammer, 88, a 65 year res-

ident of Lakeville

died peacefully

on Saturday, Sept.

16, 2023, at Noble

Horizons in Salis-

Born Sept. 5,

1935, in Great

Barrington, Mas-

sachusetts, she was

the daughter of the

late Henry Flint and Irene

Warner. On Dec. 24, 1951, in

the Village of Millerton, New

York, she married Edward

Brammer. Mr. Brammer

survives at home in Lakeville

homemaker throughout

their marriage and enjoyed

crocheting, knitting, sewing

and vacationing in Florida.

She was an avid wild ani-

mal lover as well. She will be

dearly missed by her loving

band, Ed, Mrs. Brammer is

survived by three children;

Stephanie Durbal and her

husband, Ken, of Belleville,

Michigan, Edward Bram-

mer and his wife Deborah of

Lakeville and Andy Brammer

of Lakeville; two grandchil-

dren, Adam Brammer and

In addition to her hus-

husband and family.

Mrs. Brammer was a

bury.

Lola Martha Brammer

COPAKE — Donna M. companion Rich Stickle, Vanessa Dunning and her hus-

band Shawn. Four grandchildren, Brock and Carli Hathaway and Colin and Allie Dunning. Her mother, Betty Cummings, three sisters; Carol (Alan Rabideau) Cummings, Betsy

Lamay, Becky (Bill) Stanton. Brother Donald (Stacey Rennia) Cummings, Brock and Carli's father, Dexter Hathaway. Her great aunt and uncle, Paul (Joan) Cummings, in addition to several nieces, nephews, and

She was predeceased by her brother-in-law Darrell

A time for sharing memories and offering condolences will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, 8063 Route 22, Copake. Interment will take place privately.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Donna's memory are requested to Hathaway's Helping Hands or the Columbia County 4H, Dairy Program. For directions or to leave a message of condolence for the family please visit www.peckandpeck.net.

his wife Courtney of Sharon,

and Eddie Brammer III and

his wife Amy of

Southfield, Mas-

sachusetts; five

great grandchil-

dren, Evan, Jack-

son, Jameson and

Jasmin Brammer

and Maddie Sar-

tori; two sisters,

Darling Caine of

Torrington, Con-

necticut, and Ioletta "Pete"

Dennis of Wassaic, New

York, and several nieces and

In addition to her parents,

ne was predeceased by her

son, David Brammer of New

Mexico, her grandson, Reni

Brammer of Sharon, Con-

necticut and four brothers

quest, there will be no pub-

lic visitation or funeral. All

entrusted to the Scott D.

Conklin Funeral Home, 37

Park Avenue, Millerton, NY

12546. To send an online

condolence to the family or

plant a tree in Mrs. Bram-

mer's memory, please visit

www.conklinfuneralhome.

services will be private.

At Mrs. Brammer's re-

Arrangements have been

and two sisters.

Martha Scoville Fetherolf Loutfi

WEST CORNWALL — Martha Scoville Fetherolf Loutfi of West Cornwall and Geneva, Switzerland, passed away peacefully Feb. 12, 2023, after bravely facing a long illness.

Martha was born in New York City, July 1, 1940, to James M. and Eloise Fetherolf (nee Cheney) and grew up in Greenwich, Connecticut, and White Plains, New York.

She was an alumna of Rosemary Hall ('58) and Wellesley College (AB '62) She was very attached to her alma maters and the friendships developed there. At Wellesley, Martha was one of the economics students who benefited from the extraordinary mentorship of Carolyn Shaw Bell. Martha earned a Ph.D in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1966 with a thesis on Japanese foreign aid.

Her interest in Japan and the Far East was sparked during a trip around the world with her loving brother, Dr. Edward Fetherolf, and continued throughout her life. Martha collected Japanese art and became a very good cook of Asian-inspired

She married a fellow economics doctoral student, Mohamed A. Loutfi of Alexandria, Egypt in 1964. They both joined the economics faculty of McGill University in Montreal, Canada until moving to Beirut, Lebanon where Mohamed joined the United Nations and Martha taught at the American University. After being evacuated from Beirut during the Lebanese Civil War in 1975, the Loutfis moved to Geneva.

Martha was very proud of the work she carried out as part of the Secretariat of the Independent Commission for International Developmental Issues (Brandt Commission) with the aim to review international development issues under the leadership of former Chancellor of West Germany, Willy Brandt, from 1977-79. The Commission's report provided an understanding of drastic wall Meeting House

In Memoriam

Dorothy was a remarkable

woman. Generous, modest,

funny, kind, loving. Every

week she would come up to

my Sharon Social Service of-

fice lugging bins of food from

her church, St. Bernard's, and

to tell me the news of the

town. And she'd tell about

her friends at Sharon Health

Care too, as when she told me

that her dear pal Amy Whit-

comb had finally decided to

Of course she cajoled me

stop dialysis. Painful stuff.

differences in the economic development of the Global North and Global South.

Martha joined the International Labour Office in 1980 where she would work until her retirement in 2000. She started her career in the Development Department where she managed and coordinated the Program on Rural Women. Her responsibilities also included the development of the Rural Employment Policies' Branch Programs.

She published seminal works that sought to make women's work visible and to value the contributions of women to economic development, ("Rural Women: Unequal Partners in Development" and "Women, Gender and Work: What is Equality and How Do We Get There?")

In 1993, Martha became the Editor-in-Chief of the International Labour Review where she was responsible for attracting and editing several notable academics and improving the journal's editorial quality.

After retirement, Martha spent time in Nice, France, and West Cornwall where her father's family had roots, and

Always interested in art and music, she was an avid concert and exhibition goer. She became an excellent photographer and exhibited her photographs in both Connecticut and Geneva. She also shared them with friends and family in an annual calendar she lovingly prepared. Always an excellent cook, Martha was known for the delicious lunches and dinners she carefully prepared for her friends, always accompanied with good wine and conversation.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband. She leaves behind her brother, two nieces, and many cousins and close friends.

Her life will be celebrated at a service on Oct. 1, 2023, at 2 p.m. at the North Corn-

into supporting the Crop

Walk, and told me about her

cats (loved them, along with

dogs and people), and about

quietly (though not averse

We were lucky to have had

her in our midst. And we

She was constantly and

Her love touched us all.

Ella Clark

her early days as a nurse.

to talk) living her faith.

miss her. I sure do.

West Cornwall

Send obituaries

to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

Dorothy McWilliams

Worship Services Week of September 24, 2023

Call ahead or visit websites for updates

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon

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

St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christophers SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)

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The Lakeville United **Methodist Church**

9:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Ca 860-435-9496

The Sharon United Methodist Church

Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse

Falls Village

Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour

> **The Smithfield Presbyterian Church**

Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building

Canaan United

11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts – Open Minds – Open Doors Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!

The Chapel of All Saints,

Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mmgates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer

(Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rahhi Ion Haddon

Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta

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took place on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Keane Stud in Amenia, New York.



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484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org Misa en español a las 4 de la tarde el último domingo de mes **The Revs. Heidi Truax & Felix Rivera** trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT

The next meeting will be Sunday,October 8 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiauloi@gmail.com All are Welcome

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With thanks to

GNH football wins home opener 21-7 over Kennedy

By Riley Klein

WINSTED — The Gilbert/ Northwestern/Housatonic co-op football team earned its first win of the season against Waterbury's John F. Kennedy High School with a 21-7 victory under the lights on Friday, Sept. 15.

The GNH Yellowjackets bounced back after opening the season in Ansonia with a tough 45-13 loss.

Against Kennedy, GNH put on an impressive defensive performance from start to finish and started to gel offensively as the game progressed.

Conditions were crisp at kick-off with temps in the low 60s and a light breeze as the sun set over Winsted. The Gilbert School marching band performed the national anthem, and so began GNH's home opener.

The Yellowjackets were noticeably out of sync in the first quarter, racking up four false starts and a fumbled hand-off in their first two possessions.

"Wake up! Let's go," shouted GNH Head Coach Scott Salius from the sideline.

GNH got it together and marched down the field on the heels of running back Aiden Avenia. Receiver Brett Maguire finished off the drive with a six-yard rush to put the Yellowjackets up 7-0 early in the second quarter.

GNH's defense forced Kennedy into their second three-and-out in as many possessions and gave the offense good field position midway through the second quarter. A 30-yard pass set up Avenia for a five-yard rush to the hole, giving GNH a 14-0 lead late in the second.

Kennedy put together a strong drive and scored with just over a minute remaining in the half. The Eagles then stopped the Yellowjackets deep in their own territory and blocked a punt with 34 seconds left. GNH's defense remained disciplined and forced a turnover on downs near the goal line, then took a knee to bring the clock down to triple zeroes.

GNH held on to a 14-7

lead at halftime. The third quarter was a defensive battle with both sides fighting for every inch. Avenia logged a tackle for a loss and a sack in back-to-back plays, stopping a long Kennedy drive in its tracks and firing up the Yellowjackets at the end of the third.

