

North Canaan **GOP** primary Page A3

**HVRHS** varsity golf Page A7



Decision on Sharon Hospital Columns, Letters, **Opinion** Pages B3-4

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# The Lakeville Tournal

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

## **Sharon Hospital** denied bid to shut maternity unit

By Maud Doyle

SHARON — Sharon Hospital's application to close its Labor and Delivery Unit was denied by Connecticut's Office of Health Strategy (OHS) on Tuesday, Aug. 29.

The "proposed final decision" granted Sharon Hospital and its parent company, Nuvance Health, 21 days to appeal the decision. An appeal would continue a five-year battle between Sharon Hospital and members of the local community, led by Save Sharon Hospital, over maintaining the hospital's labor and delivery services.

Sharon Hospital filed a Certificate of Need to close the maternity unit with OHS in January 2022, citing financial concerns, declining birth rates in Litchfield County, and underutilization of its obstetrics unit.

The hospital, which has cited losses of more than \$20 million in a single year, estimated that closing the maternity unit would save \$3 million in large part by enabling the hospital to employ some 18 fewer staff members, and cut down on physician fees incurred by after-hours surgery

"This is good news, but the fight... is going to continue."

State Comptroller Sean Scanlon

and anesthesia services.

The hospital also described a decline in births at Sharon Hospital, citing fewer than one delivery per day in 2021, and difficulty attracting and retaining trained staff in a rural community.

At an OHS hearing in December 2022, doctors, advocates, and local families rebutted the hospital's claims that closing the maternity unit would not impact access to adequate care in the region, and raised questions about the hospital's claim that underutilization of the unit was causing irresolvable financial and safety concerns.

In its Aug. 29 decision, OHS found that Sharon Hospital had not adequately met five of eight applicable criteria to qualify for a Certificate of Need, repeatedly

See HOSPITAL, Page A8



### A weekend of speed, sound, and splendor

Motorist Molly Rowen arrived at Lime Rock Park after traveling from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in a 1939 MG TB for Historic Festival 41 over Labor Day weekend. The five day extravanza included a parade, racing, and more than 1,000 vintage vehicles. For full story, turn to page A9.

### Answering the call: A local look at EMS volunteerism

By Maud Doyle

SALISBURY — Whether a hiking accident at the top of Mount Riga, or a cardiac event at Lime Rock Park, the all-volunteer Salisbury ambulance squad has responded to emergency calls across all 57 square miles of Salisbury Town for over 50 years. Today, the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service (SVAS) finds itself responding to a different kind of challenge: a dearth of new, younger volunteers ready to take their places on the team.

"Salisbury, as rural as we are, truly depends on the volunteer ambulance. People have come to rely on it in a way they may not even realize—they just know that when they call 911, the ambulance will show up," said Barrie Prinz, who has been a board member of SVAS since 2019 and volunteered to join the ambulance squad last fall.

"They expect that somebody will respond and somebody does. And those somebodies are all volunteers."

Beginning Monday, Sept 11, SVAS is hosting an EMR certification course at its headquarters on 17 Under Mountain Rd. in Salisbury. It's free for those who intend to volunteer on completion, but the class is open to anyone, including non-residents, with an interest in becoming a first-level emergency responder (a nominal fee of \$250 will be charged to non-volunteers).

"They expect that somebody will respond and somebody does. And those somebodies are all volunteers."

Barrie Prinz, Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service

SVAS is also encouraging people to some 400 calls in a year; last year join as ambulance drivers (which they had about 650 calls, and this requires less training), or just to reach out and talk about what volunteering for the squad might look

**Volunteer Emergency Services** 

In 1971, emergency responders from Sharon Hospital were delayed in reaching a car accident in Falls Village. In response to the tragedy, a group of concerned citizens led by Rees Harris formed SVAS—they bought a car to refurbish as an ambulance, and the garage that still houses the squad on Under Mountain Road.

Until recently, it was the norm in rural Connecticut communities to have their own, all-volunteer emergency services—neighbors taking care of neighbors when called upon, rather than having tax dollars support a paid staff waiting for an emergency. SVAS estimated that a paid emergency medical staff would add at least \$300,000 to the town budget, triggering a tax increase for residents.

Meanwhile, the need for personnel has increased. While just five years ago, SVAS responded to

year the squad is on track to hit 700.

"I think there are a lot of people who don't realize that not one of their tax dollars goes to paying for their ambulance service," said Prinz. "People sometimes don't believe us that we're not going to charge them for the ambulance ride and the care, but we don't. We are totally free we can be that way because we are a nonprofit, and all

volunteer." There's value there of course, she said. But more than that, there's an invaluable intimacy to medical care administered by neighbors—espe-

cially in emergent situations. "When you call, you get get people who know you or they know of you. On one of my first calls, I was with a more senior EMT who knew where the key to the caller's door was, knew her son's names, knew something about her condition, knew where stuff was in her house, knew what obstacles we would face getting in and out of the house. When you get people

See SVAS, Page A10

### Coston recognized as '20 Over 50' honoree

By Carol Kneeland

John Coston, editor-in-chief of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, is one of 20 journalists over the age of 50 to be recognized in the Sept. 1 edition of trade publication Editor & Publisher.

E&P Editor Robin Blinder wrote that those chosen as 2023 "20 over 50" honorees were "nominated for their strong work ethic, transformational mindsets, commitment to journalistic and publishing excellence and ability to lead during challenging times."

Coston noted in the E&P article that his greatest sense of accomplishment is "acquiring a lifetime of experience working as a team with reporters and editors to put out a paper day after day, week after week. That especially





### John Coston

includes learning to recognize and respect writers' voices and nurturing those voices as an editor."

Susan Hassler, publisher of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, herself a veteran journalist, gave a nod to Coston's ap-

See COSTON, Page A10

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### Regional

### In The Journal this week

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### POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

#### Selling alcohol to minors

On Friday, Sept. 1, at approimately 4:15 p.m. Troop B responded to the Lakeville Patco at 10 Sharon Road for the report of an individual attempting to give alcohol to minors. An investigation led to the arrest of Hunter Watts, 34, of Salisbury, on five counts of risk of injury to a minor and five counts of attempte d sale of alcohol to a minor. Watts was held on \$50,000 cash-surety bond and was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Count on Sept. 5.

#### Avoiding animal in road

On Saturday, Sept. 2, at approximately 5:45 a.m. William Shepardson, 18, of New York, New York, was traveling northbound on Weatogue Road in Salisbury in a 2021 Honda Pilot when he saw an animal in the road. Shepardson left the road in an attempt to avoid hitting the animal and collided with a guardrail wire and a utility pole. He was found at fault and issued a written warning for failure to keep in proper

#### **Assault in Lawrence Field**

On Tuesday, Aug. 29 at approximately 6 p.m. troopers responded to Lawrence Field in the town of North Canaan for the report of a disturbance. Troopers determined that a 16-year-old juvenile had assaulted an elderly male, who was transported to the hospital for injuries. During the incident a trooper sustained a minor injury from the encounter with the juvenile, who also was sent to the hospital for an evaluation. An investigation resulted in the juvenile receiving a summons for assault of a victim over 60. He is scheduled to appear in Torrington Juvenile Court.

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



### Season Finale at the Norfolk Festival

Yale Professor in the Practice of Choral Music Jeffrey Douma leads a performance of Felix Mendelssohn's Hymn of Praise, Op.52 in the Norfolk Music Shed. The Saturday, Aug. 19 concert featured the Litchfield County Choral Union, members of Yale choral ensembles, and regional singers accompanied by the Norfolk Festival Chamber Orchestra.

30 Main St., Salisbury.

fingers.angel@gmail.com.

For more information, email Pastor John at butter-

### Auditions for Christmas show planned for Sept. 17th and 20th

SALISBURY — The Congregational Church of Salisbury, UCC, announces auditions for "The Butterfingers Angel, Mary and Joseph, Herod the Nut, and the Slaughter of Twelve Hit Carols in a Pear Tree."

Written by Broadway legend William Gibson, this rollicking "Christmas Entertainment" features a beleaguered angel, a mysterious and scary adversary, a fiercely independent Mary, a smitten Joseph — along with louts, animals, and magi. Pastor John Nelson and Music Director David Baranowski will direct. Roles for adults and children are available, and auditions are open to all. The production rehearses in October and November, and performs Nov. 30 to Dec. 3.

Auditions will be held on Sunday, Sept. 17, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and Wednesday, Sept. 20, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Congregational Church,

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

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Herrington's

#### 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.

### **Correcting Errors**

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

### **CONTACT US**

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### **Online This Week**

#### Cornwall adopts new school lunch guidelines

Cornwall Consolidated School has adopted federal guidelines for free and reduced price lunch. More info on www.tricornernews.com

### Housatonic Camera Club new exhibit

Now on display at Sharon Historical Society. Learn more on www.tricornernews.com

### **LEGAL NOTICES**

#### **Legal Notice Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning** Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on August 29, 2023:

Approved subject to conditions-Site Plan Application #2023-0217 by owner Charles and Karyn Bendit, to construct a new single-family dwelling, septic, and well in the Lake Protection Overlay District, in accordance with section 404 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 19 as Lot 11 and is located at 101 Taconic Road, Salisbury.

Any aggrieved person may appeal these decisions to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §8-8.

Town of Salisbury Planning & **Zoning Commission** Martin Whalen, Secretary 09-07-23

#### **Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands** & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on August 28, 2023:

Approved - Application 2023-IW-016 by property owner, the Hotchkiss School for the replacement of existing boardwalk structure with new structure and decking. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 6 as lot 7 and is known as 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville.

Approved Subject to Conditions - Application 2023-IW-008 by Allied Engineering for a new single-family dwelling and associated site improvements. The property is shown on Salisbury

Assessor's map 19 as lot 11 and is known as 101 Taconic Road. The owners of the property are Charles and Karyn Bendit.

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

#### 09-07-23 **NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF CRAIG R. HEWITT** Late of Canaan (23-00230)

The Hon.Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated August 24, 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: Chester W. Hewitt c/o Mark J Capecelatro Mark J. Capecelatro, LLC 117 Main Street P.O. Box 1045 Canaan, CT 06018 Megan M. Foley

Clerk

09-07-23

#### NOTICE TO **CREDITORS ESTATE OF** ANNE MCDERMOTT Late of Sharon (23-00315)

The Hon.Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated August 24, 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: Theresa Berg c/o Ellen Rosemary Suttliffe Hain, Cohen and Wolf, P.C.

115 Broad Street Bridgeport, CT 06604 Beth L. McGuire Chief Clerk 09-07-23

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JEFFREY PALMER** Late of Canaan **AKA JEFFREY JOE PALMER** AKA JEFFREY J. **PALMER** (23-00326)

The Hon.Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated August 24, 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: Crystal Maryann Palmer Andrade

80 Dublin Road

Falls Village, CT 06031 Beth L. McGuire Chief Clerk 09-07-23

#### **NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF** CARL JAMES BLAIR **Late of Massachusetts AKA Jimmy Blair** (23-00353)

The Hon.Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated August 24, 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: Kerrilee Mintz Joseph Arthur Kubic

Harlow, Adams and Friedman, P.C., One New Haven Avenue,

Suite 100, Milford, CT 06460

> Megan M. Foley Clerk 09-07-23

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Dear Supporters,

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A small group of key supporters, have pledged a total of

\$100,000 as a MATCHING CHALLENGE. We have until October 31st to meet the challenge. 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.

Behind the scenes, the papers are in the process of a complete digital migration of operations to newly revamped websites for both papers and a stream of integrated digital news products.

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.

Susan Hassler, Publisher

Noneen Doyle Noreen Doyle, Board Chair



Thank you!

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.

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### Our Towns

### North Canaan GOP preps for unusual primary race

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN "This is new territory for me," said Republican Registrar Rosemary Keilty.

