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The Lakeville Journal

TriCornerNews.com

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2023 \$2.00

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



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

A view of the Colebrook Reservoir from the Colebrook Dam.

Land conservancy plans to acquire large Colebrook Reservoir easement

By Debra A. Aleksinas

KENT — The Kent-based Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC) will purchase a conservation easement for \$1 million on 5,500 acres of pristine, forested land surrounding the Colebrook Reservoir in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

In making the announcement last week, NCLC executive director

Catherine Rawson referred to the permanent protection of the watershed acreage as a groundbreaking win for conservation in Northwest Connecticut, and “exceptionally important to the region’s conservation future.”

According to the environmental group Save the Sound, which also was a party to the proceedings, the Colebrook Reservoir is one of the state’s last few remaining large,

untapped surface drinking water supplies. It feeds directly into the Farmington River, a National Wild and Scenic River.

NCLC will purchase the conservation easement on the 5,500 acres of land owned by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), which comprises 4,300 acres in Connecticut and 1,200 acres in

Massachusetts, for \$1 million.

The water company will be permitted to continue its existing uses of the property, and new public access to the property will be allowed for passive recreation such as hunting, fishing, hiking and boating, subject to NCLC and state health

See CONSERVANCY, Page A10

Salmon Kill Bridge faces more delay

By Maud Doyle

SALISBURY — On a bright day in early July, a cheerful, local contractor ventured down to the construction site at Salmon Kill Bridge, curious about the progress that contractor, Hemlock Construction Co., had made since construction resumed in the spring.

The town closed Salmon Kill Road for construction on Sept. 19, 2022, initially anticipating a reopening in spring 2023, but the project has been beset by delays. In April, Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand said he hoped the bridge would reopen in August or September.

Now the state Department of Transportation (DOT) anticipates a reopening at the end of November.

“See that drill rig?” asked the contractor, pointing to a tall,

See BRIDGE, Page A10

To save the planet, Homegrown National Park wants you to garden

Part One of a series

By Elias Sorich

SHARON — From a home base in the forested hills of the Northwest Corner, a nonprofit organization called Homegrown National Park (HNP) hopes to take a stab at healing one of the world’s great wounds: the decimation of biodi-

versity.

To do so, HNP pursues one major goal—to encourage homeowners across the country to plant native plants in however much of their property they’re able and willing to do. Whether it’s a container garden in the window of an urban apartment, or stewarding rolling acres of meadow.

On the subject of container

gardening, HNP has found some viral success. A HNP TikTok video titled “Container-friendly Native Plants for Eastern Temperate Forests Ecoregion” has amassed 4.4 million views, with a number of others collecting hundreds of thousands as well.

This sort of grassroots success is

See GARDEN, Page A6



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Sharon Country Club Fire

An equipment storage shed caught fire Saturday morning, July 29 at the Sharon Country Club. For full story, turn to page A3.

Books return to shelves at Hotchkiss Library

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — A sure sign that construction work is completed at the historic Hotchkiss Library in Sharon is the return of books to the shelves.

Tom Trowbridge, President of the Board of Directors, stopped in

on Monday, July 24, the first day of the deliveries, to see the progress.

“A lot of work; a lot of people,” Trowbridge said, reflecting on the years-long process that began with a vision and progressed to proposals, plans, approvals, fundraising and construction.

Recalling the long process,

See, LIBRARY PAGE A10



4H Fair

Kaelyn Tompkins of Salisbury showed a brown Swiss calf and won the group on Sunday, July 30 at East Canaan’s Jack Brown Fair.

PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON



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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.

Driving unreasonably fast

On Tuesday, July 18, at approximately 3:45 a.m., Alison Holmes, 23, of Lakeville, was traveling eastbound on West Cornwall Road in Sharon in a 2015 Volkswagen Jetta when the vehicle failed to maintain its lane and left the road, coming to a stop in a ditch. Holmes was issued an infraction for failing to maintain lane and for traveling unreasonably fast.

Failing to keep in lane

On Wednesday, July 19, at approximately 5:20 p.m., Marc Simont, 76, of West Cornwall, was traveling westbound on Music Mountain Road in Canaan, west of the River Road intersection. When Simont, in a 2006 Mazda Miata MX-5, was passing another vehicle he negotiated a wide left turn, temporarily leaving the roadway and overcorrected, colliding with a boulder in the eastbound shoulder. Simont was issued a warning for failure to keep in proper lane.