Avenia opened the fourth a 28-yard breakaway down the sideline, breaching Kennedy territory on his longest run of the night. As momentum appeared to be swinging back into GNH's favor, an interception was thrown, and Kennedy reclaimed possession on their own 16-yard line.

GNH's defense forced another three-and-out and the offense opted to stick to the run game from there on. When they got back down field, quarterback Nolan Risedorf found daylight and charged 25 yards behind lead blocker Avenia into the end-

Down two touchdowns, Kennedy looked to launch the long ball late in the fourth, but the swarming Yellowjackets ended the final two Eagle drives with interceptions from Ty Devita and Brett Maguire.

GNH won the game 21-7 and advanced to 1-1 on the season while Kennedy fell to

0-2.Postgame, Risedorf said the disconnect between him and the offensive line in the first half could be attributed to crowd noise and the constant hum of gas-powered



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Housatonic Valley Regional High School sophomore Owen Riemer took down Kennedy's running back before he could leave the back field. Gilbert/Northwestern/Housatonic co-op displayed defensive dominance in their home opener in Winsted on Sept. 15.



Quarterback Nolan Risedorf turned the corner and rushed down the sideline behind lead blocker Aiden Avenia for a 25-yard touchdown, the final score of the evening when GNH football hosted Waterbury's John F. Kennedy High School.

field lights.

"The crowd kind of got to them, and all these lights, the offensive line couldn't hear me. So there was a lot of communication issues. I'm happy we pulled together by halftime and pulled the game out," said Risedorf.

Looking ahead to their next game, Avenia said the for a 6 p.m. kickoff.

Yellowjackets are expecting

a tough match in Torrington. "We kind of blew them out last year. They're definitely gonna come ready. They're gonna want to win, so we have to be ready next week,"

said Avenia. GNH will head to Torrington on Friday, Sept. 22

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A panel of eminent journalists and authors discuss the importance of maintaining the truth in news media platforms and works of nonfiction. Playwrights Jeremy Kareken and David Murrell tell how facts become twisted into fiction in their critically acclaimed Broadway play, The Lifespan of a Fact, opening at the Sharon Playhouse on September 29.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2023

The Sharon Playhouse, Sharon, CT Cash bar opens at 6 p.m. Program begins at 7 p.m.

REGISTRATION

Seats are limited. Registration will open on Saturday, September 23 at 8 am. Please go to the Sharon Playhouse website at www.sharonplayhouse.org to register. A copy of your registration email will be required for entry.

www.salisburyforum.org

Sports

Section 1. Section 1.

PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Housy soccer ties Thomaston

Housatonic Valley Regional High School girls varsity soccer hosted Thomaston High School on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at Ed Kirby Field. A muggy and buggy afternoon on the pitch ended in a 2-2 draw between the two teams. Ava Segalla and Georgie Clayton each scored once for the Mountaineers. HVRHS girls soccer will be back on Ed Kirby Field to face Wamogo Regional High School on Friday, Sept. 22 at 3:45 p.m.



Hole-in-one at Canaan Fire Co. golf tourney

NORTH CANAAN — During the annual Canaan Fire Company golf tournament on Sept. 11, Jim Tierney scored big by hitting a hole-in-one.

Tierney's ace occurred on the tenth hole on Fairview Farm Golf Course in Harwinton, a par-three 187-yard hole.

Sponsored by Crane's Outdoor Power Equipment, Tierney won his pick of a Turf Tiger Mower or a cash prize.

Canaan Fire Company's annual golf tournament is held in memory of past Chief John Foley. In addition to Crane's many local businesses participated through sponsorships or by playing in the tournament.

Limit one per day at 'The Place'

OMEWHERE IN THE CATSKILLS — I shifted operations to the western command post in Phoenicia, N.Y. for a couple of days last week.

The first order of business was to check out what I think of as The Place. This is a medium-sized trout stream that runs into one of the New York City reservoirs. For most of its length the stream is tightly posted and aggressively monitored by a fishing club, but there is stretch of about 250 yards from a bridge and culvert on the main road that winds down to the reservoir proper, and another quarter mile or so upstream of the road before the private water starts.

I am a trained observer, and I detected the start of the private water because they strung a cable across the stream with a NO TRES-PASSING sign on it.

I am not going to get any more informative about The Place. If you have a good map and lots of gas money, you'll figure it out.

There is a lovely deep pool on the downstream side of the bridge and culvert. There's plenty of room and it's nice and deep and usually clear.

The only problem is the fish can see you coming a mile away. So far in my limited experience with The Place, you get to catch one fish per trip in this pool. Once you've connected, the inhabitants go under the nearest rock and stay put.

On the plus side, whatever you do connect with is probably worth the extra mileage to the super-secret location that I am not telling you about.

In half a dozen sessions at The Place, the pool has yielded browns of 16 inches and up; rainbows ditto; and an honest-to-God 14 inch brook trout, which is my personal best for this species (not counting hatchery products)

I'm used to chasing our little wild brookies, where an eight-incher is a Leviathan.

Now, these fish might well be stocked by the snooty people upstream, but I am pretending they are not.

Downstream the channel widens considerably as it blends into the reservoir. In July this stretch contained smallmouth bass and rain-



When the fish aren't cooperating, the Catskill angler can take in the scenery.

TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

bows. This time around brown trout came to the surface as darkness fell.

They wouldn't take the first gazillion things I tossed at them. I took a break and contented myself by admiring the Winslow Homer-esque scenery, with the evening sun shining briefly through the gathering storm clouds and illuminating the mountains beyond blah blah blah.

After the art lesson ended I tied on a size 18 blue-wing olive spinner, which is an alleged dry fly that tends to sink the moment it hits the water and is impossible to

For me, anyway. A brown trout that had been busy refusing my previous offerings was of the opinion that this was just what the doctor ordered. It was not a particularly large fish at 15 inches or so, but what it lacked in heft it made up for in spirit, leaping twice and scurrying around and generally resisting capture.

Also on this trip I ex-



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Trouthenge, spotted on the Schoharie Creek last week.

plored Birch Creek, a tiny little brook that has a brook trout pond of sorts at the end. Of course the only fish I caught was a wild brown, and I was menaced briefly by a great Hound of the Baskervilles type of dog who came charging out of nowhere with mayhem in his eyes and froth around the mouth, only to be called back by an elderly lady who was about four feet six inches tall. The simplest syllable from this woman caused the Hound to stop in his tracks and trot back to base, wagging its tail. Probably an amiable beast once you get to know him.

I went up to the Schoharie, behind the ballfield in

Prattsville, where I beheld Trouthenge, where someone had stacked big rocks three or four feet up in the air. I am pretty sure this activity has something to do with legal marijuana.

was a note on the front door when I arrived, from someone named Abigail, inviting me to sell the house.

On the home front there

It's a seasonal house, not winterized, with 28 mostly unbuildable acres.

So I think I will call Abigail and inform her that I am willing to entertain a reasonable offer, say \$50 million.

And after we have a nice laugh about that we can start the bidding at \$25 million.

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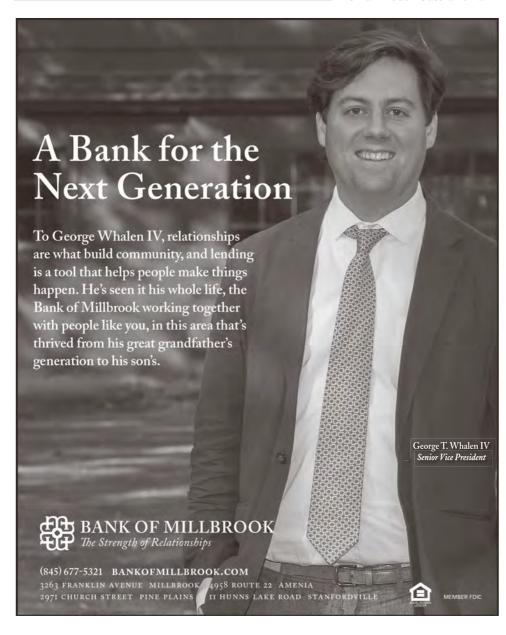


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Sharon Historical Society names DePauw as executive director

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Following a diligent search process, the Sharon Historical Society's Board named Karen De-Pauw to serve as its new Executive Director, and since starting in her new position in early September, she is already making an impact, acquainting herself with the community.

Depauw paused for an interview on Friday, Sept. 15, just at the end of her second week on the job.

"In the first six months, I am really focusing on learning the organization and the community," DePauw said. "I want to get to know who we are, but also who the community sees us as."

Bringing 15 years of museum experience, De-Pauw said that for the last eight years she has been a provider of field services in conjunction with the programs of the Indiana Historical Society. Her work has been with small museums throughout Indiana, helping them to develop their programs.

Born and raised in southern Illinois, she is however not new to Connecticut. Having earned a Master of Science degree in Textile Preservation and Fashion



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

The Sharon Historical Society's new Executive Director, Karen DePauw, began her duties in early September, enthusiastically embracing local history and community.

History from the University of Rhode Island, her first employment was at the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford where she served as a research and collections assistant.

Currently, DePauw says she is reading up on local his-

tory, excited to be meeting with board members of the historical society and with members of the community.