As North Canaan gets set to host a Republican primary election for selectman candidate between Jesse Bunce and Craig Whiting, the registrars have added extra office hours in response to interest and confusion about the race.

"There's been some campaigning going on evidently because people, the unaffiliateds are calling to become Republicans," said Keilty, noting that the party has registered 41 new members as of Aug. 30.

The Republican and Democratic town committees both held caucuses in late July, which produced two selectman candidates on each ticket. The Republicans nominated Brian Ohler for first selectman and Craig Whiting for second selectman. The Democrats nominated Christian Allyn for first and Jesse Bunce for second. Whiting and Allyn are incumbents.

In the November election, the first selectman candidate that receives the most votes will win the seat of first selectman. The opposing first selectman candidate then drops into a pool with the second selectman candidates from each party. Of the three remaining candidates, the top vote-getter wins the second selectman's seat and the next highest vote getter wins the third selectman's seat.

This system ensures at least one candidate from each party is represented on the Board of Selectmen.

Bunce, a registered Republican, agreed to run with Allyn on the Democratic ticket, with a condition. Should Allyn receive the least votes of the four candidates in November, Bunce would vacate the seat to allow a registered Democrat—Allyn to sit on the board.

In August, Bunce filed a petition at Town Hall with of Finance meetings, I go more than 29 signatures from to economic development verified North Canaan Republican voters and a primary race against Whiting was approved by the state.

If Bunce wins on Sept. 12, Keilty said he would become "cross endorsed" by the Republicans and replace Whiting on the ticket with Ohler.

If Whiting wins on Sept. 12, Whiting will remain on the Republican ticket with Ohler, and Bunce will remain



Lawn signs have popped up in North Canaan ahead of the Sept. 12 Bunce vs. Whiting Republican primary.

on the Democratic ticket with Allyn for the November election.

Whiting, who has served as second selectman in North Canaan since 2018, was endorsed by town Republicans in July to run for his fourth term on the board. If elected, his main goals for the coming term will be to address the town's ever-increasing high school budget and to improve operations at the transfer station.

"And I really want to increase the tax base," he added. "There's only two ways to lower taxes: either increase the tax base or curtail spendings. The spending part, our biggest burden is the high school, and increasing the tax base is promoting busi-

After nearly six years as a selectman, Whiting said he has built relationships with the town's committee members, business owners, and residents.

"I go to all the Board meetings and hear from the business owners in town and I really think that I've gained a lot of trust with people over the last five-and-a-half years."

Whiting said he takes pride in being available to answer questions from residents and always returns calls "as immediately as possible."

"It may not be a full-time job, but I treat it like one." he said

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When discussing the primary, Whiting questioned Bunce's motives.

"If he loses the primary he's still on the ballot, but if I lose the primary I'm off the ballot. I think that you're denying the Democrats in this town a chance to vote for me by trying to get me off the ballot in November," said Whiting.

On the scenario of Bunce deferring the seat to Allyn, Whiting said, "That does not sound like somebody that really wants the position. I would never make an agreement that I would step down because you're going against the will of the voters."

Bunce, a Planning and Zoning Commission member in North Canaan for the past two years, said he decided to run for selectman to "create a better environment for the kids here and for the general population."

"I feel there's a lot of things we can change," he said. "I'm pretty goal driven, so if we can get things in our sights that we'd like to do, I'll stop at nothing to try and get these things done."

Bunce said his goals include better balancing the budget, finding a grant writer for the town, and promoting transparency on the Board of Selectman.

"I feel a lot of people are struggling with taxes, with money in general these days. So it's definitely something that I would be goal set on getting the budget down to a more manageable state for everyone," he said.

If Bunce were to win in November, he said he would donate his selectman's salary of \$6,500 per year back to the

"If firefighters and EMS workers can volunteer for the town, so can the selectmen," said Bunce.

After being endorsed on the Democratic ticket, Bunce stated he initiated the primary in response to Republican voters who urged him to take on Whiting head-to-head.

"I've been going door to door and talking with people about this primary. A lot of people want change. They're not happy with the direction of the town and they would like somebody in there with a fresh set of eyes that has new ideas to try and bring new life into the town."

In the scenario of Bunce winning on Sept. 12, he said, "I would be on both tickets. One of my goals...is to try and bring the two parties together and get things done for the town." He went on to confirm that if he loses on Sept. 12, he will remain on the Democratic ticket and acknowledged that, win or lose in the primary, he's on the ballot in November.

Bunce also explained his rationale on why he agreed to vacate the seat to allow Allyn to stay on the board in the event Allyn gets voted out.

"I would step down and let him have my seat because I feel that, if that were the case, you would have three Republicans. You know, there has to be a Democrat on there but technically I would be the Democrat, you know? So I feel that it's only right that the Democrats have their party's representation on there by Christian Allyn," he said. "But I don't really want to have to do that. I would really like to be on there for both the Democrats and the Republicans doing what I can for the town."

The matter of Bunce agreeing to vacate the seat despite winning the election prompted the town's registrars to seek legal advice from the state.

"We need it to be a correctly run primary and a correctly run election in November," said Keilty.

As of Sept. 1, no response had been received.

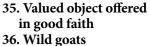
The registrars will be in Town Hall on Monday, Sept. 11, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., the deadline to register to vote in the primary.

### **Brain Teasers**

**CLUES ACROSS** 1. Second sight

- 4. Standard electrode
- potential 7. Type of gibbon
- 8. John Joseph : American
- industrialist
- 10. Manning and Whitney are two
- 12. Abrupt
- 13. Baroque musical
- instrument
- 14. Post-burning residue
- 16. When you hope to
- 17. Sign up (Brit. Eng.)
- 19. Sun up in New York
- 20. Employee stock ownership plan
- 21. Where people live 25. Method to record an
- electrogram 26. Angry
- 27. No longer living
- 29. Simple
- 30. Swiss river
- 31. Portion of a play 32. It's under the tree
- 39. Wood sorrels
- 41. No (Scottish)
- 42. Dialect of English
- 43. Former Steelers' QB
- 44. Popular beer
- 45. It can make you sick
- 46. Tropical tree and fruit
- 48. Company officer 49. Contact lens term
- 50. Your consciousness of your own identity 51. "Ghetto Superstar"
- singer 52. Piece of turf
- **CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Number of players on each side in a football game
- 2. Containing salt
- 3. Reasoning or
- knowledge: a
- 4. Car mechanics group 5. Leave a place
- **6. Southern Colombian** capital

- 8. Old English letter 9. Tide
- 11. Walk heavily 14. Chemical compound
- (abbr.)
- 15. Artificial openings
- 18. Luteinizing hormone
- 19. Unit of energy
- 20. Circular movement of water
- 22. A way of holding
- 23. Popular book of
- words (abbr.) 24. States' group
- 27. Dashes 28. Body part
- 29. Electronic
- countermeasures 31. Consumed
- 32. Small bird
- 33. Unhappy 34. Football's big game
- (abbr.)



- 37. Precede in place
- 38. Small edible fish 39. Notice of death
- 40. Body cavity of a metazoan
- 44. Partner to cheese 47. Not around

Aug. 31 Solution



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### **Our Towns**

## Choosing local at Homegrown Cafe grand opening

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — With a new name, aesthetic, and menu, the team at Nutrition on Railroad has rebranded to become Homegrown Cafe.

At the grand opening on Saturday, Sept. 2, a steady stream of curious customers lined up for a wide variety of local fare. Building on the popularity of smoothies, teas, and acai bowls that Nutrition on Railroad customers crave, Owners Cassidy Pelletier and Kelly Wolfe made the decision to add more solid foods to the menu.

"Bagels are from Great Barrington Bagel... everyone's really excited to have that in town. We have our toasts and hot oatmeal now," said Pelletier.

A sweet selection of baked goods lined the countertop, with a range of options from Freund's Farm Market as well as homemade cookies and



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Fresh bagel sandwiches and loaded toasts are among the new items on the menu at Homegrown Cafe.

muffins

Homegrown Cafe added coffee to the menu too, with fresh beans from Barrington Coffee Roasting Company, along with nitro and cold brew from 4Jacks Nitro Cold Brew in New York. Self-serve cold brew taps were installed near the entrance for a quick fix to those on the go.

"We were always turning away people looking for coffee, so that's something we wanted to be able to offer," said Pelletier.

The next-door space that was previously KayCee & Co. Gift Boutique was transformed into Homegrown Cafe's dining area, creating a bright and cozy setting for



Self-serve cold brew is on tap at Homegrown Cafe. Co-owner Cassidy Pelletier handed guests cups with ice to be filled at the coffee station with all the fixings.

guests to unwind and enjoy their orders.

"We were able to add a place for seating. There's no other place to go and sit and be able to work on your computer [in North Canaan]," said Pelletier.

At the grand opening, customers tried out Home-grown Cafe's new menu options while still enjoying the old favorites that regulars have grown to love.

"I can't wait for this berry smoothie," remarked an eager guest while watching the blender mix up a cold treat.

Homegrown Cafe is open weekdays 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and weekends 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.



OTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

First Selectman Henry Todd shared a laugh with Rika and Sara Laser, as the latter two kept their eyes peeled for potential art buyers.

### Group art show opens at Hunt Library

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — A group art show, "This Must Be the Place: Artists' Impressions of Home," opened with a reception at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village Saturday, Sept. 2.

Featured are several familiar, local names: Robert Cronin, Erika Crofut, Shaari Horowitz, John Hodgson, and Terre Lefferts, to name a few

Media include paintings, photos, ceramics, collages, mixed-media and video.

Rebecca Bloomfield's video, "Home Alone: Quarantine Self-Portraits," attracted a lot of attention, as did Garth Kobal's video "House of Worship: Congregational

The show runs through

### Beckley Furnace shares rich heritage

Brown had relieved Mc-

Cunn, and he and Paddock

were visiting with one of the

out of a car with Massachu-

setts plates and approached

A couple of women got

furnace's neighbors.

By Patrick L. Sullivan

NORTH CANAAN — Dave McCunn arrived at Beckley Furnace in the East Canaan section of North Canaan a little before 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 2, to set up for visitors to Connecticuts only combination industrial monument and state park.

Friends of Beckley Furnace president Dick Paddock showed up a few minutes later, and the two got the exhibits out on the picnic table and got settled under the umbrella out of the sun

la, out of the sun.

The Friends have guides present on Saturdays all summer. The Sept. 2 iteration was a little different, in that walking tours of Beckley Furnace were listed as a Housatonic Heritage walk.

Thus the Friends had their own pamphlets available, plus a handy guide to the Housatonic Heritage walks, which are in numerous locations in Connecticut and Massachusetts on weekends through Sunday, Oct. 1.

Paddock said that the Friends can never tell how many people will show up, or why.

"Last week we had twenty-something," he said.

Several cars with New Jersey plates maneuvered down the narrow drive from Lower Road, but instead of stopping continued over the bridge, where there is a slag heap, a trail head and two private drives.

Paddock and McCunn were bemused as the cars reappeared after a couple minutes and drove right back out again.

A couple hours later Geoff the table.

Paddock asked if they were looking for a Housatonic Heritage walk. They said no, and Paddock seized the opportunity to supply them with the relevant pamphlet and to talk up the walks.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Dick Paddock and Dave McCunn were ready at Beckley Furnace to guide visitors to Connecticut's only combination industrial monument and state park. Below, an artifact from Beckley Furnace on display.



### Smoke evacuates Hotchkiss main building

LAKEVILLE — Smoke caused by maintenance work forced the evacuation of the main building on the campus of The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville on Thursday morning, Aug. 31.

The Lakeville Hose Company responded. No injuries were reported from the incident.

Hope Cobera, Chief Communications Officer for the school, said that smoke detectors went off at about 8:30 a.m. in the art wing of the main building on campus.

In an email Friday morning, Sept. 1, Obera said there was no fire.