Swerved to avoid hitting small animal

On Saturday, July 22 at approximately 3:20 p.m., Carlos Mesa, 51, of Canton,

Connecticut, was traveling eastbound on Colebrook Road (Route 182) in Norfolk in a 1967 Triumph Spitfire when he swerved to avoid a small animal in the road, resulting in a collision with a utility pole. A passenger, Eric Furst, 55, of Bristol, was transported to Winsted Healthcare Center for a minor injury. Mesa was issued a written warning for failure to maintain lane. The Triumph was towed from the scene.

Dropped cigarette leads to crash

On Saturday, July 22, at approximately 9 a.m., Jesse Andrighetti, 31, of Wassatic, New York, was traveling westbound on Route 4 in Cornwall when he dropped a cigarette in the vehicle and attempted to reach down to retrieve it, veering to the right, driving over a curb and striking eight feet of wire rope guardrails in the westbound shoulder. Andrighetti's 2003 Ford Explorer was towed from the scene and he was issued a verbal warning for failure to drive in a proper lane.

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.

Little Guild donations hit \$3.75 million

CORNWALL — The John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation has announced a matching grant to help the Little Guild animal shelter in West Cornwall reach its fundraising goal.

As of July 25, donations to the campaign totaled \$3,750,000. The Little Guild set a capital campaign goal of \$4,000,000 to put toward the construction of a new facility at the location on Sharon Goshen Turnpike.

The new facility will help the Little Guild continue to rescue homeless cats and dogs by adding quarantining capabilities, modern air ventilation, soundproofing, a community room for free vaccination clinics, and spacious play areas for the animals.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

An artist's rendering of the planned shelter in West Cornwall that will enable The Little Guild continue to rescue cats and dogs.

Sharon Hospital awarded five-star rating by CMS fourth year in a row

SHARON — Sharon Hospital, has been awarded a five-star rating by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for quality patient care.

The overall rating, between one and five stars, provides consumers with a summary of a hospital's overall quality performance into a single summary score. Scores are determined from

a variety of data reported, including mortality, safety of care, timely and effective care, readmissions, and patient experience. Sharon Hospital is one three hospitals in Connecticut to earn the five-star rating and one of 483 facilities in the nation to earn the top score.

"Our fourth consecutive five-star rating is a testament to the hard work and dedica-

tion of our inspiring health-care professionals who share in our culture, one dedicated to excellence and the best outcomes for every patient," said Christina McCulloch, Sharon Hospital president.

Sharon Hospital also has achieved a Get With The Guidelines® Stroke Gold Plus Award. The award reflects its commitment to providing stroke patients with lifesaving care by following nationally recognized, evidence-based guidelines.

Online This Week

What to know about tick-borne diseases

There's plenty to worry about without believing rumors. Go to www.tricornernews.com

Millbrook horse trial competition back again

The weekend event drew an enthusiastic crowd of participants and spectators. Go to www.tricornernews.com.

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

Check them out inside.

- Ocean State Job Lot
- Herrington's

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

Our Towns



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Habitat for Humanity brings community organizations and other individual volunteers together to build affordable homes for local families like this one on Salisbury Road in North Canaan.

Habitat for Humanity home project proceeds; volunteers sought to help

By Sadie Leite

NORTH CANAAN — Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut chose a family in their July 1 round of applications for a new project, and they need volunteers to help.

The organization provides affordable housing for families, with a volunteer base that builds up lots with gifted time and effort. They employ an effective “affordability formula,” so lower-income families can own homes.

Potential families qualify for the program if they earn less than 60% of the median income for Litchfield County. A four-person family, for example, could have \$61,740 as their maximum income. Additionally, those interested must be able to afford about \$800 to \$1,000 monthly payments for the Habitat mortgage (this includes insurance and taxes). Utility payments are separate.

This current project is located on 324 Salisbury Road in North Canaan. “We broke ground on this property last December,” said Habitat Executive Director Evan Cooper. “It’s located on a nice, beautiful lot, and it’s a single-family home with three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

There are three lots in this location — one was built into a home years ago. That homeowner volunteered for the current project. Cooper explained, “He had some volunteer hours to finish up. It’s great he was that close.” The third lot is open for a future home.