"Community connection is such a big part of what local historical societies do," DePauw said. "I am excited to continue, and to enhance.

those connections that our society has with Sharon residents."

Without community, we would not have the history to share or anyone to share it with," she added.

Delighted to be living in the Northwest Corner, DePauw said that her wife, Jessica Jenkins, and she are currently living in Litchfield, where Jenkins has been serving as the Executive Director of the Litchfield Historical Society since July 1.

About her interests, De-Pauw said, "I love to learn new things. I'm a constant student, but rarely a master."

DePauw said that she enjoys cross-stitching, needlework of all kinds and is proficient at sewing. She said that she enjoys gardening, principally vegetables, but a few flowers, canning and painting.

Having completed her service as the interim Executive Director, Myra Plescia has returned to her position as Project Manager for the society.

"She has been an amazing help," DePauw said.

As has been Curator Cooper Sheldon.

"Cooper is great," DePauw said. "I'm very much looking forward to working with

Casey noted that the EV charging station and the generator portion of the parking lot plan are no longer discussion points, because they have already received approval.

Hilltop Road speed humps meet approval

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — The efficacy of newly installed speed humps on Hilltop Road was discussed at a special meeting of the Board of Selectmen held on Friday, Sept. 15.

Early encounters with the humps and ensuing measurements had led some residents to complain that they were not built to specifications by RAR Excavating of Torrington. A meeting with RAR to compare the drawings to the humps determined definitively that construction had been completed correctly in accordance with the specifications approved by voters at the town meeting.

"It's best to travel over the humps at 10 mph," said selectman Casey Flanagan, having determined the proper way to negotiate them, along with the other selectmen who had reached the same conclusion.

"People are slowing down; the humps are working," said Hilltop Road resident Paree

"As a responsible driver, you slow down," she added.

Community Center

A plan to convert the vacant Community Center to four affordable apartments, described at a Saturday, Sept. 9 public forum, was discussed with the selectmen agreeing that Town Attorney Randall DiBella should be asked to schedule a meeting with the Housing Trust's attorney to draft an initial agreement for the selectmen to consider.

Eventually the proposal will be considered and voted upon at a town meeting.

"It seems like the right place and the right situation," said Larry Moskowitz, member of the Housing Steering Committee, feeling that the proposal has been unduly delayed.

"I'm not going to rush this thing through just because it's been lingering for six months," said Flanagan. "I need to know that the town will be protected."

Human Resources

Growing complexity in regulations governing the area of Human Resources, led the selectmen to invite a presentation on services offered by an outside consulting company, Kardas Larson of Avon.

"We want to be sure that we are following best practices," said Flanagan, suggesting that the town might benefit from outside help toward the goal of achieving consistency within employee policies.

Representing Kardas Larson was Jerry Kardas, one of the principals.

Kardas reported that his company could help in a variety of ways, including organization through accurate job descriptions and structure planning, first mapping out the present structure and advising the selectmen in bringing policies and procedures into compliance with current regulations.

Flanagan pointed out a complication that some employees are elected and others appointed, creating a gray area surrounding oversight. Kardas outlined the virtues of an Employee Handbook.

Selectman Dale Jones noted the presence of lifelong employees serving in a succession of key positions.

Flanagan said that a preliminary assessment is a good way to start.

Kardas agreed.

Hearing set for solar project near school

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Following minimal discussion except to receive the application, the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) unanimously voted at its regular meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 13, to schedule a public hearing to consider a town project with CT Green Bank to install solar panels at 64 Hilltop Road, adjacent to Sharon Center School.

Terming the application

"extremely detailed," Land Use Administrator Jamie Casey indicated that the application can be accessed in her office at the Town Hall.

The public hearing on the application will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 11, beginning at 5:30

Continuing consideration of plans to expand the rear parking area at the Town Hall, led the P&Z to schedule a site walk in the parking lot, in order to visualize the P&Z meeting.

plan. The current site plan is available for study in the Land Use Office.

Casey indicated that the plans do not yet include lighting specifics. She said she would like to see photographs of the lights and poles, and that the application still needs to be approved by the Historic District

The site visit to the parking lot has been scheduled to begin at 5 p.m., a half-hour before the scheduled Oct. 11

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Dear Supporters,

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These funds are crucial to the continued growth of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News. At The Lakeville Journal, new investments in local reporting have been made by bringing on new reporters to expand coverage of local towns and the results are evident. The Millerton News has a new office in town and a new editor who is rebuilding the reporting staff there too.

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Any amount - large or small - goes towards the \$100,000 Matching Challenge to enable us to continue to expand AND upgrade local reporting in print and for digital.

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Thank you!

Susan Hassler, Publisher

\$75K \$50K \$25K



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We've raised \$39,395 of our \$100,000 goal.

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Supporting Haitian Health Partners President of Hispaño-

la Health Partners, Peter Halle, and Louise Lindenmeyr, HHP's founder, threw a party on Sept. 17 at Lindenmeyr's Salisbury home to fund-raise for HHP's partner clinic, Centre de Santé Union de Grand-Gosier, run by an all Haitian staff in southwestern Haiti. Lindenmeyr presented on the clinic's outreach, education, and treatment programs, including cholera prevention, nutrition, and maternity care.



Trip to the opera

On Oct. 26, Sharon Park and Rec will host a trip to Goodspeed Opera House to see "The 12." Set in modern times with powerful music and writing, The disciples come to terms with the death of their leaders.

The group will be leaving the Sharon Town Hall at 9:30 a.m. and arriving at the Gelston House for a noon lunch. The show is next door at 2 p.m. Return to Sharon around 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$100.

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Itinerant artist show at Seven Hearths

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Likely to have been overlooked and forgotten by art historians, the works of an itinerant 19th-century artist, Fritz Vogt, have been located, appreciated and researched by area collector Frank Tosto and they are now on display, appropriately framed, as the latest important exhibit mounted by the Kent Historical Society at Seven Hearths

The exhibit is titled "A Sense of Place, 1890-1900." It lays out in chronological order the wandering upstate New York route traveled by itinerant German-immigrant artist Vogt, an eccentric, who plied his talent for sketching homesteads town to town throughout the Mohawk Valley in return for shelter and sustenance.

Little is likely ever to be known about him, except for his nine-year record of whimsical folk drawings left behind, collected and preserved by Tosto. Vogt's life ended in an almshouse in upstate New York, where he died penniless and was buried in a pauper's field.



Area art collector Frank Tosto, at left, and the historical society's Executive Director Ron Marasco examined and discussed the detail within Vogt's 1897 sketch of **Brookman's Corners Cheese Factory.**

A remarkable 31 of Vogt's drawings are on display in the current exhibit, framed by Tosto using glass from the period in tribute to the life of the artist.

"To have these pictures in this building makes both the art and the setting come to life in visual synergy," said KHS Executive Director Ron Marasco. The connection to the town of Kent and its valued sensibilities is inescapable when viewing each remarkable depiction of agrarian society and lifestyle from a past century.

Marasco added that the setting is why Tosto allowed this exhibit idea to proceed. Most of his collection is housed at the Fenimore Museum in Cooperstown, New York. The idea of displaying the work in a homestead setting at Seven Hearths was appealing to him.

"If you have not been to the exhibit, you are miss-

ing out on a treasure," said George-Ann Gowan, a Kent artist who was viewing the exhibit for the second time. She added that the exhibit is enhanced by the presence and expertise of Tosto.

The exhibit will be open until October 15 each Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tosto indicated that he expects to be at Seven Hearths during most, if not all, of the open days to meet with visitors and discuss the exhibit. Marasco said that the exhibit is also open by appointment by calling the historical society. For more information, go to: www. kenthistoricalsociety.org. Vogt's story continues to

unfold. On Saturday, Sept. 23, beginning at Seven Hearths at 1 p.m., Melanie Marks of CT House Histories of Fairfield will speak about her research into the almshouse in upstate New York where Vogt died. And, bringing it home to Kent, she will talk about her discovery that there was a similar almshouse in Kent and how she discovered the deed that led her to finding the Kent almshouse's actual foundation that still exists in town.

Kent P&Z discusses parcel as affordable housing site

By Leila Hawken

KENT — With general agreement about the necessity for affordable housing opportunities, the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) discussed a proposal from Kent Affordable Housing to use a small parcel of townowned land for the purpose at its regular meeting on Thursday, Sept. 14. The meeting was held on Zoom.

Following lengthy discussion, the P&Z felt that a survey map showing accurate lot lines that have been agreed to by abutting town departments should be provided and a meeting held with those departments. Most agreed that more information is needed at this point, recognizing that the process will eventually lead to a town meeting.

The two-acre parcel eyed by Kent Affordable Housing stands near Kent Commons. The proposal was referred to the P&Z by Tai Kern, Zoning Enforcement Officer, for a ruling on whether the proposal would align with the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

Kern reported that the parcel spans two parking lots and three different zoning districts. The area is of interest to Affordable Housing, the Parks and Recreation Department and the Department of Public Works.

The lack of a survey map of the parcel was of general concern to the P&Z.