"Maintenance being conducted on the roof yesterday generated smoke that was pulled into the building by the air intake system, triggering the fire alarm. There was no danger to community members."

There were no students on campus during Thursday's alarm, although Cobera said the first group of students, proctors and varsity athletes, were due to arrive that day.

— Patrick L. Sullivan

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### **OBITUARIES**

### James Edward Storm

ANCRAM — James Edward Storm was born Feb. 12, 1944, in Welland, Ontario, Canada, and died at his home in Houston, Texas, after a brief illness.

As an entrepreneur, mentor, leader, consultant and engineer, Jim was renowned for restructuring utilities world-wide.

He attended the University of Waterloo, Kitchener, Ontario, where he received a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Science in Engineering, followed with postgraduate work at Stanford University, Palo Alto, Cali-

Jim began his career with IBM in 1968 and invented the first crypto card. He then worked with private equity firms until he started his own company, Nuada Systems Inc., in 1996.

Jim was a role model and inspiration to thousands of colleagues in Malaysia, India, Vienna, the United Kingdom, Japan, Singapore, China and North America. His pursuit of excellence and knowledge was always punctuated with kindness and compassion.

As an expert in SAP Solutions, Jim transformed and streamlined utility companies for almost 30 years.

Jim is survived by his beloved wife of 27 years, Alice Axenfield, his sister Melanie (Brian) MacNamara, nephews: JP Brichta (Jessica), Ed Mamede (Colleen), Adam

Kowalczyk (Shelly), Gabriel Mamede, and cousins: Marilyn (Rick) Prange, Ken (Jill) Thomas and Sharon (Bob) Ireland. Stepdaughter Stephanie (Rich) Keller and granddaughters: Sydney Rose Keller and Julia Alice Maria Keller.

A man of many talents, Jim lovingly designed the Gypsy Wagon created for Alice on their Ancram, New York, property. He built a custom potting shed and constructed the third floor office of their home.

Jim's forthcoming young adult novel, "Planet Celeste," will be published November,

Jim loved the jazz piano, literary fiction and the Metropolitan Opera where he and Alice were patrons for many years. He was an avid golfer and baseball enthusiast. Jim and Alice visited every continent and had many loving friends and acquaintances from their travels.

Jim will be remembered for his beautiful smile, humor and charming stories of his beloved Bengal cat, Lily.

He is sorely missed by Skye, Suki and Henry.

Jim was interred at Smithfield Cemetery, Amenia, New York, on Aug. 20, 2023.

tions can be made in loving memory to: The Livestock Conservancy Home — The Livestock Conservancy.

### In lieu of flowers, dona-

munity Foundation (NCCF)

### William James Morehouse

SHARON — William James Morehouse, "Billy",

59, passed away Aug. 20, 2023. Billy was born Sept. 21, 1963, in Sharon, the son of James and Avis Morehouse.

Billy was a man of many talents which led him to audio engineering school and to

owning his own landscaping company. His keen eye for detail and aesthetic acumen eventually landed him a successful construction business.

Billy is survived by his four children; sons Dylan,

> William Jr., and Lyndon, and his daughter Elizabeth, all with whom he had with Debra Vall, along with his two sisters, Kathleen and Diane, his father Jim, and his grandson Odin.

He is predeceased by his two brothers, Peder and Gary, and his mother, Avis.

Billy was always able to put a smile on your face, whether you liked it or not.

### Exploring Amesville's past and present

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — On Sunday, Sept. 3, Lou Bucceri of the Salisbury Association Historical Society led a group of curious participants upstream from the dam on the Housatonic River into a

heavily wooded area that was

once the site of a sprawling

industrial complex. The trip to see what remains of the Horatio Ames iron works was part of the Housatonic Heritage series of walks in Connecticut and Massachusetts on weekends

through Oct. 1. Ames was the son of a successful industrial family in eastern Massachusetts. They made shovels, primar-

Young Ames had been less than stellar in his own business endeavors. Together with similarly-situated sons of two other Massachusetts industrial families, they bought property along the river in what became known as the Amesville section of Salisbury for Horatio to establish an iron works in 1832. By 1835 only Ames remained of the original three.

As the group made their

The Northwest CT Com-

has allocated a minimum of

\$60,000 to distribute to pub-

lic charities and faith-based

organizations in its 20-town

service area for year-end crit-

through the Northwest CT

Community Foundation

Draper Foundation Fund

and the Northwest CT Com-

munity Foundation Marion

Wm. & Alice Edwards Fund,

as well as through the gener-

cations for year-end critical

needs grants for local orga-

nizations serving some of the

area's most economically dis-

tressed residents and provid-

ing the most basic of neces-

sities—food, warm clothing,

Organizations that pro-

fuel and shelter.

NCCF is accepting appli-

osity of local donors.

Grants are made possible

ical needs grants.

Year-end critical needs

grants applications open



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Lou Bucceri explained how the heavily wooded area north of the Great Falls and the dam on the Housatonic River was a thriving industrial area in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

way along the trail, Bucceri pointed out a small lagoon to the west.

A blue heron was checking out the vegetation-choked water. Bucceri said the lagoon is the site of where the Housatonic Railroad, which bought the site when Ames went out of business, had their roundtable for turning

vide critical human services

can apply for grants online at

www.yournccf.org/apply. Se-

lect Year-End Critical Needs

Oct. 15, 2023. Grants will

be awarded the first week of

dation's service area are:

Barkhamsted, Bethlehem,

Canaan (Falls Village),

Colebrook, Cornwall, Gos-

hen, Hartland, Harwinton,

Kent, Litchfield, Morris, New

Hartford, Norfolk, North

Canaan, Salisbury, Sharon,

Torrington, Warren, Wash-

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in Northwest Connecticut.

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and scholarships totaled in

Established in 1969, the

ington, and Winsted.

excess of \$5 million.

The towns in the foun-

December 2023.

Applications are due by

railroad cars and engines

Bucceri painted a vivid picture of a busy, noisy, and smoky industrial area that has been reclaimed by na-

Back at the picnic table by the boat launch, Bucceri detailed how Ames had tremendous success at first with

railroad locomotive wheels

and innovations in iron pro-

But the depression of 1857 was hard on American railroads, and in turn on Ames. Production fell 90%.

Ames tried to get into the munitions supply business when the Civil War began. After a couple of false starts and amid the strong suggestion of skulduggery in federal defense appropriations, Ames did land a contract to build 15 cannons that shot a 125 pound projectile, the biggest weapon of the type in the world at the time.

Ames was ready to deliver the guns in May of 1865.

Unfortunately for him, the war ended in April. "So Ames was done."

### Worship Services Week of September 10, 2023

#### Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.

#### **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 Christopher SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290

#### **North Canaan** Congregational Church, UCC

172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/ northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232

FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan

Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org The Lakeville United

### Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

#### **The Sharon United Methodist Church**

112 Upper Main Steet, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net

### **Falls Village**

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

#### The Smithfield **Presbyterian Church** 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY

Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building

#### **Canaan United Methodist Church**

2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Oven Hearts – Oven Minds – Oven Doors Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!

#### The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall

Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mmgates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone

#### **Congregation Beth David** A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME

Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org

### **All Saints of America**

Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

#### The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442

#### St. Thomas **Episcopal Church**

Anenia Union, NY
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#### **Trinity Episcopal Church 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, September 10 at 10:30 a.m It Feels Like the Only Certainty in Life is Change For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiauloi@gmail.com All are Welcome

#### ST. MARTIN OF TOURS **PARISH** Immaculate Conception 4 North Street, Norfolk

St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., nmaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am naculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME!

### please call 860-824-7078 **UCC in CORNWALL** Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am

For information,

North Cornwall Meeting House 115 Town Street, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community

#### **Sharon Congregational** Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

#### **Promised Land Baptist Church**

29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting — 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org

### **Chabad of Northwest CT** On The Green

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### Back-to-school backpacks

The Kent Republican Town Committee dropped off 24 backpacks including the essentials such as notebooks, pencils and folders for the start of school on Monday, Aug. 28 at Kent Center School. Seen here with a selection of supplies are Ed Matson, Lynn Harrington and Joe Agli.

### Rotary Club puts grant toward school supplies

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Rotary Club received a Rotary Foundation District Grant in the amount of \$2,375. The Rotary Club added an additional \$1,187.50 to bring the total to \$3,562.50.

The funds were used to purchase backpacks and school supplies for students in Region One.

The members of the Salisbury Rotary Club are grateful to be able to help so many families in our communities.



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### Our Towns

### **Preserving Salmon Kill Valley**

By Maud Doyle

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Association announced on Wednesday, Sept. 6, a contract has been signed to purchase 14 acres of land in the Salmon Kill Valley and bring it under the protection of the Salisbury Land Trust.

This acquisition, which is made up of acreage sold by Ann and Stephen Torrey and by Jim and Melinda Belter, will connect two existing conservation easements to form 394 acres of contiguous conserved land in the Salmon Kill Valley. The new parcel will add to more than 3,900 acres of land already protected by the Salisbury Association Land Trust (SALT), a standing committee of the Salisbury Association, through conservation easements and owned preserves.

The Land Trust has been working to bring the Salmon Kill Valley under its protec-



#### Newly protected land in the Salmon Kill Valley.

tion for decades to "preserve the rural character" of the town, said John Landon, cochair of the Salisbury Land Trust and its head of acqui-

The discussion between the sellers and SALT over this particular parcel had spanned eight years, said Allen Cockerline, owner of Whippoorwill Farm in the Salmon Kill Valley's basin.

Cockerline and his neighbor, Alexandra Lange, were instrumental in raising \$300,000 in pledges from their neighbors in the valley, enabling the Salisbury Association to commit its own resources (\$250,000) to the purchase.

The Trust is turning to the rest of the local community to fund the rest of the purchase. Lead donors are offering to match up to \$80,000 for further donations, and the Trust is calling for "everyone to help shape the future of the Valley, preserve its rural character, and protect the ecology of the area."

'We are happy to to accept any donation that someone gives," said Landon, "We're hoping that people will stretch, and give more than they usually would."

Landon compared the Salmon Kill basin acquisition to the Land Trust's 2010 purchase of Tory Hill on the Sharon/Salisbury town line, which preserved views from Route 41 and Long Pond Road, and which was also funded by community donations.

"There's a lot of conserved land in town that people never even see, in the woods,

on a mountaintop," said Cockerline, who was board member at the Trust until 2019. "This is one piece [of land] that everyone can see, whether they're riding a bicycle or running or walking or driving in their car-it's accessible to everyone."

The other principle objective of preserving the Salmon Kill Valley, said Landon, is the preservation of smallscale farming in Salisbury.

The property is being farmed as part of Whippoorwill Farm by Cockerline and his wife Robin. Cockerline estimated that he has been cultivating those fields for 38 years, and expects operations to continue as before under the new ownership.

"I spent a lot of time going over every inch of that field," said Cockerline. "It's one of the loveliest pieces. It gives [the valley] its character, just the way it rolls—it's beautiful."

The Salmon Kill basin provides habitat to several species "of concern" according to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, including the wood turtle and American kestrel.

The Association plans to restore and maintain the creek frontage in the new purchase by removing invasive plants and replacing them with native shrubs, trees, and perennials, but doesn't expect that much conservation work will be needed. A five-year restoration of the Salmon Kill was undertaken by Trout Unlimited, a national habitat conservation organization, in 2013, as part of the state's ongoing restoration of the Housatonic River Basin.

"I'm glad it'll be there," said Cockerline. "I'll be here hopefully for a while, and it'll be there quite a bit longer."

## additional Streetscape design work

By Leila Hawken

Kent selectmen okay

KENT — Responsive to residents' comments heard during two public information sessions, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously at a special meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 30, to ask the contractor to incorporate adjustments into plans for Phase Two of the town's Streetscape project.

Phase Two involves the area south and east of the Memorial monument, now that sidewalk construction work is completed for the area extending north and west from the monument.