As a part of the program, families that move into affordable homes must contribute hours to the umbrella volunteer effort. This includes working on their house, returning for work on new properties, or helping with fundraising events. In all, they must complete 400 “sweat equity” hours.

The application process is quite transparent. Habitat posts notices in newspapers, social services offices, and online, to communicate need for a new family. A selection committee reviews applications. If candidates meet Habitat’s preliminary qualifications, they progress to an interview.

“Demonstrating a need for safe and affordable housing is a top criterion, but the committee also looks at standard things like income, credit, debt to income, saving, employment history and ties to the community,” Cooper said.

Habitat’s “affordability

formula” works to see families own homes, who traditionally could not. In short, the organization owns the land, and the family pays a ground lease.

Cooper said, “Our affiliate holds the mortgage, so we are able to offer... flexible terms.” Flexible terms mean low property taxes and a zero-interest mortgage.

In some cases, families don’t own houses initially. They might begin with a rental program, buttressed by Habitat homeownership classes. Eventually, with the organization’s help, they move to the homeownership model explained above.

Habitat hopes to see the Salisbury Road project finish for an early fall move-in date.

Ken Hall is the current site supervisor. He oversees material ordering and volunteers. Community members contribute to construction in many ways, from putting up drywall to landscaping.

“We just finished installing the roof and windows,” said Cooper. “Our next steps are electrical, plumbing and siding.”

Local service is the core of Habitat’s success. Richard Herrington, part-owner of the lumber and material supply business Herrington’s (with six locations including

Lakeville and Millerton), started off the Salisbury Road construction with a donation.

Herrington’s provides Habitat with most materials. However, “Prices have gone up substantially,” Cooper said. “We’ve always been proud of building affordable homes for well under square-footage market price, and we’re still able to do that, but it’s tough.”

Volunteers of all ages, starting in high school, can visit the Habitat website to sign up and help. Also, on Sept. 23, community members can attend Habitat’s annual fundraising event at the Green Barn of Stillwaters Farm in Salisbury. There will be food and entertainment from local performer Wanda Houston. Invitations will be sent out in email and print, and information will appear on the website.

Habitat has other projects underway as well. Recently, a homeowner who lived in a Falls Village property for 12 years passed away. “We’re in the process of buying that house back from the estate, so it can remain an affordable housing unit,” said Cooper.

An eligible family has already been selected for the Falls Village property.

Blaze destroys equipment shed at Sharon Country Club

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — A fire at the Sharon Country Club destroyed an equipment storage shed and its contents on Saturday, July 29.

Fire Marshal Stanley MacMillan was on scene during and after the fire, noting that the call came in at 7:33 a.m., and that the building had been fully engulfed in fire. He said that the blaze was brought under control within an hour.

The corrugated metal building was used to store groundskeeping equipment, including mowers and specialized equipment essential to golf course maintenance. The heat of the blaze caused the steel beam structure to weaken, twist and collapse.

Seven area fire companies responded with fire apparatus and tankers, there being no water source nearby, MacMillan said. Towns responding were Sharon, Amenia, Wassauc and Millerton, Lakeville, Cornwall and Warren. The towns of North Canaan and Falls Village provided emergency coverage to the area while the companies were engaged in Sharon.

The cause of the fire is under investigation, MacMillan said, indicating that



PHOTO SUBMITTED

An equipment storage shed caught fire Saturday morning, July 29 at the Sharon Country Club.

he had requested assistance from the office of the State Fire Marshal. The State Police fire investigation unit was on scene Saturday.

Visiting the scene around noon on Saturday to inspect the damage was Michael Smith, treasurer of the country club. He indicated that the club expects to rebuild the equipment storage facility.




PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Twisted metal was all that remained after an early morning fire destroyed an equipment storage shed at the Sharon Country Club on Saturday, July 29.



The Annual Kent Sidewalk Sale Days takes place Thursday August 3 through Sunday August 6. Head to Kent for sales, food and entertainment during the week. Sponsored by the Kent Chamber of Commerce, Tarot in Thyme/Chestnut Woodworking & Antique Flooring, St. Andrew’s Church, Kent Greenhouse & Gardens and 45 on Main Coffee & Creamery. Go to www.kentct.com for a schedule of sales/events/art gallery exhibits.