"We're looking at the idea to see if it conforms to the POCD. It's unusual that we don't have a survey of the lots," Winter said, raising the possibility of needing lot line revisions and uniform zoning for the parcel.

P&Z member Adam Manes felt that a survey map could answer many questions.

By unanimous consensus, the P&Z accepted the gift of 100 feet of road from the Albin Estate, known as Albin's Way, an unimproved road that provides important connector access for emergency vehicles and traffic off of Route 341.

"It's an obvious decision, a generous gift," said First Selectman Jean Speck. "The fire department sees it as critical access," she added.

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From left to right; Kevin Cantele, Tara Decker, Nicole Chase, Michael Durand, Dante Fazzina, Andrea MacArthur, Andreas Kapetanopoulos, Deb Oakliff, Aidan Gilligan, Jen Musci, Meaghan Bain, Adam Higgins, Jessica Elliott, Michael Hogan

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HYDRILLA

Continued from Page A1

state and local officials.

"Unfortunately, chemicals are probably the best approach, but we also know there will be a trade-off," said Bogle. "You can't harvest it because it breaks up. You can't put carp in the water,

because we are a fishing lake, and it would difficult to manage on anything bigger than a pond." Unfortunately, he noted, "there

is nothing else that seems to work."

"We have been told by the experts that there are no herbicides we can use that are specific enough to kill only the hydrilla," added TLA board member Russ Conklin, who noted that lake association is working closely with DEEP, a group of lawmakers, state agencies, scientists and leading experts on hydrilla in a unified front to battle the aggressive invasive.

'We now have four Ph.D.'s assisting us," said Conklin of advisory biologists and scientists, including Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR), the TLA lead limnologist; SePOR, the herbicide manufacturer; the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES); and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, including Benjamin Sperry, lead principal investigator with the Army Corp's Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC).

"There are a lot of people involved. We have a very active Twin Lakes Association that cares a lot about the health of the lakes," said State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64), who along with Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand, requested swift action from the state to treat hydrilla in East Twin Lake.

The first step, said Horn, is urgent: moving fast to combat it. The second step, she said, is to put in place a comprehensive management plan to prevent hydrilla from recurring and spreading to other areas of the Twin Lakes or other bodies of water.

"We have to address the infestation as we find it, and then set up protocols to keep it in check to try to prevent spread."

Because treatment of hydrilla is very expensive to towns and lake associations, and likely will be an ongoing process for the near future, "we're sure going to be making the case moving into the next legislative session for

"We need to get ahead of this. It's going to be an ongoing process, and the Twin Lakes will not be alone."

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64)

additional funding to combat hydrilla," said Horn. "We need to get ahead of this. It's going to be an ongoing process and the Twin Lakes will not be alone."

An expensive undertaking

Battling hydrilla brings with it a hefty price tag. One county in the New York Finger Lakes estimated its management cost at \$10 million, according to a study by the Connecticut Center for Economic Analysis at the UConn School of Business.

In addition to damage to the Connecticut River and its tributaries, the spread of hydrilla to lakes and ponds is a major concern, say state biologists.

On Aug. 16, lawmakers and experts from DEEP and CAES gathered in Chester to discuss future plans for controlling hydrilla in Connecticut. At the press conference, Sen. Richard Blumenthal announced that he is looking to secure \$25 million from the

federal government.

Management costs for even small hydrilla populations can be high.

For instance, the cost for hydrilla control with herbicides in Coventry Lake currently exceeds \$100,000

annually, according to a CAES Invasive Aquatic Vegetation survey. And be-

tween 2008 and 2015 Florida spent \$66 million trying to fight off the plant.

Bogle estimated that treating hydrilla at East Twin will cost the TLA tens of thousands of dollars just this year but noted that no dollar value can be placed on protecting the lakes.

"How will it be funded moving forward? I don't know, but in the end, we are determined to do this right."

Threat to sensitive ecosystems

Bogle pointed out that the Twin Lakes drain into the Schenob Brook in Berkshire County, Massachusetts, which has been identified as a critically sensitive ecosystem for its many rare and endangered plant and animal

"That is a special concern," the TLA president noted, as is an environmentally sensitive fen in West Twin Lake. "There are all kinds of ecosystems that we are trying to protect, so there is a real

Did you know?

Hydrilla, also known as water thyme, is one of the toughest and most economically damaging aquatic plants.

The federally identified noxious weed clogs waterways and slows movement of the water. Its dense, green foliage reduces light penetration and dissolved oxygen levels in the water, hurting fish populations.

Even the tiniest fragment of the plant can hitch a ride on boats, kayaks, jet skis and even nine-headed serpent in fishing equipment and Greek Mythology.

contaminate other lakes and waterbodies.

Hydrilla also impedes recreation and reduces property values in areas it has infested, according to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES).

What's more, hydrilla reproduces in four ways, including sprouting from tiny, broken fragments of its stem. For this reproductive ability, hydrilla was named after Hydra, the regenerating

gather." The Connecticut River hy-

urgency here to move with

all the scientific folks we can

drilla grows fast and is more robust than other variants, said the experts.

"A mature plant, with multiple growing points, can add 20 to 30 inches of plant biomass a day," according to Conklin. "We had invasives before that were pretty challenging, but they are nothing compared to this."

East Twin's advantage

DEEP's Goclowski said East Twin has several advantages over the Connecticut River battle with hydrilla because it is not as large a system with flowing water, and so far, the places where the invasive weed has been identified have been fairly limited

"It was found early on, and they have a reasonable chance of eradicating it if they jump on it quickly," said the biologist of the East Twin Lake infestation.

As for how effective this week's treatment will be in halting East Twin's infestation, "We don't know a lot about how this strain is going to respond to this herbicide, but it will certainly knock it back," and probably warrants some follow-up spot treatments in the spring, said Goclowski.

'The location of the hydrilla is definitely problematic because that's the area with the most boat traffic. At DEEP, we are going to be following the situation very closely" in conjunction with the Twin lakes Association and the CAES.

Goclowski further noted that the state's boating division will be doing outreach to inform the public, particularly boaters, about invasive species, the importance of doing voluntary vessel inspections and tips on avoiding spread from one body of water to another.

Rand said even though he found the DEEP permit process to be "frustratingly slow at times," he is optimistic that ongoing monitoring and treatment headed by the state with support from the TLA and other environ- in February, the board cremental groups will result in ated a charter commission

a favorable outcome. He noted that regardless of the cost, controlling and eradicating hydrilla in East Twin Lake is the first priority. "We don't want it to go any further. It's a terrible thing. We can't do this every year."

MEETINGS

Continued from Page A1

who elected them. One major form is mayor-council, used by 30 large and some mid-sized cities. Usually the mayor is the chief executive and the council is the legislative branch, though it is possible to have a ceremonial or "weak" mayor in a council-manager system, as Hartford once did.

Council-manager

The other major format is the council-manager system, in which the town manager is the CEO appointed by the council, which is the legislative body. According to the Connecticut Town & City Management Association, 34 towns now have a town manager. Begun in the early 20th century as a response to political corruption in some cities, council-manager offers nonpartisan expertise and continuity. It allows the council to direct the work of the manager and otherwise focus on policy issues.

Council-manager has become one of the most popular systems in the country. According to a survey by the International City/County Management Association cited in the Chester study of nearly 11,000 U.S. towns with populations of 2,500 or more, 78% use either the council-manager (40%) or the mayor-council (38%) form of municipal government. Less than 10% of towns, all in New England, use the selectmen/town meeting.

There is a variation of the latter that might appeal to Chester. A dozen towns including Wilton and Columbia have town administrators, a kind of town manager-lite. Administrators assist the first selectman in the day-to-day running of the town, but the selectman is still the chief executive. Like a town manager, an administrator brings expertise and continuity to town hall and may even encourage more people to run for the board of selectmen.

Chester Charter Commission

After the governance report was presented to the Chester board of selectmen to further explore possible changes in local governance.

It is possible to make some changes in local governance by ordinance, as Chester did this year when its part-time elected treasurer position became vacant. The selectmen passed an ordinance making the position appointive and gave the duties to the town's accounts manager.

But a charter offers more flexibility. A charter gives a town "a great deal of freedom to decide how things should work," said attorney Roberts.

With a charter, a town can drop or alter the selectmen/town meeting system. Instead of the town meeting as the sole legislative branch, a charter could allow the selectmen to take on some legislative responsibility. For example, instead of sending every new ordinance or relatively minor expenditure to a town meeting, the selectmen could vote them up or down and save the town meeting for major items such as the annual budget. The size of the board of selectmen can be expanded, as Marlborough did; terms of office can be staggered or extended from two to four years for continuity's sake.

While it is possible to appoint a town manager without a charter, all 34 towns that have done so have charters. That Chester has a charter commission doesn't necessarily mean it will have a charter. But it can be done. Many towns have adopted charters. The Chester Charter Commission hopes to have a proposed charter ready for a referendum in the 2024 general election.

This reporting was made possible, in part, through generous support from Robert W. Fiondella and the Fiondella Family Trust.