First Selectman Jean Speck said that contractor SLR Construction has provided an estimate of \$14,595 in additional costs within the design phase to accommodate residents' suggestions that sidewalks be extended even further southward along Maple Street to allow for safe pedestrian access to the seasonal farmers' market at the pocket park. Also under consideration are crosswalks and Lane Street sidewalks combining to create easier access to Land Trust acreage.

'We need to spend a bit of money to have SLR create drawings so residents can understand the visual impact along Maple Street," Speck said. A site walk with town officials and SLR representatives will be scheduled, Speck added, giving residents an opportunity to see firsthand what is being planned including the routing of drainage along Maple and Lane Streets. Residents will be notified of the date in advance of the site walk.

The town's Land Use Administrator Donna Hayes offered a clarifying comment, noting that the town does not yet know the construction cost of the entire project. The additional funding approved is still within the design phase that occurs in advance of construction es-

The Swift House Task Force has moved ahead in the selection of an architect to provide a needs assessment for the historic property in the town center.

The selectmen voted unanimously to sign a contract with Silver Petrucelli and Associates of Hamden, Conn. to develop plans for renovations to bring the Swift House into ADA-compliance. The renovations would allow for public use of the property.

Zanne Charity, task force chairman, expressed concern that time had passed since the architect submitted a cost proposal of \$13,900 for the assessment, leading the selectmen to approve an expenditure of up to \$15,000 to be budgeted.

### Speed humps get mixed reviews

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Although residents agree that the newly installed speed humps on Hilltop Road are succeeding in slowing the traffic, the Board of Selectmen discussed discrepancies between their design and execution at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 22.

"There are lots of happy people, and lots of upset people," said First Selectman Brent Colley of public reaction when the speed-slowing humps were first installed by R and R Construction. He noted that the required road painting had been accomplished during overnight hours, so there had been no need to close the road.

Allowing time for residents to become accustomed to the humps, the selectmen voted unanimously to initiate a six-month moratorium on accepting requests from residents along other town roads who may want humps installed.

"It's been effective to some extent," Colley said, indicating that it may be possible to alter the height of the Hilltop Road humps to make them less severe.

Selectman Dale Jones agreed, looking for "more of a ramp, less of a hump."

"It should be possible to negotiate the humps at the speed limit," said selectman Casey Flanagan, noting that the Hilltop Road humps are seen as an experiment. "It's a test," he said, adding that he wants to observe how plows, ambulances and firetrucks handle them.

In discussing the installation, most agreed that the humps do not precisely conform to the plan drawings, having shorter inclines on either side and being of varying heights.

"They did not follow the plan," said Hilltop Road resident John Hecht, noting that the approaches were to be more gradual.

"They need to conform to the plans," said resident Jill Drew. "But they are working," she added.

Flanagan suggested that a traffic survey be taken after Sharon Center School opens

### Comcast update

Comcast's project to bring town-wide high-speed internet access is proceeding, reported Drew. co-chair of the Sharon Connect Task Force. While awaiting pole access permissions, Comcast began with the underground installation of lines, sometimes slowed by encountering rock.

Joining in the reporting, Matt Skane, Comcast's Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs, praised the collaborative cooperation of the task force.

"It's been great working with Jill [Drew], Meghan [Flanagan], co-chairman, and Nikki [Blass], the town's contract coordinator," Skane said, giving rise to a discussion among the selectmen of lessons that Sharon's experience might provide to other communities undertaking similar projects.

"The answer lies in regular public meetings and persistence in cutting through roadblocks," said Jones.

### Three appointees named to fill roles in Falls Village

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Tracey Wilson has resigned as Transfer Station Coordinator, and at the Aug. 14 meeting of the Board of Selectmen in Falls Village Peter Roussis was appointed to replace her, with a three month probationary period and the same pay as Wilson.

Kent Allyn resigned as an alternate on the Housatonic River Commission and Matt Gallagher was appointed to fill Allyn's term which ends on Dec. 31, 2023.

The selectmen accepted the resignation of Thomas Wilson from the Recreation Commission: and appointed Lauren Killawee to complete Thomas Wilson's term, which ends on Dec.1, 2023.

The selectmen approved a motion to hire either Chip Roraback or Emily Vail to represent the Town of Canaan in the potential sale of the former firehouse at 35 Railroad Street.

The selectmen have signed a Conditional Commitment to Lend from the state Department of Transportation for \$367,200 toward the Cobble Road bridge project. There is no commitment on the town's part and the selectmen are still pursuing additional funding.

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### **Sports**



HVRHS' Daniel Moran led the Mountaineers by shooting 51 against Wamogo High School on Thursday, Aug. 31

### Varsity golf tees off at Canaan Country Club

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN -Housatonic Valley Regional High School's golf team hosted Wamogo High School for a varsity match on Thursday, Aug. 31.

"How 'bout this weather," said HVRHS coach Peter Vermilyea just after tee time.

On a picture-perfect, 75 and sunny day on the links, Wamogo won 211 to 216 against HVRHS.

Five ranked golfers from each school teed off beginning at 3 p.m. on Canaan Country Club's nine-hole course. With no additional Wamogo players to match up against, a foursome of unranked HVRHS golfers played behind.

Wamogo's Ethan Payne and John Gilbert shot a 49, tying as medalists with the best performances of the day. Derek Harrison shot 51 and Adam Brior shot 62 for the Warriors.

HVRHS was led by freshman Daniel Moran with a 51. Jonah Johnson and Jake Bosio both shot 55, and Wiley Fails shot 57 for the Mountaineers.

HVRHS golf will be back at Canaan Country Club on Sept. 15 when they host Nonnewaug High School, 3 p.m.



HVRHS' Wiley Fails lined up a long putt during the varsity golf match at Canaan Country Club.

### HVRHS hires new athletic trainer

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — A new face will be on the sideline of Mountaineer home games this year.

In a push to enhance athlete health and fitness, Housatonic Valley Regional High School has hired a new athletic trainer.

Erica Russell is set to begin in the role on Oct. 1. Russell joins HVRHS with over a decade of experience in the field.

"This will be my 14th year as an athletic trainer," she said in a conversation with The Lakeville Journal on Aug. 30.

Athletic trainers specialize in prevention, assessment, treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries and medical conditions related to physical activity and sports. They work with students, coaches, and other staff to ensure the safety and well-being of student-athletes.

"We're there as the first responder if someone does get hurt during a practice or game. We are also there for prevention, taking a look at any kind of hazards that might be out in the field or on the court," she said.

Russell said ankle sprains are generally the most common injury in high school sports, along with muscle soreness and concussions.

"Surprisingly cheerleaders suffer a large number of concussions.



Erica Russell joins HVRHS with over a decade of experience as an athletic trainer.

People don't realize that," she said.

Originally from Bethlehem, Connecticut, Russell's career has taken her to New York, Virginia, and Massachusetts. She recalled fond memories of growing up in the Northwest corner.

"I love the area. It's a beautiful area. I remember driving by all the time going to Lime Rock growing up," she said.

Russell will be on the sideline for HVRHS home games and said she looks forward to working closely with the teams.

"You can't necessarily stop people from getting hurt, but we hope to have a successful year with very few injuries."

Athletic Director Anne MacNeil said the HVRHS teams are looking forward to having the support of such an experienced professional available.



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### HOSPITAL

#### **Continued from Page A1**

citing testimony from the December hearing, as well as supplementary materials provided by Save Sharon Hospital and others.

Primarily, the decision to reject Sharon Hospital's application rested on concerns about the closure's impact on the accessibility of adequate care for pregnant women in the region. OHS emphasized the disproportionate effect this closure would have on people of color, the fastest-growing demographic in the region, and indigent people (more than 48% of Sharon Hospital's labor and delivery patients paid through Medicaid in 2021).

The decision stated repeatedly that the burden of proof rested with the hospital and that the hospital had not succeeded in providing adequate evidence of either financial or safety concerns, nor adequate plans for alternatives for women in labor seeking care, especially for high-risk and emergent deliveries.

Though the hospital is non-profit, OHS took care to point out that its parent, Nuvance Health, provides financial support to Sharon Hospital, and, having ended 2021with a net increase in as-

sets of \$242 million and \$1.7 billion in net assets, Nuvance is "by all accounts financially stable," despite its operating losses at Sharon Hospital.

While there are other five other hospitals within an hour from Sharon, all able to accept women in labor, these options would require patients to make longer drives (the nearest hospital is Charlotte Hungerford in Torrington); OHS also cited concerns about these hospitals' higher costs and lower safety ratings.

Gregg Pulver (R), Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature, said that OHS's decision was responsive to arguments from "representatives on both sides of the state line." Patients at Sharon Hospital are more often from Dutchess County than from the Northwest Corner.

"Access to rural health care here is in crisis or at risk across the board," said State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64). Though "it will always be a battle," she said, "[We need] to keep this thriving hospital alive and vibrant and and helping all of us."

Andrea Rynn, spokesperson for Nuvance Health, called the decision "concerning and disappointing."



PHOTO BY MAUD DOYI

Lydia Moore, President of Save Sharon Hospital, told her story of recently giving birth at Sharon Hospital at a press conference on Wednesday, Aug. 30. From Left, U.S. Rep Jahana Hayes (D-5), Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Lydia Moore, Connecticut Comptroller Sean Scanlon, State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64), and State Sen. Stephen Harding (R-30).

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), State Sen. Stephen Harding (R-30), U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5), Rep. Horn, and State Comptroller Sean Scanlon all spoke in support of OHS's preliminary decision at a press conference in Sharon Town Hall on Wednesday, Aug. 30.

Blumenthal called on Nuvance not to appeal OHS's "well-reasoned, fully researched decision."

"Nuvance has an obligation to listen to its customers, its patients, its community," said the senator. "I am hopeful that meetings like this one will convince [Nuvance] that it can and should do the right thing."

Horn drew a contrast between the diverse, fact-based testimonies provided by local healthcare professionals, and Nuvance's "one single argument, that 'this is just unsustainable,' and 'we can't afford it."

Harding said, "I want to applaud the Office of Health for taking the time, not only with reading the testimony, but the whole process in general. I think they did a great

job of listening to all sides of the story."

Hayes noted that the threatened closure is indicative of national trends in rural and women's healthcare access. "We have seen women's reproductive health attacked all over the country," she said. "So I am excited about today, but also looking forward and committed to [...] bringing this 20 year battle [over the future of Sharon Hospital] to an end."

Nearly all of the speakers thanked the local 501(c)(3) Save Sharon Hospital (SSH)

for its instrumental work in preventing the closure of Sharon Hospital's labor and delivery unit by marshaling skilled testimony from health care workers.

SSH President Lydia Moore, who gave birth to her youngest daughter in Sharon Hospital about two months ago, acknowledged the community for contributing "almost 12,000 pages of public comment," overwhelmingly in favor of keeping labor and delivery open, as critical to the movement's success.

Acknowledging that Nuvance can still appeal the OHS decision, Scanlon said, "We're here today to say that this is good news, but the fight to maintain access to affordable, quality health care, especially when it comes to labor and delivery, is going to continue beyond this morning."

As of Sept. 4, Nuvance has not yet announced if it will appeal the decision.

"As part of a nonprofit health system, Sharon Hospital faces financial and operational challenges moving forward," said Rynn in a statement. "We will be considering all options available as we reassess our path forward."

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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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### Lime Rock —

# Vintage vehicles shine in weekend festival

By Riley Klein, Patrick L. Sullivan and Lans Christensen

LAKEVILLE — Lime Rock Park's Historic Festival returned for the 41st year on Labor Day weekend. The five-day extravaganza featured over 1,000 examples of automotive excellence.

Beginning on Thursday, Aug. 31, classic cars rolled into Lakeville for the annual event, with several vehicles reaching beyond the century mark.