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Our Towns

Clambake carries on between storms in Salisbury

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Preparations for the Jane Lloyd Fund clambake and fundraiser Saturday, July 29 began in the rain.

Everything was more or less ready to go around 10:30 a.m., except for the food and the fire.

This is when it started to rain hard.

The rain lasted about 15 minutes. As it tapered off, Ray Zukowski, the leader of the clambake professionals from Turners Falls Schuetzen Verein in Gill, Massachusetts, said “I hate to say it guys, but let’s get started.”

He shrugged on his rain parka. “I did one of these in 11 inches of rain.”

The fire is a carefully constructed structure of 4 x 6 inch lengths of wood with flat boards inside to hold rocks. Ripped-up cardboard boxes serve as kindling. The kindling and boards burn, leaving a pile of hot rocks inside the charred remains of the structure.

The rocks are granite. The harder the rock, the better it holds heat, according to the clambake pros.



The corn shucking technique leaves one layer of husk.

As the team worked, the sun came out. Instantly, Sartre Hill became a sauna.

“Good thing it’s not humid,” said Ken Barker of Salisbury.

Once the fire was constructed, the clambake pros took off for the firehouse, to wash clams.

They returned about 1 p.m.

In the interim, the ticket takers had been briefed on the latest payment technology, which involved questions such as “What do we do with the QR thingy?”

Eliot Osborn and his

fellow musicians got started with a version of Lowell George’s “Willin.”

And the first patrons were starting to straggle in.

There was a brief moment of comedy at 1:15 p.m., when it was time to light the fire.

The call went up. “Anybody got a lighter?” Silence.

“Nobody smokes anymore,” said Zukowski.

Somebody finally produced one, and the fire was set.

Once it burns down, the smoking hunks of 4 x 6 are dragged away, and the sec-



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Sara Jack kept an eye on the clam chowder simmering in a double-boiler at the Jane Lloyd Fund clambake.

ond phase begins. The first layer over the hot rocks is wet corn husks, followed by big clumps of seaweed.

Wood crates containing lobsters are added, along with bags of clams and corn.

Finally, wet, heavy tarps are pulled across the whole steaming shebang.

Then everybody sits down with a cool beverage and waits.

There was a second wave of storms, but it held off until around 5 p.m.

The clambake is an annual tradition, now in its 16th year. It would have been the 18th year, but the COVID-19 pandemic intervened.

Jane Lloyd of Salisbury died of cancer in 2005. The Jane Lloyd Fund was established by her family to help families in the Region One area who are struggling financially with the costs of cancer treatment. It is an endowed fund within the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATION OF PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES INCLUDING NOTICE OF “UNDER-ENDORSEMENT” FOR SOME OFFICES

A certified list of Republican party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Salisbury, CT for election as Board of Education is on file in my office at 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT, and copies thereof are available for public distribution.

The certified list as received includes fewer names of party-endorsed candidates than the party is entitled to nominate for the following offices:

- Office**
- First Selectman**
Number of Names Certified-0
Number Entitled to be Nominated-1
- Selectman**
Number of Names Certified-1
Number Entitled to be Nominated-2
- Board of Finance**
Number of Names Certified-1
Number Entitled to be Nominated-2

- Board of Assessment Appeals (Full Term)**
Number of Names Certified-0
Number Entitled to be Nominated-1
- Board of Assessment Appeals (To Fill Vacancy for Two Years)**
Number of Names Certified-0
Number Entitled to be Nominated-1

- Planning & Zoning Commission**
Number of Names Certified-1
Number Entitled to be Nominated-2
- Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate**
Number of Names Certified-0
Number Entitled to be Nominated-3
- Zoning Board of Appeals**
Number of Names Certified-1

Number Entitled to be Nominated-2
Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate

Number of Names Certified-0
Number Entitled to be Nominated-1

Regional Board of Education
Number of Names Certified-0

Number Entitled to be Nominated-1

A Primary will be held September 12, 2023, if, for a particular office, the number of party-endorsed candidates plus the number of candidates filing petitions pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes exceeds the maximum number which the party is entitled to nominate for that office. Petitions must be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. of August 9, 2023. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from:

Maureen Dell, Republican Registrar of Voters, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068

Patricia H. Williams
Town Clerk of Salisbury
08-03-23

LEGAL NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF CERTIFICATION OF PARTY-ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES INCLUDING NOTICE OF “UNDER-ENDORSEMENT” FOR SOME OFFICES

A certified list of Democratic party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Salisbury for election as First Selectman, Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals (Full Term), Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate and Regional Board of Education is on file in my office at 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT, and copies thereof are available for public distribution.