Part I of this series appeared in the Aug. 31 issue and is available at www.tricornernews.com

The Journal occasionally will offer articles from CTMirror.org, a source of nonprofit journalism and a partner with The Lakeville

ELECTION

Continued from Page A1

Democrats.

After confirming with the Town Clerk, North Canaan's registrars said this was the first municipal primary elec-

tion in town history. We have not had any kind of primary like this ever before in a municipal election," said Republican Registrar Rosemary Keilty.

Interest in the primary caused North Canaan's Republican party to grow by more than 20% in the weeks leading up to the Sept. 12 election. Prior to the announcement of the primary race, there were 561 registered town Republicans. By the deadline to register to vote in the primary, over 100 unaffiliateds became registered Republicans and the party grew to 694 members.

"We had 409 people vote yesterday, which is a very good turn-out," said Keilty, adding that many more non-Republican voters were turned away on Sept. 12 for not registering with the party in time to vote in the primary.

North Canaan's primary saw 58.9% of eligible voters cast ballots in the election, the highest voter turnout in the state in 2023 primary

As of Sept. 13, the town's Republican Party had grown by another 18 voters to total 712 members, surpassing the unaffiliated bloc in town for the first time. On Aug. 1 of this year there were 810 unaffiliated voters in North Canaan, but as of Sept. 13 that figure had dropped to 690.

"We made some town history yesterday," Keilty wrote in a statement on Sept. 13.

With the ballots finalized for the November election in North Canaan, Whiting and Bunce will face off again in less than two months as they vie for a seat on the Board of Selectmen.

Voting day for 2023 municipal elections will be held on Nov. 7.

ENROLLMENT

Continued from Page A1

duct this type of assessment has existed in Region One, it has largely been administered through Pupil Services. The new training will result in each school having a team of trained individuals.

HVRHS Principal Ian Strever reported that Letitia Garcia-Tripp will be the department head for the Science Department, and Jackie Fenn will share the responsibilities with John Marsicano in the Special Education Department. Sara Braun will join the Science Department, and the faculty there will shift their teaching assignments slightly in order to align with their teaching certifications. (The board acknowledged the resignation

of veteran science teacher

Nur Abdulhayoglu earlier in the meeting.) Jacqui Rice has shifted to the PE/Health department to replace Lindsley Colligan, who retired at the end of last year. Her vacancy in the Mathematics Department will be filled by Colleen O'Reilly.

Strever reported that the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) voted in June to accept HVRHS' Five-Year Progress Report and continue the accreditation of the high school.

The board was informed that art teacher Warren Prindle will retire at the end of the 2023-24 school year.

The annual open house at HVRHS is Thursday, Sept. 21 from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Send news tips to johnc@lakevillejournal.com



Meet our new President & CEO-Maura A. Malo



With 30 years of experience and 20 years as a member of our bank family, Maura became President and CEO on September 2. She succeeds retired President Steve Reilly.

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We are grateful for all that Maura has contributed to the bank in her previous positions, and look forward to her leadership in her new role.

Congratulations, Maura!

Maura has served as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Chief Risk Officer and Internal Auditor. She was an FDIC Bank Examiner from 1993-2003 before she joined Litchfield Bancorp - A Division of Northwest Community Bank. She holds an MBA from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and a BS from Western New England University. She is a graduate of the National School of Banking, and has received the New Leaders in Banking Award from the Connecticut Bankers Association. She also is an active community volunteer in several organizations.



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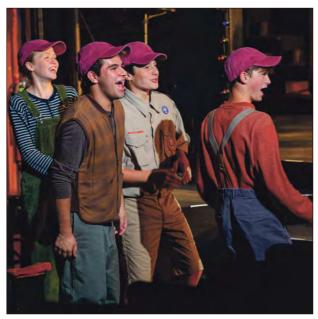
Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

THEATER: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Our Town on Stage

'n Ann Patchett's new novel, "Tom Lake," (narrated on Audible by Litchfield County, Conn., resident Meryl Streep), Patchett describes a cavalcade of hopefuls flocking to the open-call auditions for "Our Town," a cross-section of young and elderly residents that neatly mirrors the demographics of Thornton Wilder's fictional New England town. Director Andrus Nichols has found the same kind of ensemble for her production at The Sharon Playhouse, led by Emmy and Golden Globe-nominated Sharon, Conn., resident Jane Kaczmarek and filled with plenty of Northwest Corner familiar faces — Playhouse board members Emily Soell, Savannah Stevenson, and John Champion, Associate Artistic Director Michael Kevin Baldwin, local students like Vincent Valcin, Carter McCabe and Kennadi Mitchell, and Housatonic Valley Regional High School social studies teacher Deron Bayer as Frank Gibbs, the town's doctor.

Set across three points in time in rural Grover's Corners at the turn of the 20th century, Wilder's 1938 Pulit-



PRODUCTION PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARON PLAYHOUSE

The young ensemble of student actors in The Playhouse's production of "Our Town."

zer-Prize-winning piece of metatheatre utilizes an undecorated stage with mimed prop work and a narrator who addresses the audience directly, free to interrupt a scene and provide explanation. The role has been inhabited famously by Orson Welles, Spalding Gray, and even Paul Newman. Here, Kaczmarek steps out of the patriarchal expectation to find something warmer, more empathetic, and emotionally resonant in her role as a sort of phantom historian.

While Dick Terhune and Deron Bayer as neighboring fathers and town staples — the doctor and the newspaper editor — and Eric Bryant as George Gibbs, the literal "boy-next-door," help color the first two acts' coming-of-age tone, Nichols' casting hands the final act to the actresses.

The final chapter of Grover's Corners closes as recently deceased Emily (Samantha Steinmetz) flickers between a memory of life and her afterlife, between her dead mother-in-law (perfect character work by Marinell Crippen) and her living mother (Dawn

Continued on next page



ART: LEILA HAWKEN

Mural is Underway at Sharon Center School

ollowing months of advocacy, planning, and overseeing the selection of a muralist, the project to brighten a public-facing wall at Sharon Center School in Sharon, Conn., began in earnest on Labor Day weekend. A few days later the mural inspired by the children at Sharon Center School was already taking shape.

Muralist Morgan
Blair was busy with a
vibrant palette of colors to create the mural
based on the students'
floral designs found on
the indoor mural at the
school. She paused her
work for a conversation
on Wednesday, Sept. 6.
She said her approach is
to imagine that the two
student-inspired murals
are in conversation with
each other.

"It's my favorite thing to do," Blair said of the project. "The kids' drawings were inventive and sometimes weird — interpretations of a flower that are totally beyond.

"I love to see the kids recognize their designs, seeing that they've been blown way up for the mural," Blair added.

Continued on next page



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WBSL FM 91.7

Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA $\,$

BOOKS: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A Historian Embraces Age and Fiction

om Shachtman of Salisbury, Conn., has a new novel, "Echoes, or The Insistence of Memory." He will be at the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury on Tuesday, Sept. 26, at 6 p.m., to read from the book and participate in a discussion led by Bruce McEv-

In "Echoes," the protagonist, Ell (short for Sue-Ellen) is a young woman of white and Mexican heritage with a master's degree in writing under her belt, a children's book published, another in the works, and a documentary film she can't sell.

...mural

Continued from previous page

Blair said that, as of

"Maybe that's some-

thing I can come up with

with the kids," she said.

Asked about the

details, Blair said, "The

process is intuitive for

many questions. 'Why

stop there? Why, Why,

valuable art lesson for

the sidewalk superinten-

dents as they stop by to

...our town

Continued from previous page

Stern, finding an earthy

grit in the housewife's la-

bor). In conjunction with

performance, the quartet

Kaczmarek's heartfelt

of actresses delivers a

inspect the progress."

Why...?' It is clearly a

me, but the kids have so

that brush? Why did you

now, the new mural still

needs a title.

She also has a boyfriend who has "ghosted" her, she worries about making the rent, and is troubled by a recurring, unpleasant dream.

To top it all off she is digging into her family history and discovering that her ancestors were slaveholders.

Ell wonders if she should announce her family history on social media and risk blowback.

In a phone conversation Sunday, Sept. 17, Shachtman was asked if he was worried that someone might accuse him of cultural appropriation for writing about this particular woman.

to the elements.

ect a reality.

poignant finale that is

mark on the audience,

serving as the enduring

takeaway from the pro-

duction.

sure to leave an indelible

"I don't know," he said. "It's not demeaning in any way. If someone wants to accuse me, I cant prevent it."

The story moves from straightforward third-person narration into a screenplay format, as Ell imagines her life in cinematic form.

Asked about this device, Shachtman said that over the course of the story, Ell phases out the screenplay musings as part of her process of self-examination.

The Center for

It's something he knows about.

"She's a graduate of a master's program in writing. I'm a graduate of one, and have taught in them."

Shachtman also has a long-standing interest in dreams.

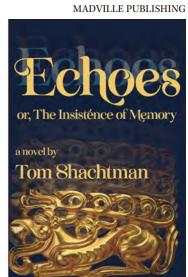
"They come from something we don't recognize, they come from way back. I looked for a long while for a story to cloak it in."