"You've got a 117-year-old vehicle, and you know we have all the modern things as well," said Lime Rock CEO Dicky Riegel. "It's the lineage, the linkage between them that really makes it all

As drivers, crews, and collectors arrived for the festival, a seemingly endless stream of antique automobiles rolled into the paddock. Among them were 17 cars from Lawrence Auriana's pristine collection of European racecars.

Several of Auriana's vehicles on display raced in La Mans in years past, while others beckoned memories of a bygone era of racing.

"They are absolutely purebred race vehicles," said Riegel. "The Auriana collection is probably one of the finest collections of Italian racing machinery in the Northeast, if not even in the country."

This year's festival celebrated Chrysler Performance and 100 years of MG (a British automotive marque).

MG played an integral role in the origins of automotive racing in the United States, as well as Lime Rock Park. During Lime Rock's first event in April 1955, one of the races was an all-MG event, won by Skip Callahan in an MG-TD. In 1959, Sherm Decker made his Lime Rock debut in an MGA Twin-Cam that remains active to this day in vintage racing.

Chrysler concept cars rom varying eras were on display in the paddock at Historic Festival 41, some of which were exceedingly rare, such as the 1963 Chrysler Turbine Car.

"I think this is one of maybe seven that still exist," Riegel said about the turbine car. "[Chrysler is] bringing lots of their concept cars, one-of-akind cars that have never all been together before."

On Thursday evening, the turbine car fired up its engine, along with over 100 other classic cars, and roared through the hills of the Northwest corner for the Historic Festival Parade.

The Vintage Race Car Parade left the track at 5 p.m., wound through Lakeville and Salisbury, back through Lakeville and over to Falls Village, where there was food, drink, music and above all cars — 122 of them, according to an unofficial estimate.

In Falls Village, the first rumblings of the incoming vintage race cars were heard over the Wanda Houston Band playing "Mustang Sally" at about 5:45 p.m. Soon downtown Falls Village was full of cars and people.

The cars were waved in with checkered flags by stilt walkers Liam Murphy, Sophie Allen and Lelia Wash-

The Chrysler Turbine, was parked in front of the Falls Village Inn and had a steady stream of curious auto fans snapping photos.

Supplying the crowd with victuals were the Inn, Great



At the end of the 17-mile parade, stilt walkers with checkered flags waved classic cars into Falls Village.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

At Sunday in the Park, 17 pristine examples of automotive excellence were on display from Lawrence Auriana's collection of European racecars.

Falls Brewing Company, Peter Doda's Ice Cream and the Great Cape Baking Compa-

The Falls Village constables were extremely efficient in getting the parade cars parked.

The band played several numbers with automotive themes, including "Route 66" and "Pink Cadillac" before changing into a railroad mode, starting with "Choo Choo Ch' Boogie."

On-track action at Lime Rock Park there were three featured racing groups: MG, Formula Junior, and Sport 2000. Up to 40 cars took to Lime Rock's 1.5-mile loop at a time to pump some oil through the old engines.

These three diverse groups shared a common thread: they were all relatively inexpensive ways to go racing. Formula Junior and Sports 2000 used affordable production engines, and MGs were a readily available as popular, two seater sports car.

Historic Festival 41 set new records for attendance as roughly 270 vintage cars registered to race over the

weekend. In age alone, entries ranged from a 1929 Stutz and a 1927 Bugatti, to a 2000 Van Diemen Formula Ford. The marques represented ran from A to Z; every familiar name of course, but also rare names like Stanguellini, Turner, Ginetta, and Lester

On Sunday, about 1,000 classic cars filled the track and marquee for Sunday in the Park.

The hillside was overflowing with enthusiastic spectators, the track was packed with Sunday's crowds, and the cars shined brilliantly beneath a clear, blue sky.

"There's no other venue like this that has the combination of racing, we have a concours on the main straight, and we have this extraordinary parking area around," said Lowell Paddock, co-director of Historic Festival 41.

From suiting up for race day, to meandering through collections of classic cars, to watching the parade float by from a front porch, Historic Festival 41 catered to all levels of car lovers.

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PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Above, a pack of Formula Juniors cruise down the straight during Saturday racing. Below, large crowds and about 1,000 automobiles filled the track for Sunday in the Park.





Chrysler concept vehicles rolled into Falls Village during the Aug. 31 car parade. The turbine car turned heads and had a steady stream of curious auto fans nearby.

Doctors have been delivering babies for over 102 years at Sharon Hospital. We are not going backwards.

Office of **Health Strategy** heard us! Thank them. OHS@ct.gov

Nuvance could embrace the power of a united community.

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### **SVAS**

#### Continued from Page A1

who know you, who know the area, I think you get a better level of care.

"And we want to carry on that tradition, because that's the kind of community we're trying to live in and build

#### **Decreasing Volunteerism**

New volunteers are getting harder to find, however. Small-town cultures of volunteerism have weakened nationally, and in the Northwest Corner, traditionally volunteer services have been forced to switch to at least part-paid staff models in recent years.

In North Canaan, emergen-"Salisbury has cy medical seralways been a vices are now a line item in the huge volunteer town budget, community," and the volunteer ambulance is filled out with paid staff, full time paramedics, and at times,

some contractors. Thanks to the gifts of local patrons, said Salisbury ambulance squad chief Jacquie Rice, SVAS is well-funded and well-equipped. But the squad is aging—members who still regularly take calls are celebrating 25, 30, even 45 years with the squad. The majority of squad members are in their 60s and 70s, and even with high-school and college students volunteering to drive the ambulances, squad members' average age still hovers around 58

"We're looking for volunteers who are—perhaps a little less than 58," Rice laughed. After 30, 40 years on

the squad, said Bob Rinninsland—who, along with his wife Rhonda, has himself served on the squad for 17 years—some members who want to retire are still holding off, in part because "they don't want to leave the organization in the lurch."

"I'm 73 now and still a fairly active EMT," he said. "And at the end of this year I'll re-cert for another two years. And then"—he shivered—"I'll be 76. The question is, what do you do then?"

Rice joined the squad in 1978, as soon as she turned

SVAS Chief

Jacquie Rice

18; even when she was living and teaching in California, she said, she would volunteer when she returned for a month or two in the summer.

"Salisbury has always been a huge volunteer

community," said Rice. "Both of my parents were very active in the community. They taught us that we should give back by volunteering in town—in whatever town we lived in." But times have changed, she said.

"Maybe people didn't have as many commitments as they do now," said Rice. Everything, she observed work, school, even parenting-seems to take more time. Also, she said, "homes in Salisbury used to be much more affordable, which meant that more people lived here full time. Maybe that gave us a greater sense of community."

There are many reasons for the national decrease in volunteerism. But in Salisbury, the cultural shift is exacerbated by demographics: in terms of resident age, Salisbury is one of the oldest towns in Connecticut (the average age in Salisbury was 57.1 years in 2021); housing prices prevent young people, particularly those young enough to not yet be time-burdened by young families, from moving to the town; the high occurrence of second homes means that many able-bodied residents do their volunteering else-

Meanwhile, as Salisbury's population ages, the number of emergency calls received by SVAS—many of which are related to seniors' falls—are only increasing.

The influx of new residents from other, less rural regions also means that there's a lack of awareness around the community's need for service. People who have moved to Salisbury from, say, New York City, where they are used to having paid services, might not understand the extent to which Salisbury—from the town government to emergency services to ecological conservation to affordable housing-runs on volunteerism.

"Here we have this old New England, you know, Connecticut Yankee volunteerism," said Rinninsland. "So there's a transition phase that we're going through. People who are new to the area in the last 3 to 5 years—



Squad Chief Jacquie Rice, Rescue Chief Josh Allyn, and Barrett Prinz, one of the newest members of the team, talk business at the SVAS headquarters on Under Mountain Road.

they have to realize that up here, you do a little bit more

volunteering." "Many of the town volunteer services have, like they could benefit from the next generation taking the reins," said Holly Leibrock, a real estate agent and the mother of two teens, who began volunteering with the squad as a driver in spring 2022. Among her peers, Leibrock said, "I've noticed that there's a hesitancy to commit to something that they can't fulfill—it's a

generation that wants to excel in whatever they

Her experience on the squad, however, has tempered some of that instinct, she said. "The environment debunks that mentali-

ty. Everyone comes from a different background, and everyone brings something different to the table. If you're committed to offering what you can, I think that's what makes a difference."

### **Volunteering for SVAS**

As a board member, said Barrie Prinz, "I'd sit in on these meetings listening to the need of the community and the need of the squad, and finally I just thought, 'Well, I'm a person. I could do this." She worried at first about having enough time to fit in another commitment.

"I have a full time job"— Prinz is a lawyer—"I have three children in high school this year, and I have aging parents. You know, we are all overly busy. But the truth is, if I really look at my schedule, I make time for the things that

are important to me.

"If somebody had said to me, you need to do this 24 hours a day, once a week, I would have been like, No way, absolutely not. But do I have time to be on call from 6 to 12 p.m.? A couple nights a month? Yeah, I've got time to do that."

SVAS has no minimum requirement for how much time a volunteer needs to give to be a squad member—the schedules are made to work within volunteers' full lives.

"A couple

nights a

month? Yeah,

I've got time

to do that."

SVAS Member

**Barrett Prinnz** 

Leibrock and her elder daughter, Mackenzie Casey, took the EMR course together in fall 2022; Leibrock qualified as an EMT this past spring.

"It was a whole family endeavor," Leibrock

said. "Hadley"-Leibrock's younger daughter-"even learned a bit because she would quiz us as we were preparing for the tests."

Leibrock has also been impressed by watching Casey, now 18, grow and explore her own interests through her work with the squad (she is studying conservation biology at Amherst, and pursuing her wilderness rescue certification with SVAS).

"Mackenzie sees herself as a member of the community, and not just a kid living here," said Leibrock. "She is she really has taken on more of a a leadership role—and recognizes the importance of being part of the community."

At first, said Prinz, she also hesitated to join "because I was afraid that all of a sudden, on like 60 hours

training, like somebody's life would be placed in my hands. But that is not the way the squad works. The squad works in teams.

'You are empowered to treat people up to the level of your training, and no more," said Prinz. "You are part of a system, which includes EMTs who have a greater level of training; on certain calls, there will also be paramedics who have an even greater level of training."

Longtime squad members, Prinz said, "brought me into the fold in a the warmest, most welcoming way, and are so willing to share their knowledge. I'm trying to approach it as, 'I'm new and I'm here to learn?

"And I love learning new things, I love the training," said Prinz, "but I really enjoy the direct patient contact." A couple of weeks ago, Prinz responded to a two car accident, after which one of the riders had to be transferred to the hospital. "I took her vitals, made sure we were addressing what she was feeling physically, there was an EMT back there with me who was doing a bunch of things.

'But what she really needed was for somebody to hold her hand and talk to her and tell her she was going to be okay. To be that person for somebody in your community—it has such a direct and profound impact. It's a great

EMR course offered at SVAS in Salisbury will begin September 11; it runs from 6:00 to 9:30pm on Mondays and Wednesdays through the fall. To sign up or learn more reach out to Barrett Prinz at 646-263-0568 or prinzbarrett@gmail.com

### Coston

### Continued from Page A1

proach in an E&P tribute to him writing, "Working with John has been an inspiring experience. His enthusiasm for 'doing the news,' his appreciation of local journalism what it means and why it is so important — and his thoughtful mentoring of our most junior reporters as well as our long-timers has galvanized us all to do our best work!"

The papers were also recognized in June when Digital Media Producer and recently named Managing Editor Riley Klein was honored by the magazine as a "Shooting Star."

Coston's E&P recognition is especially appropriate because a young reporter he used to browse that publication's want ads and dream of working a beat in far off Alaska.

The 49th state did not happen for him, but following his graduation from Columbia University in the turbulent late 1960s, a city hall beat at the Watertown Daily Times in rural upstate New York gave him a start down the road. There he became a lifelong team player working closely with two other reporters, both then recent Master's degree graduates from the Columbia Journalism School, whose training often rubbed off on him.