The certified list as received includes fewer

names of party-endorsed candidates than the party is entitled to nominate for the following offices:

- Office**
- Selectman**
Number of Names Certified-1
Number Entitled to be Nominated-2
- Board of Finance**
Number of Names Certified-1
Number Entitled to be Nominated-2

Board of Assessment Appeals (To Fill Vacancy for Two Years)
Number of Names Certified-0

Number Entitled to be Nominated-1
Planning & Zoning Commission

Number of Names Certified-1
Number Entitled to be Nominated-2

Planning & Zoning Commission Alternate
Number of Names Certified-2

Number Entitled to be Nominated-3

A Primary will be held September 12, 2023, if, for a particular office, the number of party-endorsed candidates plus the number of candidates filing petitions pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes exceeds the maximum number which the party is entitled to nominate for that office. Petitions must be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. of August 9, 2023. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from:

Jennifer Law, Democratic Registrar of Voters, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068

Patricia H. Williams
Town Clerk of Salisbury
08-03-23

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF SHARON PARTY ENDORSED CANDIDATES FOR MUNICIPAL OFFICES INCLUDING NOTICE OF UNDERENDORSEMENT

A certified list of Democrat and Republican

party-endorsed candidates for the Town of Sharon for the election as First Selectman, Selectmen, Town Treasurer, Tax Collector, Board of Finance Full Term, Board of Finance Fill Vacancy 2 yrs., Board of Finance Alt. Full Term, Board of Finance Alt. Fill Vacancy 4 yrs., Board of Education, Board of Assessment Appeals Full Term, Board of Assessment Appeals Fill Vacancy 2 yrs., Planning and Zoning Commission, Planning and Zoning Commission Alt. Full term, Planning & Zoning Alt Fill Vacancy 2 yrs., Zoning Board of Appeals, Zoning Board of Appeals Alt, Regional Board of Education is on file in my office at 63 Main Street, Sharon, CT, and copies are available for public distribution.

The certified list of Democratic Candidates as received includes fewer names of party-endorsed candidates than the party is entitled to nominate for the following offices:

- OFFICE**
- Selectman** # Entitled-2 #Certified-1
- Board of Finance Alt (Full Term)**
#Entitled-1 # Certified-0
- Planning & Zoning Commission Alt** #Entitled-2 #Certified-1
- Zoning Board of Appeals** #Entitled-3 #Certified-2
- Zoning Board of Appeals Alt**
#Entitled-2 #Certified-1

The certified list of Republican Candidates as received includes fewer names of party-endorsed candidates than the party is entitled to nominate for the following offices:

- OFFICE**
- First Selectman**
#Entitled-1 # Certified-0
- Selectman**
#Entitled-2 # Certified-0
- Board of Finance (Full Term)**
#Entitled-2 # Certified-0
- Board of Finance (vacancy term)**
#Entitled-1 # Certified-0
- Board of Finance Alt. (vacancy term)**
#Entitled-1 # Certified-0
- Board of Education**
#Entitled-2 # Certified-1
- Board of Assessment Appeals (vacancy term)**

#Entitled-1 # Certified-0
Planning and Zoning Commission

#Entitled-2 # Certified-0
Planning and Zoning Commission Alt

#Entitled-2 # Certified-1
Planning and Zoning Commission Alt. (vacancy term)

#Entitled-1 # Certified-0
Zoning Board of Appeals

#Entitled-3 # Certified-1
Zoning Board of Appeals Alt.