Shachtman has had a varied career, including

works of fiction, non-fiction, memoir and screenplays.

Asked why he ventured on a novel at this point, he said having just wrapped up a 10 year, three volume history on the American Revolution, he was looking for a change.

"At my terribly advanced age I am letting my fiction stuff come to the fore."



THEATER: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Rhinebeck Teens Go Greek

Performing Arts at Rhinebeck will present a production of "The Lightning Thief: The Blair expected that Percy Jackson Musical" the weather-dependent through its Teens on project would take two Stage program. Permore weeks to comformed in the company's plete. The work began barn-style mainstage with a projected image in Rhinebeck, N.Y., the on the wall to set the production will run design. She uses exterior, Fridays, Saturdays, and semi-gloss acrylic paint, Sundays from Sept. 22 chosen for its resistance through Oct. 1. Directed and choreographed by "It should last," she Lynne Czajka with musisaid of the mural while cal direction by Andrew crediting Sharon Center Stein; the show originat-School art teacher Lilly ed Off-Broadway in New Barnett for her work in York City with music and making the whole projlyrics by Rob Rokicki and a book by Joe Tracz. Based on the New York Times best-selling middle-grade series by Rick

mother and the Ancient Greek God of the oceans, Poseidon.

In Riordan's world, the mythic monsters and nature deities of Antiquity moved west to follow industrial progression and now dwell in the kitschy pizzaz of the United States, along with contemporary mores and 21st-century half-mortal offspring. Zeus reigns from a secret floor atop the Empire State Building, Hades rules over soul-sucking Hollywood in Hel-L.A., the messenger god Hermes dons running lycra, and Poseidon wears Bermuda shorts to fish. Percy and the other children sired through parental affairs with celestial beings are shunted off not to an Eton-que boarding school but to summer camp, where they study combat with the centaur Chiron, the trainer of legendary heroes from Achilles to Aristaeus, who was



'CHIRON AND ACHILLES' BY JOHN SINGER SARGENT' MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS BOSTON

painted by Auguste-Clément Chrétien, Giovanni Battista Cipriani, Jean-Baptiste Regnault and many more. A significant leg up (human or horse) that Riordan has over J.K. Rowling is that young readers may very well walk away with a subconscious education in the Classics, able to identify a caduceus,

an aspis, the legendary children of Echida or the Trials of Hercules. As Riordan's fictional gods moved west, he fulfilled their prophecy through his writing: ancient stories live on as they find new readers.

For tickets at The Center for Performing Arts go to www.centerforperformingarts.org

2023 Fall Haystack Book Festival

The 2023 Fall Haystack Book Festival in Norfolk, Conn., will begin on Friday, Sept. 29, bringing together Ada Calhoun, author of "Also A Poet: Frank O'Hara, My Father, and Me" with Priscilla Gillman, author of "The Critic's Daughter" in conversation with author Courtney Maum. Panels and lectures will continue through the weekend. For a full list of scheduled events and to purchase tickets, go to www.norfolkfoundation.net/book-talks



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Riordan, "Percy Jackson

story follows a troubled

tanite who discovers he

is the product of a mod-

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his working-class single

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The Lakeville Lournal

EDITORIAL PAGE B3 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2023

EDITORIAL Farewell Summertime

The September equinox is here, the time to say farewell to summertime. Fall is coming, and given some recent cool nights it feels as if it's already here. School has started, summer vacations are over, and for many this time of year signals a time to get back to work after a season spent outdoors in the sunshine, hiking trails, swimming in our lakes and ponds and watching fireflies dance in the dark.

Looking back over the news that dominated our summer, we are reminded that it was a full season. It started with high school graduations. Those seniors are now freshmen in college, or they are getting into the workplace with their first jobs that aren't after-school or summer gigs. Summer interns came and went, gaining practical experience as they anticipate their post-collegiate careers.

Nature had an impact on the Northwest Corner, dumping heavy rains in early July and then again later in the month. The Housatonic River raged at Bull's Bridge in Kent. In Norfolk, the downpours washed out Route 272 between Norfolk and Torrington, and throughout many towns the state of Connecticut faced a massive job to repair roads and bridges.

The rains also dealt a biological blow to the spongy moth by triggering a fungus that attacked the invasive insects after two back-to-back years of defoliation.

Our institutions became a focal point. Sharon Hospital remained in the news as its application to close labor and delivery services faced state and public scrutiny. By summer's end it received a 'no' decision from the state Office of Health Strategy. The issue will reach into the fall because the hospital was granted an extention until Oct. 18 to appeal. Another mainstay institution, Salisbury Bank and Trust Company, joined forces in a merger with NBT Bank, a bigger bank based in Norwich, New York. It was the end of an era for the local bank — with roots dating to 1848 as the Salisbury Savings Society. Another venerable institution, the Hotchkiss

Library of Sharon, reopened in mid-August after completing a new addition to the building that had stood largely untouched for the past century. The rebuilding of the Salmon Kill Bridge in Salisbury, which initially was targeted for a spring completion, dragged out. The bridge work continues with hope for a fall reopening.

Summer 2023 was a social event for people in towns across the Northwest Corner, despite an uptick in COVID cases that once again threatened our communal health. This fall there are new boosters that are backed by the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The summerlong list of weekend activities seemed to never end, ranging from farmers' markets to foot races to community-wide festivals. The Lakeville Journal, a nonprofit, also held a street fair in Salisbury for the second year in a row, celebrating the work of 30 nonprofit organizations that serve the public.

We said it here before. Marshall Miles' death marked he end of an era when all of us in the Northwest Corner were lucky to have a "perfect local newscaster" with an unparalleled understanding of life in our towns. Marshall co-founded Robin Hood Radio, which later had affiliated with NPR and was broadcasting as "the smallest NPR station in the nation." James L. Buckley, conservative politician and U.S. Senator representing New York, who had spent most of his life in Sharon, died last month at age 100. His death represented the end of an important political era, and he was remembered as a paragon of virtue.

It was a full summer.



The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. each Monday. You may email letters to publisher@ lakevillejournal.com.

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TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Norma Bosworth

100 years ago — September 1923

Kennard Suydam has finished a three year course of training at Pratt and Whitney's, Hartford, and is now home for a month's vacation.

Adv.: When You Desire Anything in my line such as house-painting, fresh coating, varnishing, glazing, etc. Apply to Peter A. Kisselbrack, Lakeville. Do not hang paper.

Abram Martin, the potato king, recently dug up a hill of what he calls "Double Yield" variety. He found 17 nice large tubers and not a small one among them.

Mrs. Homer Bathrick of Millerton is at her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Welch's of Lime Rock. She was in an auto accident last Saturday, dislocating her shoulder.

50 years ago — September 1973

They're hauling tons of sunflower seeds into the tri-

state area again this week. Community Service Inc. of Lakeville, just one of many firms which sells bird feed here each winter, expects a shipment of 21 ½ tons -that's 43,000 pounds -- on Monday. Before the season is out Community Service expects to receive and sell 80 tons or more of food for the birds who winter here. Figure that dozens of other markets, hardware and feed stores handle this kind of product, and you come up with the realization that people in these towns feed the birds hundreds of tons of sunflower seeds and other feed each winter.

Ernie Goderis of Pettee Street is enjoying a reunion with Fred Ahboltin and his wife, Monica, who arrived in Lakeville unexpectedly last week from out west. Mr. Goderis and Mr. Ahboltin had been in the Army together in England during World War II and had not seen each other since 1945.

25 years ago — September 1998

The staff of Sharon Hospital will not have union representation, at least for now. The majority of the 275 voters in the union election last Thursday said "nay" when they went to the National Labor Relations Board polls, casting an almost two-to-one collective vote against the union -- 147 no, 77 yes -- and in favor of interim president Michael Gallacher having a chance to address the hospital's issues.

Connecticut's Department of Transportation is moving forward to install a flashing yellow light at the intersection of Route 44 and Lincoln City Road. The light will actually be installed some time next year, according to Michele London, DOT's supervising property agent. An easement was needed to place a support wire on the property of Dr. William Geer.

If someone had dropped by the Sharon Town Hall Monday afternoon, he or she might have been led blindly to the first selectman's office for a surprise. It isn't often Robert Moeller stands in

his doorway with a black rat snake wrapped around his arm. Especially since that particular snake has not been known to travel farther north than Kent, he said. He plans to take the reptile to a record keeper to "authenticate it" to make sure the species is documented as having been found in the town of Sharon. The animal, which was spotted on the driveway in front of the Hotchkiss Library and suspected of having been run over by a car, took to Moeller as if the first selectman was his daddy, looking out at the crowd of spectators with only slight anxiety.

FALLS VILLAGE — Fire alarms wailed throughout town Monday night, but it was not a house that was in trouble. A train on the Housatonic Railroad caught fire, ground to a halt at Warren Turnpike, and burned for about an hour before it was extinguished. No one

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nuvance must accept OHS judgment

Idaho, Texas, Alabama, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Tennessee, Indiana, Ohio, South Carolina, Missouri, Florida ...all states I once called out in praise for their rural health care programs, are now places where the Republican led legislatures are known for instituting violent laws which are full of hatred and cruelty criminalizing women's bodies. American women are feeling angry, frightened and hopeless.