Coston says he has always found it best to listen to reporters on the ground, whether it was at The Hartford Courant, The Miami (Florida) Herald, the Casper (Wyoming) Star-Tribune or

The Wall Street Journal. In 1990, the parole from Attica of a serial killer, whose conviction had been partially based on articles Coston had written in his rookie days in Watertown, inspired him to dip his toes into true crime. He authored two nonfiction books before deserting the genre, which he said was "too dark."

First retiring in 2010 and

locating to East Canaan, he then came back out of retirement and resumed his WSJ job part-time as an editor on the national desk until 2015. During those years, he frequently hit the road, traveling out West "John Steinbeck style" in an RV truck camper with two dogs as sidekicks.

Coston is the father of married to Bridget Starr Taylor, an illustrator and daughter of the late Hatsy Taylor, who for many years authored a gardening column for The Lakeville Journal. Coston and his wife now live in Hatsy's old farm house, where she religiously penned her columns and where he now edits stories written by oth-

He also is a trustee of the Great Mountain Forest in Norfolk and Falls Village and Norfolk Now, a monthly publication for Norfolk res-

His country life includes maintaining pastures that are leased to a beef farmer, and managing his own herd of 11 beloved Romney sheep, along with two Texas rescue donkeys, as many chickens as the local foxes allow, two dogs and a cat.

Retirement had great appeal, but literally being put out to pasture couldn't measure up when in 2022 an ad seeking an editor for the new nonprofit Lakeville Journal Foundation caught his eye.

He applied to then publisher Janet Manko, whose tenure he admires along with her team and for excelling at three grown children and is keeping the papers going through tough economic times, including the pandemic.

> "Their devotion to the paper is unmatched," he said. "I wanted to help, be part

of a team and to have fun again," he said.

With the support of Patrick L. Sullivan, a Journal veteran, and Riley Klein in Lakeville and Millerton's Managing Editor Emily Edelman, he happily works both sides of the state line, getting to know communities and residents, and proudly dropping off papers at some distribution points.

As he noted in E & P, "It's the small things that matter as much as the big ones. If you don't pay attention to detail, the larger story suffers in the end, as does the newspaper. Everybody's story

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### The baton has been passed!

### 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.

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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# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment



'II XXV' by Gelah Penn

**BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN** 

### **Looking Clarissa** Right in The Eye

merican PENGUIN RANDOM post-HOUSE war and contemporary artist Gelah Penn continues her abstract contemplation on Samuel Richardson's 18th-century epistolary novel with the pages second of letinstallters that Samuel Richardson ment of make up "Notes the story on Clarissa" of Clarissa

opening at Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn., on Saturday, Sept. 16. Each piece corresponds to a letter in the novel.

"Clarissa, or, The History of a Young Lady" was Richardson's follow-up to his smashhit "Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded," a publication whose significance can't be understated. Considered to be the first modern English novel (and the first novel printed in America), the unfolding saga was read by clergymen and rural countrymen alike, transfixed by its suspense, its psychological love story, and its instruction on maintaining defined gender roles within marriage and English society at large.

While "Pamela" ends in what is considered to be a triumph in the marriage plot novel — the maid weds the master of the house — the 1,500

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Harlowe are ripe with tragedy. Beautiful Clarissa, aged eighteen, becomes the

object of pursuit by the charming yet emotionally corrupt Lovelace, a wealthy libertine whose seductive words entice her to elope. Although she swiftly recognizes her error, her family disowns her, and in Lovelace's grasp, exhausted by attempts to manipulate her into truly loving him, he rapes her. The profound emotional distress that ensues leads to her untimely demise.

Dark sexuality and a battles of wills in a treacherous game of morality ensnared audiences then, and the weighty tome is still considered to be Richardson's opus. It's bleakness is its appeal, as Clarissa realizes what a dangerous time it is to be a girl in the world.



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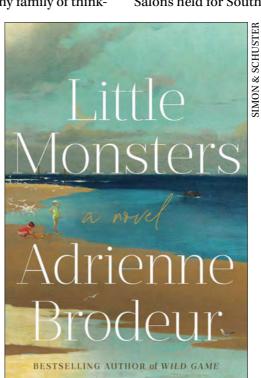
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'Ryder's House' by Edward Hopper

**BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN** 

### The Politics of Adult Families

rom John Steinbeck's "East of Eden" to Grace Metalious's "Peyton Place" to Aaron Spelling's "Dynasty," no matter what part of the country you're in, the untimely reveal of buried family disputes has remained at the heart of American fiction. Adrienne Brodeur's summer novel from Simon & Schuster, "Little Monsters," pinpoints itself along the New England coast, on the chilly whaling beaches of Cape Cod, where a wealthy family of thinkers dwells in its own resentments. Brodeur will appear on Thursday, Sept. 7, in Kent, Conn., as part of House of Books new series, "Salon at Swyft." The dinners held in a private room in Ore Hill & Swyft, an upscale wooden tavern known for its wood-fired pizzas, invite guests to chat casually with the writer of the month, breaking from the rigidity of the formal reading and O&A. The selections have been varied in style and subject, with previous Swyft Salons held for South





African short story writer Magogodi oaMphela Makhene's tales of Soweto, "Innards," and Viking editor Jenny Jackson's debut comedy about Brooklyn's 1%, "Pineapple Street."

The daughter of the late New Yorker writer Paul Brodeur, who died this past August in Hyannis, Mass., Adrienne Brodeur was the editor-in-chief of Zoetrope: All Story, a literary magazine she founded with Francis Ford Coppola.

In "Little Monsters," set during the lead-up to the divisive 2016 presidential election, Brodeur's intimately narrated novel, with its unfussy, languid prose, focuses on three candidates who make up the rarely-likable white, educated voter block. Adam Gardner is a cantankerous academic. an oceanology research

scientist, and a product of the baby boom who finds fault with every breathing Millennial (with little mind that there are already two generations coming up behind these young professionals). As he struggles with his mental health, and the health care system, his two Gen X-cuspy children, who grew up motherless from a young age, struggle with each other. Ken is a hot-shot financier who has married into even more money and is eager to prove himself to his in-laws by being as "Art of the Deal" as possible. At the same time, his sister Abby is the classic, vaguely political Hillary voter. This sensitive artist has inherited her late mother's Cape Cod studio with a view towards Provincetown, but she can't foresee the political storm on the horizon.



### FREE FAMILY CONCERT AT 2 PM:

Discover Miguel Del Aguila's Clocks for Piano Quintet, a suite in six movements portraying an imaginary visit to a clock museum.

### CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT AT 3 PM:

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More information at musicmountain.org



#### **FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN**

### Designing Dream Homes For The Screen

he interior decor of the rich and famous can fascinate us as much as the interiority of their lives — think of Brook Astor's Sister Parish chintz-covered home, Jackie Kennedy's Georgian-style 1010 Fifth Avenue apartment designed by Rosario Candela, Gwyneth Paltrow's potentially fake Ruth Asawa sculpture, or the monastery blankness of Kim Kardashian's mansion with its Isabel Rower sculpture room.

Perhaps only one film director has truly ignited the collective imagination and awakened dream home yearning through her characters' meticulously crafted interior design preferences, and that's Nancy Meyers. On Saturday, Sept. 9, The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., is paying tribute to her impeccable taste in set decoration with a screening of her 2009 film, "It's Complicated," with cocktails and discussions with designer Vicky Charles of Charles & Co. and Hammertown Barn's design director, Dana Simpson.

Architectural Digest has published multiple rundowns alone on Meyer's 2003 film she wrote and directed starring Diane Keaton and Jack Nicholson, "Something's Gotta Give" — although the focus is rarely on Keaton's Academy Award nomination. The eye is on her house. Aging but successful playwright Erica Barry's (Keaton) beach-side shingle-style getaway on Meadow Lane in Southampton, N.Y., is cream-colored bliss floating on a striped dhurrie rug. Mimi London fabric on the chairs;

soapstone counter tops in the kitchen; beach apropos art by R. Kenton Nelson. Production designer Beth Rubino, who won Academy Awards for "The Cider House Rules" and "American Gangster," has revealed several times over the years that what makes the Nancy Meyers homes so enviable... is that they are entirely fake. Those perfect off-whites, warm grays, inoffensive yellows, and barely there blues are paint colors designed for the camera, for rooms built on sound stages, flooded with artificial coastal light. These are swatches forever out of reach. Some interiors can exist only in the movies: "INT. Kitchen."



PRODUCTION STILLS MOVIESTILLSDE

"It's Complicated" starring Meryl Streep, above, will screen at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y.





Choice interiors: Diane Keaton in "Something's Gotta Give," below, a young Lindsay Lohan and the late Natasha Richardson in "The Parent Trap."



CAROL COREY FINE ART

'Two Birds' by Roz Chast

### Roz Chast Show and Pop-Up at Carol Corey Fine Art

An artist reception for Roz Chast's new exhibition, "Buildings, Bananas and Beyond" at Carol Corey Fine Art in Kent, Conn., will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 4 p.m. The Brooklyn-born artist who now lives and works in Connecticut will appear in conversation with artist Karla Knight. The exhibition

runs through Sunday, Oct. 1.

Known for her sardonic cartoons regularly featured in The New Yorker, Chast has expanded the scope of her humorous craft into a broader breadth of material — literally. With work that moves into textiles, stitching, beading and painted objects, Chast's

signature style remains as clear as ever: welcoming and little wobbly. House of Books in Kent, Conn., will also host a pop up at the gallery on Sept. 9, celebrating the releases of Roz Chast's book "I Must Be Dreaming" and the children's book "Tired Town," a collaboration with Patricia

### A Man Named Fortune

This September marks the 10th anniversary of the burial of Fortune. an enslaved Black man who lived in Waterbury, Conn., in the 18th century. The Mattatuck Museum will honor the occasion by retelling his story during a ceremony held at his grave at noon at Riverside Cemetery on Wednesday, Sept. 13. A decade ago, the Mattatuck Museum began working through forensic science, research, and local historical documents to bring Fortune's story to light and give him a proper grave. Partnering with the NAACP Greater Waterbury, the event will feature local institutions and independent scholars who will help guests learn about Fortune's life and honor his death. This event is free and open to the public. To register, go to www.mattmuseum.

org

### **Kent Art Association**

The Kent Art Association in Kent, Conn., will hold a showing of fiber arts, showcasing quilts, wall hangings and clothing on Friday, Sept. 8, at 6 p.m. On Saturday, Sept. 9, at 10 a.m., Kent Historical Society President of The Board of Directors Deborah Chambrian

At The Movies

**BARBIE** 

CC AD

will lead a coffee talk discussing the life of the late Kent Art Association founder and sculptor Willard Paddock. Chambrian currently lives in what was once Paddock's artist studio.



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Drinks & light bites at 5:30/Movie at 6:30.



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### **WBSL FM 91.7**

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

### **EDITORIAL Decision on Sharon** Hospital

The state's proposed final decision issued last week denied Sharon Hospital's request to close labor and delivery services at the hospital. (See story on Page One.) The Office of Health Strategy, an agency created in 2018 responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive health care vision for the state, requires certain types of health care providers to obtain state approval prior to making major changes in the health care landscape. In its proposed final decision, OHS included "Findings of Fact" containing more than 100 statements. In themselves, the statements provide a portrait of our hospital that puts the issues in perspective from both sides of the argument. The findings and the state's proposed final decision also stand as a snapshot of our time, illustrating in some ways how Sharon Hospital shares issues facing rural hospitals across the country.

Those issues include low labor and delivery volume, difficulties in recruiting and retaining staff, a problem further exacerbated by a nationwide health care worker shortage. From January to December 2021, Sharon Hospital had deliveries on approximately 45% of the days during the year; there were approximately 202 days (55%) where no obstetrical delivery occurred. Yet full staffing for a birthing unit and 24/7 surgical and anesthesia support is required. A 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment indicated health needs of the community, which has an aging demographic, include access to primary and preventative care, behavioral health care and maternal and child health care.