#Entitled-2 # Certified-1
Regional Board of Education

#Entitled-1 # Certified-0
A Primary will be held September 12, 2023, if, for a particular office, the number of party endorsed candidates plus the number of candidates filing petitions pursuant to Sections 9-382 to 9-450 of the Connecticut General Statutes exceeds the maximum number, which the party is entitled to nominate for that office. Petitions must be filed not later than 4:00 p.m. of August 9, 2023. Petition forms, instructions and information concerning the procedure for filing of opposing candidacies, including schedules, may be obtained from:

Democratic Registrar of Voters, Marel Rogers or Republican Registrar of Voters, Barbara Coords, 63 Main Street, Sharon, CT. 860-364-5514

Linda R. Amerighi-CCTC
Town Clerk
08-03-23

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on July 10, 2023:

Approved - Application 2023-IW-012D request for jurisdictional ruling by Nicole & John Franchini for replacement of a dock. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor’s map 47 as lot 17 and is known as 75 Sharon Road, Lakeville.

The owner of the property is Lakeville 75 Sharon Road LLC.

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.

08-03-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF RAYMOND FRECHETTE Late of Sharon (23-00230)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated July 18, 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: Deborah Frechette c/o Andrea Doyle Asman Litwin Asman, PC 1047 Bantam Rd. PO Box 698 Bantam, CT 06750

Megan M. Foley
Clerk
08-03-23

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF MARJORIE A. GROSSMAN Late of Salisbury (23-00295)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated July 20, 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: Lori J. Belter c/o William O Riiska William O. Riiska 3 Farnam Road PO Box 1340 Lakeville, CT 06039

Beth L. McGuire
Clerk
08-03-23

OBITUARIES

David Watts Goddard

FALLS VILLAGE — David Goddard (formerly of Falls Village) passed away peacefully at his home in Homosassa, Florida, on July 28, 2023. He was 96 years old. Raised on his family's farm in Granby, Connecticut, he served honorably in World War II as a member of the Navy Seabees in the Pacific. Upon his return from the War he took a job with CL&P and stayed with the company for 45 years. He was the Superintendent of its Hydro Power division.

David loved the outdoors and loved to reminisce about his hunting and fishing trips up North with his nephew Craig Freas and his time at his "camp" in Falls Village with his grandsons Luke and Gabriel. He was predeceased



by his wife Janet. He is survived by his daughter Diane Ingersoll and her husband Ian of West Cornwall, his step daughter Denise Stringer and her husband Jeffrey of Niskayuna, New York, son David Goddard and his wife Judy of Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, seven grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and a great, great grandchild. He is also survived by his sister Jean Meiselman of Guilford, Connecticut. The family owes much gratitude to Sarah Bowman, his careperson for the past seven years and in the final days of his life. They would also thank Vitas Hospice of Florida for the compassionate care they provided to him. A family gathering to celebrate his life will be held at a later date.

Victor Peter Fulco

SHARON - Victor Peter Fulco Jr, 84, of 3 Rolling Hills Drive, passed away peacefully on July 26, 2023. Peter was born Nov. 21, 1938, in Canaan, and was the son of the late Victor Sr. and Lena (Zucco) Fulco.

He graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1956. He was involved in the Apparatus Club and Intramurals. He was on the football and track teams. Pete was a pole vaulter and affectionately nicknamed "Twinkle Toes." Peter held the school record with a vault of 10', 6" (landing in sawdust), capturing first place in the state meet. This also was a record for Housatonic Valley League.

He served in the U.S. Army for 6 years. He achieved the rank of Sergeant (T) E-5 and was in B company. He was stationed in Alaska.

He was an electrician and plumber by trade. He worked for Wm. Perotti and Sons, then eventually retired from Connecticut Light and Power.

Peter loved going to Vermont for get-aways with life long high school friends who remember him fondly to this day. He was a great friend to all who knew him. Pete loved to play cribbage. If you played with him, you better know how to count to 15 fast, and you better not be watching TV!

Pete was very proud of the home he built in Sharon. Pete had a talent for fixing things. Pete enjoyed rebuilding player pianos, and configuring them to become electronic. He enjoyed woodworking, making many toys for his grandchildren. He loved to go to the flying fields and fly his model airplanes. He was an avid

outdoorsman. He enjoyed skiing, fishing, hunting, and gardening. He was also an antique car enthusiast. He would frequently drive his Model T Ford in local parades, dressing the part, with his black derby hat. He umpired Little Leagues games and liked watching professional baseball games, especially the Tampa Bay Rays. He was an avid fan of the UCONN Woman's basketball (and don't call the house when they are playing!) Pete was involved with St. Bernard's Church and he especially loved helping out with the lobster bakes. This also coincided with his love for eating lobster. He was involved in Salisbury Winter Sports Association, helping to build the ski tow at the hill. One of the greatest gifts he gave his children was asking if we wanted to try something. Whether it was softball, horseback riding, snowmobiling, water skiing or going off the ski jumps in Salisbury, he would always uphold our interests and be fully supportive. He enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren and taking them for ice cream.