We need to spread our good news that offers hope. The Office of Health Strategy drew a bright line explaining what access to reproductive health care should mean in rural Connecticut. We respect and honor the women of our state, and want to ensure they have the access to all the health care they need.

The hearing for CON 32511 was held Dec. 6, 2022, and lasted 12 hours. During that time Hearing Officer, Daniel J. Csuka maintained

an impressive level of professionalism and calm. A mighty fight was presented by Dr. Mortman (along with a host of other doctors) and the Save Sharon Hospital team. Twelve thousand pages of testimony was submitted. The outcome was the full-throated support to access to rural reproductive healthcare, authored by the staff of OHS, and signed by the Hearing Officer Csuka.

Nuvance's staff at Sharon Hospital (SH), under the direction of Attorney Theodore Tucci and his staff, was given ample opportunity to explain their 'transformational plan' and knew full well what was

Yet when asked by OHS staff at the hearing, "to describe how the Proposal will improve quality of health care," SH stated that approving the termination of the Services "will have no impact on the quality of care in the region."

Really?? That was the best

they had?? Yet again they proved that they do NOT care about the health of the families they serve. They care about the paymaster who cracks the whip.

Facts and OHS were on the side of women's reproductive health. "All of the available research is clear that even when alternative arrangements are made and emergency department staff is as fully prepared as possible, rural L&D closure results in bad quality and safety outcomes, including premature birth, low-birth weight, maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity, and increased risk of postpartum depression. Rural L&D closures also result in emergency department births, non-indicated induced c-section, postpartum hemorrhage, prolonged hospital stays, and an increase in perinatal mortality. There is no reason to believe that SH's experience

would be any different."

Nuvance must accept this judgment. Appealing this decision only proves what little regard they have for the women and families of our region, and for health care, their chosen profession.

The Connecticut Hospital Association must show some leadership by supporting the state's decision and the women and families it protects; acknowledging that the days of L&D closures are no longer appropriate and that access to rural reproductive health care is something they stand for. Tell Nuvance not to appeal.

It is long past time for the Sharon Hospital Board to speak out for the well-being of the women and children they represent, to call for healing and an end to this battle. Tell everyone they value life in this community and tell Nuvance they must not appeal.

Deborah Moore

Sharon

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

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Viewpoint

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar. To submit calendar items, email editor@lakevillejournal.com

■ SEPTEMBER 22

Housing + Jobs + Conservation: A Roadmap for Action

Salisbury Forum, Salisbury School, 251 Canaan Road, Salisbury, Conn. salisburyforum.org

There will be a Salisbury Forum event on Housing + Jobs + Conservation on Sept. 22 with a reception at 5 p.m. and a program at 6:30 p.m.

Housing is rapidly becoming less affordable for residents in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut and the surrounding region, making it difficult for those who work in local businesses, schools, and nonprofits to find a home. This forum will explore how towns and local organizations can expand housing affordability while balancing other important issues, including land conservation.

The forum will be facilitated by Steve Rosenberg, co-convener Hudson Valley Affordable Housing & Conservation Strategy, formerly of Scenic Hudson.

Panelists include Jocelyn Ayer, Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity (LCCHO); Michael Polemis, Chair, Land Trust Alliance; and Gordon Ridgway, First Selectman, Cornwall, Conn.

Walking the West Highland Way

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

On Friday, Sept. 22 at 3:30 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library will host a presentation by local resident Jenny Law about her recent walk of the 96 mile West Highland Way in Scotland. Photos of her journey will accompany the presentation. This program is free and open to the public.

■ SEPTEMBER 23

North Canaan Fall Fest Municipal Parking Lot,

Usher in autumn in

Municipal Parking Lot, Railroad Street, North Canaan, Conn.

North Canaan at Fall Fest, Saturday, Sept. 23, at the municipal parking lot from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pumpkin decorating, temporary tattoo parlor, firetruck rides, meet Trooper Bronson, arts and crafts, games, ice cream truck, kids market vendors, library book sale and trick-or-treat around town to visit participating businesses. All day fun will continue at Great Falls Brewing Company with Barnstormers Burgers & More Food Truck 12-7. Costume Party for the grown-ups starts at 6. Prizes for best in each category. Come play and enjoy all that North Canaan has to offer!

*Masks required for some activities by all participants.

Taste of Millbrook

Millbrook Vineyards & Winery, 26 Wing Rd, Millbrook, N.Y. Join The Millbrook Educational Foundation (MEF) on Saturday evening, Sept. 23, at the Millbrook Winery for the Taste of Millbrook, a celebration of the great work that the Foundation does with the Millbrook Central School District.

Wines from Millbrook Vineyards & Winery paired with a spread of foods from local restaurants and caterers. Locally produced spirits from Tenmile Distillery will also be served. Participating restaurants and chefs prepare what they consider their best dishes and feature them at showcase tables and passed on small plates served by Millbrook High School students.

Tickets are \$125 and can be bought at https:// millbrookeducational foundation.org/thetaste-of-millbrook-2023/

Kent Quiz Night 2023 Sponsored by Kent Memorial Library

Kent Firehouse, 28 Maple St., Kent, Conn.

Kent Quiz Night is back at the Kent Firehouse this year! Brought to you by the Kent Memorial Library, the very popular and fun Kent Quiz Night will be held on Saturday, Sept. 23 beginning at 7 p.m., with doors opening at 6 p.m. at the spacious Kent Firehouse at 28 Maple St., Kent, Conn.

The evening's format is as follows: teams of 4 are formed of adults 18 years of age and above before the event. The Quizmaster, Sarah Marshall, has created prewritten questions and will mark points as each team answers. Steve Pener will once again serve as the charming Emcee. At the end of the evening, the highest scoring team will win a \$200 prize.

For more information call 860-927-3761 or email kla-bmcallister@biblio.org.

■ SEPTEMBER 29

Pumpkin Shows at Naumkeag

The Trustees of Reservations thetrustees.org/program/ halloween

There will be pumpkins, pumpkins everywhere at The Incredible Naumkeag Pumpkin Show in Stockbridge, Mass.

The Incredible Naumkeag Pumpkin Show opens Sept. 30 and runs through Oct. 29. It will feature more than 1,500 jack-olanterns, hundreds of mums, pumpkins and countless gourds, most of which were grown at Naumkeag. Timed entry tickets are required for this event and must be purchased in advance. Admission is available Wednesdays through Sundays from 5 to 8:30 p.m. There is also an early hour option from 4 to 5 p.m.

Details can be found at www.thetrustees.org/ program/halloween

Gas powered vehicles: Unsafe at any speed

n August 22, Connecticut's Department of Energy and Environmental Protection held an online hearing, where the public could comment on the state's proposed adoption of California's regulations designed to speed the transition from cars and trucks powered by internal combustion engines to electric vehicles (EVs).

If Connecticut adopts these regulations, we will join Vermont, New York, Washington, Oregon, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Maryland who have adopted the ACCII (Advanced Clean Cars) rules, which gradually phase out the selling of new gas cars by 2035. If this sounds too ambitious, consider that GM has already announced that it will phase out selling internal combustion engine vehicles by 2035 and other car companies have set earlier target dates.

We heard some dubious statements made by those opposing adoption of the regulations and would like to clear a few things up:

We heard that all gas cars would be banned. But these regulations would apply only to the sale of new cars and only to manufacturers, not car dealers or car buyers.

We heard that the grid can't take charging so many EVs. While we are going to have to modernize our electric distribution and transmission systems as we move away from burning fossil fuels to move cars and heat buildings, we can do this in a smart and efficient way. For example, we can (and already do) incentivize EV car and truck owners to charge mostly at night, when there is plenty of capacity to spare,

rather than during the day when wires, transformers and substations sometimes reach their limits. It's also worth noting that due to efficiency and behind the meter solar, electricity demand is forecast to increase by just 1.4% per year between 2022 and 2031. EV owners who have solar and storage can charge without impacting the grid at all. PURA has a series of grid modernization dockets that is looking at the bigger picture. The ACC II regulations are not happening in a vacuum.

We heard that EVs are too expensive. But after state and federal incentives are factored in, EVs are pretty much on a par with internal combustion engine vehicles. EVs are often less expensive than gasoline-powered vehicles if you look at lifetime costs of ownership. Even with no incentives there are several models below \$35,000 and the EV revolution is just starting. More and cheaper models are on the way. Plus, there are many used EVs available and more are coming, too. A Chevy Bolt purchased in 2017 cost \$42,000 (before incentives). That same car now starts under \$27,000 according to Kelley Blue Book.