Rural hospitals also struggle with travel times, and the request to close Sharon's labor and delivery unit has raised concern about alternatives for women in the Northwest Corner and in eastern Dutchess County. The lack of adequate access to labor and delivery facilities and services for women in rural areas has led to documented increases in out-of-hospital births, births in hospitals without obstetrics services, and poorer birth outcomes. Travel time of 20 minutes or more is associated with an increased risk of mortality and adverse outcomes. Travel times from Sharon Hospital to area hospitals capable of serving patients in need of labor and delivery services range from 37 minutes to

Seven percent of residents in the hospital's primary service area have incomes below the federal poverty level, but an additional 31 percent have incomes that fall below a threshold necessary to meet all basic needs. The Findings of Fact state that the hospital's proposal would have a negative impact on access to Medicaid recipients and indigent persons and would exacerbate racial and ethnic healthcare inequities at the state, county, and town levels.

As part of Nuvance Health, a not-for-profit organization, Sharon Hospital anticipates \$3 million dollars in annual savings by shutting labor and delivery. The Findings of Fact state that despite Sharon Hospital's losses in fiscal year 2021, Nuvance made approximately \$75 million, had an excess of revenue over expenses of \$105 million. OHS concluded that Nuvance appears to be financially stable.

The proposed final decision can be appealed. Sharon Hospital has until Sept. 18 to do so.

To read OHS's proposed final decision, go to: portal. ct.gov/OHS/Pages/Certificate-of-Need/CON-Portal and search for CON status of Vassar Health Connecticut, *Inc. d/b/a Sharon Hospital* 

### Opinion



### **Kudos to your** newspaper

Since your new editor took over, the paper has been transformed again into a well-written local review of the NW Corner. We have purchased your paper for more than 40 years for its value to learn about the local neighborhood and what's going on here.

Keep up the good work. PBS had a story tonight about the deleterious effect of the diminishing number of local newspapers. Think about writing a story that tells your audience about this - no voice about our area and thus no eyes to read it — the community suffers.

We need you to keep us informed. Thank you.

**Carol Seaman** 

Sharon

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Knotweed control put in a regional perspective

Thank you for covering the Japanese Knotweed Workshop at the Sharon Town Garage last month. The larger regional context of knotweed control deserves mention as it seeks to preserve the ecological integrity and scenic value of the recently designated Wild and Scenic Housatonic River.

That effort began with a 2018 canoe survey of both banks of a 41-mile stretch of the river by the Knotweed Network, comprised largely of Housatonic River Commissioners and facilitated by the Housatonic Valley Association, which revealed knotweed distributions still within a manageable range. River Commissioners Robert Gambino and Christian Allyn, both trained invasive managers, volunteered to control the largest patches of knotweed just above the West Cornwall Covered Bridge, in order to prevent further reduction of riparian eco-system services at the head of the river's most notable trout fishery. (Knotweed along riverbanks reduces drift insect food-web contributions for trout to near zero.) That knotweed demonstration project on the Sharon side of the river also enhanced the scenic value of the river's most photographed tourist

Most Wild and Scenic surrounding towns have subsequently mapped townwide knotweed distributions to determine patterns of invasion along their town and state roads, where knotweed has been inadvertently planted during road projects by way of biologically contaminated fill from gravel pits and soil storage areas. Because roads intersect and frequently parallel the Housatonic and its tributary streams, knotweed along roadsides often ends up impacting the integrity of the river itself.

North Canaan and Falls Village have largely defeated knotweed along their town road networks, and Cornwall has also joined the effort. They have treated knotweed at their infested gravel pit and have begun to control knotweed previously distributed in loads of fill used in the course of routine road maintenance. The Connecticut Department of Transportation has also recently enhanced knotweed management at its various ConnDOT soil storage areas and has undertaken more extensive treatment of roadside knotweed patches.

As for knotweed control methods, foliar treatment utilizes the smallest quantities of herbicide and is most effectively undertaken in late September after the knotweed's blossom period. Treatments are typically 90% effective in year one, and depending on patch size may require spot treatment in

years two and three. Towns then shift to a prevention strategy, monitoring their fill and gravel sources as they strive for knotweed-free status. (Injection of knotweed stems is feasible only for very small patches.)

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was enacted in 1968 and has thus far protected 228 rivers throughout the United States. Our recently-designated Wild and Scenic Housatonic has the potential to become notable in the Northeast for not

### **Praise for** knotweed fight

I read with great interest about the effort to get rid of Japanese knotweed (Patrick Sullivan, Lakeville Journal Aug 31/2023) and kudos to the Sharon town highway crew for getting involved. Perhaps the same spray method can be used on porcelainberry — aka "kudzu of the north — wherever it has achieved 100% surface coverage, as it has along a stretch on both sides of Route 4. Porcelainberry may not have pretty flowers, offers just a generic green and is therefore easily overlooked. However, it is extremely invasive, has swallowed whole trees and shrubs, and it is spreading around Sharon.

Fritz Mueller

having succumbed to the scourge of knotweed.

**Tom Zetterstrom Knotweed Network for** the Housatonic River Commission and with the support of the Housatonic **Valley Association** 

### **Endorsing** Riva for P&Z

North Canaan

With our local election just two months away, I wanted to get my endorsement of Bob Riva out there early. He is seeking re-election as a member of the P&Z Commission.

It is certainly gratifying to have Bob want to continue to serve the community, which he has done over the years for example, Board of Education (8 years), Zoning Board of Appeals (2 terms), and Town Selectman (1 term).

His membership on the Affordable Housing and **HVRHS Building Commit**tees and his being a local business owner have provided him additional insights when dealing with P&Z issues. Bob's ample civic experience, common sense, and fair-mindedness will continue to be needed to resolve the important, sometimes contentious, proposals presented to the P&Z Commission.

**Peter Becket** 

Lakeville

### TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Norma Bosworth

100 years ago — September 1923

Mr. Goddard has left town regretfully, because his housekeepers, of whom he has had six this season, have run out. He will be in the state another month making his headquarters in Cheshire, but will be in town Sept. 17th to address the Knights of Pythias.

Motorists are complaining that Smith Hill is not properly posted as to dangerous grades, etc. This hill is a particularly vicious piece of highway and catches many a motorist unawares. Many a brake lining has been burned out in going down this hill, after drivers have failed to realize that they should have gone into second speed. Some sign that will emphatically warn travelers should be installed at once.

Will some one page Senator La Follette and give him the news that gasoline is now selling from 20 cents up instead of the dollar a gallon that he predicted.

50 years ago — September

"I'm going to miss the high school a lot," explained John Dubois, chief custodian of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School. He will retire Sept. 30 after 35 years at the school. "How do you say it? When you work at a place for 35 years, you're bound to miss it," he said.

Two original poems by the late Mark Van Doren of Cornwall Hollow are published in the Sept. 10 issue of The Nation. Entitled "Water Was" and "Rain Beautifies the City," they will appear in a new volume, "Good Morning: Last Poems" (Hill and Wang) to be published posthumously. Mr. Van Doren, who died last December, was literary editor of The Nation from 1924 to 1928. He sent

the new poems to The Nation a few weeks before his death.

Gertrude K. Lathrop, famed Falls Village sculptor, has been honored again for her work, receiving the gold medal of the American Numismatic Association. Miss Lathrop and her sister Dorothy, well-known writer and illustrator of children's books, make their home on Undermountain Road.

A bullet-resistant barrier has been installed at the Falls Village branch office of the Torrington Savings Bank. Vice president Malcolm Canfield said the new barrier was installed about two weeks ago. The shield extends from counter top to ceiling and completely encloses the business area of the bank.

Joseph A. Hamzy of Falls Village, the new manager of Lakeville's Interlaken Inn, reported this week that the new \$750,000 inn was operating "at capacity" during its first holiday weekend, Labor Day. Mr. Hamzy said key staff positions at the inn had been filled, with Mrs. Will Rogers Jr. as head housekeeper, Will Rogers III as assistant manager, John Dennett has head chef and William Tatsapaugh, bartender.

25 years ago — September

Habitat for Humanity has found a home in Falls Village. Or at least it now can build one. Residents overwhelmingly approved a motion to award the Alston property on Sand Road to the non-profit organization at an Aug. 27 town meeting.

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

### THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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Sharon

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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 9**

#### **NY Philharmonic's Kent Tritle Returns to Smithfield Church for Organ Concert**

The Smithfield Church, 646 Smithfield Valley Road, Amenia, N.Y

Kent Tritle, New York Philharmonic organist and acclaimed choir master, will once again bring his lively and intimate performance style to Smithfield Church in Amenia on Saturday, Sept. 9, at 3:30 p.m., after a three-year COVID-19 hiatus.

Suggested donation is \$20 at the door. A reception will follow. For more information, call 718-473-4623 or email swebb00@icloud. com. The Smithfield Church, 646 Smithfield Valley Road, Amenia, is handicapped accessible.

#### Wild Weaving

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

On Saturday, Sept. 9 at 10:30 a.m. the David M. Hunt Library will offer the program "Wild Weaving" with Jean Bronson. Participants will learn to weave on a maple branch frame with yarn, flowers, leaves, grasses and other natural materials. This program is suitable for all ages; those under age 5 should be accompanied by an adult who can help them. Limit 12 children. Please register at huntlibrary.

#### **■ SEPTEMBER 10** Free Family Concerts at

### **Music Mountain**

Gordon Hall, Music Mountain, 225 Music Mountain Road, Falls Village, Conn. musicmountain.org

Beginning at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 10, discover Miguel Del Aguila's "Clocks" piano quintet, a suite in six movements portraying an imaginary visit to a clock museum. Hear the vast sound world of clocks, from the deep resonance of clock towers to the finely calibrated workings of clock mechanics. The final movement, "The Joy of Keeping Time," takes place after the museum closes and the clocks come to life in an exuberant jam session. Learn about the engaging music of Latin America. At 3 p.m., the Dali Quartet and Vanessa Perez piano will take the stage. All are welcome, tickets required. Visit musicmountain.org.

### **Cornwall Agricultural Fair**

Cornwall Town Green, Pine Street, Cornwall, Conn.

The annual Cornwall Agricultural Fair returns to the town green for its 31st year on Sept. 10 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Area farmers, crafters, artisans, shops, and culinary creators will display their harvest and haul from a summer of hard work. A blessing of the animals will take place to ensure a healthy and happy year ahead. Entries from area farms will be judged and awarded in categories

such as 'best garden find' and 'best dairy product.' Celebrate the seasonal harvest and enjoy a funfilled day on the green.

#### **■ SEPTEMBER 11**

#### Free Live Well with **Chronic Pain Phone** Workshop

Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging

Registration is now being taken for a free, six-week Live Well with Chronic Pain telephone workshop for adults on Mondays, Sept. 11 to Oct. 16 from 10 to 11 a.m. Sponsored by the Western Connecticut Area Agency on Aging, participants can join from the comfort of their own home without having to use any technology beyond the telephone. The toll free WCAAA conference call line is used to connect participants to a trained Live Well leader who facilitates the workshop. Materials will be sent directly to participants at no cost.

Contact Debby Horowitz, Live Well Regional Coordinator, at 203-757-5449 x 125 or dhorowitz@wcaaa.org for more information.

#### **■ SEPTEMBER 12**

#### Rosie the Riveter with the **Connecticut Museum of Culture and History**

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

On Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 4 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library will host a presentation on "Rosie the Riveter" in partnership with the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History. "Rosie the Riveter" of working women during World War II. We'll look at propaganda posters, art, music, photos, and hear real-life accounts of Connecticut women who worked for victory in the war. This event is free and open to the public.

### **■ SEPTEMBER 16 Golf Tournament and Pig**

274 Under Mountain Road, Copake, N.Y.

The Salisbury Winter Sports Association 16th **Annual Golf Tournament** and Pig Roast will be held Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Undermountain Golf Course. The 18 hole, twoperson scramble event is open to men's and mixed categories and is limited to 50 two-person teams. There will be two shot gun starts, one at 8 a.m. and the other at 1 p.m.

The entry fee is \$110 per person which includes green fees, cart, lunch, on-course beverages, oncourse contests, awards and a pig roast dinner provided by the Sunday in the Country Food Drive. Proceeds benefit SWSA youth skiing programs. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 17. Register and pay in advance by calling Trish at the **Undermountain Golf** Course at (518) 329-4444.

### Blame government first as medical insurance explodes Tho and what are to blame for

the soaring cost of medical insurance in Connecticut? Last week, a hearing held by the state Insurance Department heard opinions in response to more requests from medical insurers for premium increases, this time averaging 20% for individual policies and 15% for small group plans.

Of course, the country's general inflation rate is a big part of the problem. But the costs of medical insurance are especially complicated, since for many years government's intervention, necessary as it may be, has turned medicine into a carnival of cost shifting, so much so that people can hardly know the real cost of what they're getting and who is really paying.

Elected officials blame insurers, who blame hospitals and doctors, who blame insurers and government. They're all correct, though exactly how much each is to blame isn't clear.

But start with government because of its direct accountability to the public and because government is the biggest purchaser of medical insurance — for its employees, for the poor via Medicaid and for the elderly via Medicare.

Government's payments for Medicaid and Medicare patients are sharply discounted from rates paid by other patients. The point of this discounting was to shift costs to those other patients and hide them. Exactly how much costs are shifted is debated. But if government paid more for the poor and elderly, hospitals and doctors could charge other patients less and insurers could reduce their rates — at least theoretically.

But saving money in medicine and medical insurance may require competitive markets even as those sectors have greatly consolidated.

Most Connecticut hospitals are now owned by two chains — Hartford Health-Care and Yale New Haven Health — and hospitals have been acquiring or partnering with physician practices, further diminishing competition. This consolidation has been attributed to the growing burden of government regulation and the desire of doctors to do less paperwork and more patient care.

Meanwhile, insurance companies have merged and gotten bigger or left the medical insurance business. Only three insurers are selling individual medical policies on Connecticut's Affordable Care Act exchange in Connecticut, and one insurer has reported big losses in the last two years. That

### THE CHRIS **POWELL** COLUMN

company may not be looting its customers as much as the haters of insurance companies like to believe. But if medical insurers really have excess profits, government could always tax them away.

How hard are medical insurers negotiating with hospitals and doctors? At last week's hearing, state Attorney General William Tong complained that insurers are not negotiating costs but rather building their rates on mere estimates of annual cost increases. Presumably state law could require insurers to seek specific rates from hospitals and physicians for a year or two in advance if hospitals and physicians were willing and able to provide them and stick to them. They're probably not.

Also driving up medical insurance costs are state government mandates for coverage that insurers must provide. Not all are necessities. Many are mainly matters of legislators seeking to gratify one constituency or another. Could state government reduce its medical insurance mandates? Not without a lot of shrieking.

(Meanwhile, state government's medical insurance for its employees and retirees spends \$1 million a year for erectile dysfunction drugs.)

Maybe the best suggestion at last week's hearing was made by state government's departing health care advocate, Ted Doolittle, who said insurance companies are serving as a "stalking horse for the hospitals," the biggest parties in interest. Doolittle said hospitals should be interrogated just as closely as insurers and the hospitals raising costs most should be identified.

There's a lot of money in medicine and insurance, with many executives paid spectacular salaries, and the search for medical and insurance coverage efficiencies is a largely political matter. So it should be the General Assembly's job more than the Insurance Department's.

Indeed, for just presiding over soaring medical insurance costs, government is most to blame for them. But then, which legislators have the courage to risk offending not just two huge industries but also their many constituents who are patients?

Chris Powell has written about Connecticut government and politics for many years. (CPowell@cox.net.)

### The modern-day automobile is becoming a luxury item

enry Ford must be rolling over in his grave. His vision of making an automobile that would be accessible to all Americans was embraced by the car industry for decades. That era has come to an end.

The demise of the reasonably-priced auto is happening before our eyes. The last car with an average price of less than \$20,000, the Mitsubishi Mirage, a compact, is being discontinued.

It joins models such as the Honda Fit, Chevrolet Spark, and Volkswagen Beetle in the graveyard of small, affordable cars.

Over the last few years, Americans for the most part have forsaken 'small' for 'big' vehicles like the SUV, pickups, and crossovers. For every Mirage sale in the second quarter of 2023, Ford sold 108 F-series pickups. The big auto companies claim that the U.S. consumer is not interested in buying small cars anymore. That may be true, but the reality is that fewer consumers than ever can afford to shell out \$48,000 to \$50,000 on average for a new vehicle.

Many blame the Covid-19 pandemic for the death knoll of affordable autos. At that time, used and new car prices spiked higher as global supply change shortages disrupted production.

The microchip area was especially hard. The scarcity of chips forced car makers to ration, reserving this precious commodity for their most profitable, high-end autos. Supply of vehicles overall fell, while consumer demand throughout the country continued to increase. This led to an inflationary spiral in vehicle prices.

As in many other areas of the economy, there is a wide

disparity between the haves and have-nots in this country. The ability to purchase an auto has suddenly become a luxury problem.

This year, for example, the bottom 20% of workers reduced their purchases of new cars to its lowest level in more than a decade, according to the most recent Consumer Expenditure Survey, while the top 20% of earners spent more on new cars than any time since 1984.

Adding insult to injury is the rise in interest rates that have pushed car loans into the stratosphere. The number of motorists paying more than \$1,000 per month for a new car loan is almost 16%, which is a record. The average monthly payment, according to Edmunds.com, is well over \$700 per month. That means if you took out a car loan at 4% a few years ago for a \$40,000 car, and now must pay 8% in interest over five years, for a similarly priced car that would add \$4,463 to the total cost of the

Most of us believed that once the pandemic was over, car prices would return to normal instead, manufacturers continued to raise prices Why, you might ask, have auto manufacturers forsaken Ford's goal of building "a motor car that the everyday American could afford?'

The truth is simple. After the pandemic, car manufacturers realized that selling fewer vehicles at higher prices was good for both sales and profits. Last year, for example, only 13.9 million units were sold in the U.S. (versus 17 million in 2019), but sales were \$15 billion higher.

Electric vehicles are also to blame. The industry is in a do-or-die moment as con-

### THE RETIRED **INVESTOR** BILL SCHMICK

sumers demand companies offer an increasing array of electric vehicle alternatives, while governments offer generous subsidies to manufacturers. This has led to a massive investment drain to the tune of billions of dollars to overhaul factories in a rush to produce EVs. One way to come up with that money was to accelerate the trend toward producing high-margin SUVs and trucks while reducing production in the less profitable affordable car market.

As most readers are aware, the skyrocketing costs of new cars have forced many car buyers into the used car market. At least they are cheaper, if you can find one. The transaction price of a used car is currently \$28,381, according to Edmunds.com.

That is still up 44% over 2018. Add in the interest expense on a car loan and it is still a sizable sum.

For many consumers, the only recourse is to keep their aging vehicles, hoping the time will come that this insanity will end, and prices will come down to earth. In the meantime, the average age of a light-duty vehicle on the road stands at 12.5 years in the U.S. That is the highest level of aging autos since the Financial Crisis and subsequent recession.

By 2028, a recent study of S&P Global Mobility predicts that autos that are six years or older will make up more than 74% of the U.S. total vehicle fleet of 2028. If so, and your car falls in that aging vehicle category, it might be a good idea to renew or purchase a five-year warranty on your auto right now.

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@-schmicksretiredinvestor.com.

### Realtor® at Large

diminishing as we enter fall, we decided to have the windows cleaned at the house and already it has made a difference! While I never thought of this before, it has made an immediate positive change to the house. Joshua Btasseur can be reached at 860-597-0214 or his website is www.thewindowguyct. com/#Services. Well worth considering.

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### **TAG SALES**

### SALISBURY,

NOBLE HORIZONS BOOK & TAG SALE: Fri., September 8 & Sat., September 9 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Community Room, 17 Cobble Rd., Salisbury, CT. Admission is free both days. On Friday only EARLY BIRDS pay

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\$10 from 8-9 a.m.

DAYCARE TEACHER-UN-DERMOUNTAIN CHILD **CARE CENTER:**Full-time position with benefits for a daycare teacher/early childhood educator, at Undermountain Child Care Center on the campus of Berkshire School, Monday through Friday. Teacher certification a plus but not required. CORI and other background checks required. Submit resume and letter of interest to Tammy Wysocki, Director of UMCC, Berkshire School, 245 North Undermountain Road, Sheffield, MA 01257. twysocki@berkshireschool. org Phone: 413-229-1850.

#### GROUNDS/MAINTE-NANCE POSITION: Berkshire School has an opening for an individual to perform routine seasonal outside maintenance and grounds work, and event set-ups and breakdowns. This position requires heavy lifting and the ability to work as an effective member of a team. Some weekend and holiday hours are mandatory. This is a full-time, year round position with excellent benefits. Interested parties should contact Gabe Starczewski, gstarczewski@berkshire-

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PROJECT SAGE: seeks a Community Educator to advance our vision of a world in which everyone can be themselves, have healthy relationships, and live free of interpersonal, relationship violence. The primary role of the Community Educatoris to develop, manage, facilitate and deliver community programming, with a special emphasis on engagement of boys and men, and to support K - 12 education efforts. This is a full-time position based in Lakeville, CT. A background in education, social work, or gender studies through work participation or education is required. Experience as a trainer, group facilitator, and community networker are highly valued, as is public speaking experience. An ability to work with diverse populations and volunteers is essential, as is working collaboratively with staff. Computer literacy in Microsoft Office Suite is required.\$53,000—\$57,000 depending on experience with generous benefits. More information at www. project-sage.org/employment. To express interest, please send your resume and letter of introduction to sagesearch@project-sage.

#### THE DAVID M. HUNT LI-**BRARY:** in Falls Village is looking to hire an Assistant Director and Youth Services Coordinator. This position will both support the strategic direction of the library and play an integral role in day to day operations. Learn more about the position and how to apply at https:// www.huntlibrary.org/employment opportunities/. Applications will be accepted until September 15.

THE NORTH EAST COM-**MUNITY CENTER:**has several current openings in our Youth Programs. We are hiring a FT Early Learning Program Senior Assistant, a PT Early Learning Program Assistant, and a PT Outof-School-Time Program Senior Assistant. Full position descriptions available at www.neccmillerton.org/ employment Request application or send resume to info@neccmillerton.org

Email ads to classified@ lakevillejournal.com

### **HELP WANTED**

**DRIVERS WANTED:** At least 25 years old, Clean NYS Drivers License, Class E or C License with passenger endorsement. Willing to Train. Local and Long Distance. Call Watson Livery at 845-464-8178.

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#### ANTIQUES, **COLLECTIBLES**

LOOKING TO ACQUIRE: Eric Sloan and Hudson River School paintings. Please call 917-755-2640.

### WANTED

WANTED: Land to hunt ducks on. Will consider a lease. Also goose hunting. Thanks! 914-548-0648.

### **REAL ESTATE**

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: Equal Housing Opportunity. All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1966 revised March 12, 1989 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color religion, sex, handicap or familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. All residential property advertised in the State of Connecticut General Statutes 46a-64c which prohibit the making, printing or publishing or causing to be made, printed or published any notice,  $statement\, or\, advertisement$ with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference,

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#### **REAL ESTATE**

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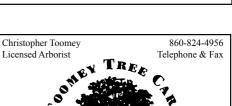
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