We heard that EVs rely on minerals controlled by China and that mining rare earth minerals causes environmental damage. But battery technology and the supply chain that supports it are still early in their development. New rare mineral deposits have been found in Chile, Australia, the United States and elsewhere. The search is also on for new battery designs that use easier to find and cheaper minerals. The bat-

CT VIEWPOINTS

By Peter Millman and Bernard Pelletier

teries of 2035 will be different than the ones we have now. Some of these new chemistries are already coming online, such as LFP and LMFP batteries that use no nickel or cobalt. Even lithium-ion batteries are becoming increasingly efficient in their use of rare-earths. A larger point is that the cost to people and the environment by the oil industry's exploitation of resources has been high, to say the least. Think of the many oil spills, air pollution, and reliance on repressive, often unstable regimes. We should not forget the Exxon Valdez, Deepwater Horizon, Venezuela, and Libya, to name just a few of the impacts of our reliance on oil.

We heard that EVs simply replace pollution from the tailpipe with pollution from the smokestack. But even when an EV runs on a grid powered by coal (e.g., Ohio) it is still less polluting than an internal combustion engine vehicle. More importantly as the electric grid goes green – so does every EV. An internal combustion engine vehicle pollutes forever.

We heard that Connecticut is the Constitution state and that these regulations violate our freedom to choose. But sensible regulations are part of our lives and we are healthier, safer and more prosperous because of them. Regulations govern the design of cars and trucks, how homes are built and where,

how much pollution a manufacturing plant or truck can emit, and how sellers of stocks and bonds must protect investors. The transition to electric vehicles is inevitable in the long run because they are superior machines. It is not inevitable that this transition will take place fast enough. To blunt the disastrous effects of climate change, we need to accelerate the process, which the proposed regulations will do.

As the tobacco companies did decades ago and before that the lead companies, the fossil fuel industry is fighting tooth and nail to slow down the transition away from the products it sells.

Borrowing from the title of Ralph Nader's once popular book, cars and trucks that burn gas or diesel are unsafe at any speed: Unsafe to our health, unsafe to our future prosperity, and unsafe to our climate. We need to transition as soon as possible to electric vehicles.

Peter Millman and Bernard Pelletier are part of People's Action for Clean Energy, an organization working for energy efficiency, conservation, and clean renewable energy all across Connecticut.

The Journal occasionallywill offer articles from CTMirror.org, a source of nonprofitjournalism and a partner with The Lakeville Journal.

September not kind to investors

istorically, this is the month that the three main averages of the stock market usually perform the poorest. It doesn't have to happen, but my advice would be to tread carefully in September.

The "September Effect" is a market anomaly worldwide. It is unrelated to any event or news. The Dow Jones Industrial Average as well as the S&P 500 Index have averaged a decline of 0.8% and 0.5% respectively since 1950 during this month. In the period from 1928 through 2021, the benchmark S&P had an even worse record, down 1% on average.

The only reasonable explanation might be that investors tend to cash in on gains made throughout the sleepy summer, but that's just a guess. As for the historical track record, I pay attention, although I need more reasons than seasonality to make me wary.

In any event, stocks regained quite a bit of the August 5.5% sell-off by the end of the month. I was expecting a bounce and I got it. Quarterly corporate earnings helped somewhat. On average, earnings came in better than expected.

Volume has been extremely light throughout the month since most of the financial community was on vacation. Only skeleton staff manned the trading desks and that allowed traders to push the averages higher on fewer and fewer stocks.

THE RETIRED INVESTOR BY BILL SCHMICK

The economic data this week also helped support the markets. Remember that bad economic news is good for the stock market right now. The weaker the data the higher the chance that the Fed will pause or even cease raising interest rates.

The second quarter Gross Domestic Product was revised downward by 0.3% to 2.1%.

The Fed's key inflation indicator, the Personal Consumer Expenditure Index (PCE) came in as expected with a gain of 0.2%, which was no change versus last month.

On the jobs front, both the Jobs Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) and ADP National Employment Report data indicated that new job creation slowed substantially last month. Both data points are considered a leading indicator of the labor market. A recent nonfarm payroll revealed that the economy only added 187,000 new jobs and the unemployment rate rose to 3.8%. Bad news for labor but good news for the Fed which wanted to see employment gains slow.

On another subject, the marijuana industry had a good week. Many pot stocks

saw gains of between 30-50%. Several marijuana exchange-traded funds also spiked higher. Why?

The Health and Human Services, after reviewing the present status of marijuana in the U.S. at the behest of the Biden Administration, recommended to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) that the classification of marijuana be changed from a Schedule 1 controlled substance to a Schedule III drug. What's the difference?

A Schedule I drug is considered one "with no currently accepted use and a high potential for abuse." A Schedule III substance has "moderate to low potential for physical and psychological dependence." If the DEA were to re-classify marijuana, it would then be considered a drug like ketamine, anabolic steroids, and testosterone, which are all Schedule III drugs. The difference in schedules could provide a large boost in sales, cash flow, and profits for American-based pot purveyors. My advice is to hold back if you have an itch to play this sector.

All the stocks are up a

All the stocks are up a huge amount and will likely be subject to profit-taking shortly.

The week before Labor Day weekend is usually up. Check that one off the list. The risk going forward during the next few weeks is that we pull back to re-test the lows made on the S&P 500 Index in mid-August. From a technical point of view, that would be perfectly normal. But, if we break that level (roughly 4,432 or -5.5% from here), then we could go

even lower, How much lower? A rough guess would be down to the 4,200 level give or take.

Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onota Partners Inc. in the Berkshires. None of his commentary is or should be considered investment advice. Email him at bill@-schmicks-retiredinvestor.com.

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Ungardener meet Gardener

Grappling with human instinct in the woodland

fter ten days of holiday away, I returned to a jungle where there had been woodland. That my jungle is a proliferation of aggressive natives rather than invasive plants means that my efforts at clearing them off the property is working. But now what? What is the 'right' thing to do when native species grow out of control?

I have never seen so much Clearweed, Pilea pumila, on our land but with the amount of rain we have had this summer I am not entirely surprised to have seen a carpet of it spreading over the strawberry groundcover and throughout the woods.

Until I read about this plant several years ago on Margaret Roach's "Away to Garden" podcast transcript I did not know that Clearweed is a food source to at least four types of caterpillars. With that knowledge I then left a swath of them around. Now I needed to make a quick decision. I began by pulling the bigger ones, cutting off the bottom half of the plant below where the seeds nestle around the stem. There is so much moisture in the translucent stems, it seems to me that leaving the stems could be useful for the soil. As the smaller ones grow I am getting to those as well but there are thou-

I find myself in a perplexing situation that is, perhaps, the next level of ungardening — making decisions that are less about restoration and more about ensuring both a diversity of native species and, dare I write it, imposing an aesthetic — my aesthetic — into the woodland. More like a gardener than an ungardener.

Terms like "wilding" and "ungardening" suggest letting nature have its way which, more often than not, becomes synonymous with unruly, out of control and messy. My human instincts fight against that notion; most of the time, in most circumstances, I want control over the visual. When it comes to the woodland, nature's way is usually good enough for me...most of the

Consider the native plants whose seeds are enclosed in nature's Velcro. Enchanters Nightshade, Circaea lutetiana, has attractive leaves and a rather delicate spray of tiny white flowers above them. But those flowers turn into burrs that attach themselves to animals and, left to their devices, spread profusely. I pick them, knowing that I will never get them all and rationalizing that their riddance will continue to allow me to walk more easily in the



woodland.

The burrs on Virginia Stickseed, Hakelia virginiana, are even stickier than those of Enchanters Nightshade. They have ruined several wool hats, many pairs of work gloves and a fleece jacket or two, not to mention the havoc to Scout's fur. This plant also gets an unsightly mildew on the leaves mid-summer, making for an easier decision on aesthetic grounds. I cut it back when the mildew appears and before the flowers turn into the nasty small burrs. I have read that Native Americans used the roots for medicine but I cannot find any information on whether the seeds are an important food sources for birds. It could change my opinion...

Apropos of seeds — there is a profusion of them this year and my office is lined with paper bags and small jars into which I have collected an abundance: Devil's Walking Stick, Aralia racemosa; Wild Sarsaparilla, Aralia nudicaulis; Dolls Eye, Actaea pachypoda; Mapleleaf Viburnum, Viburnum acerifolia, Hobblebush, Viburnum lantanoides; Early Mead-



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

Clearweed is native but still an aggressive seeder in garden beds and woodland alike.

ow-rue, Thalictrum dioicum, Foamflower, Tiarella cordifolia and others. I will plant some in the woods and some in the marsh where we have so far cleared out about half of the stilt grass. (Thank you to Jane for the suggestion of the Mini Dragon weed torch with its pinpoint flame.)

There is enough Penstemon digitalis seed, when it is ready, to send a packet to ten readers. If you would like a seed packet please send your mailing address to me at dee@theungardener.com. First come, first served and I will respond to all of you to let you know if you are one of the ten or not.

Dee Salomon "ungardens" in Litchfield County.

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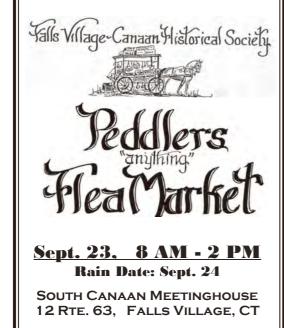
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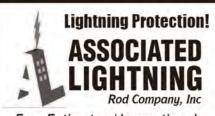
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