He is survived by his two devoted daughters Gail Fulco Tantorski (Edward), of North Haven, Gwen Fulco (Mark) of Basking Ridge, New Jersey, his three grandchildren: Abigail, Jake and Brooke and his brother Richard (Marge) (Pittsfield, Massachusetts).

A graveside service will be held at St. Joseph's Cemetery on Thursday, Aug. 3 at 10 a.m. All other services are private. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon Volunteer Ambulance, . P.O.Box 357 Sharon, CT 06069. The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Jeffrey J. Palmer

FALLS VILLAGE — Jeffrey J. Palmer, 66, of Falls Village, loving father, grandfather, brother, uncle, cousin, and friend, passed away at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital on July 29, 2023, with his devoted children by his side.



Jeffrey grew up in Salisbury and Falls Village and attended Oliver Wolcott Technical High School, where he learned the electrical trade. Besides working as an electrician, Jeffrey also worked in the construction and masonry field. Jeffrey had many hobbies including inventing useful and fun gadgets like the electric curtain opener, electric roller skates (only 40 lbs. each!), solar power box for his mother's house, electric go cart for his kid sisters to race around on, and many more.

Jeffrey was quite the entrepreneur as well, launching "Big Riverboat Tours" from a dock on the Housatonic River. His love of motor boating, camping, and exploring continued right up to this past year. But his number one love was for family, especially his children, who he raised as a single father for the past 17 years. Jeff made sure his kids had adventures and always wanted to create special memories with them. He loved to travel, living in Honduras, traveling to several other South and Central American countries often with his children. He wanted to show his kids "the sites" and drove all over the United

States with them, visiting the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Texas, California, New Mexico, Kentucky, Florida, and Virginia.

Left to cherish these special memories are his sons Christopher (Nora) Palmer Andrade of Herndon, Virginia, Jeffrey James and Dale Palmer Andrade of Falls Village, and his daughters Katherine Teresa Palmer Andrade of Honduras, Crystal Maryann Palmer Andrade of Falls Village, and Estefany Marbella of California; granddaughters Violet Escobar Palmer of Honduras and Elizabeth Andrade of Herndon. Jeffrey is also survived by eleven siblings including his brother Christopher Palmer of Falls Village and sisters Jean (Frank) Gallinelli of Southport, Connecticut, Sandra (Greg) Lenshek of Minnesota, Janet (David) Wootton of Saugerties, New York; Mary Palmer (MK Hayes), Mona Lisa Palmer, Catherine Palmer Paton and Arlene Benninger all of Falls Village, Therese Palmer (John Duca) of Rockwall, Texas; Jennifer (Mark) Ehlers of Jacksonville, Florida, and Camille (Tony) Perez of Shelton, Connecticut, along with over 50 nieces and nephews. Jeffrey was pre-deceased by his infant son he called "Pequeno," his parents Mary (Cory) Palmer and Dale Palmer, Sr., his brother Dale Palmer, Jr., brother-in-law, Marc Mittaud, and nephew, Kaelan Paton.

Burial and funeral services were held privately.

Linda L. Gatti

LITCHFIELD COUNTY — Linda L. Gatti, age 68, passed away peacefully in her home with her daughter, Elizabeth Worrall and fiancé, Robert Reed at her side on July 31, 2023.

Born and raised in Litchfield county, Linda used her love of crafts to make friends and maintain them throughout her life.

During her life her love of the medical field drove her to be an EMT to help people. She spent many years making connections and helping

others throughout the local community. She was an avid animal lover and at every opportunity would help an animal in need.

In her later years she spent her time doing small crafts and cooking. She adored baking new things and trying experimental dishes. Overall she had a large impact for those around her and always had the right words to say. She will be sincerely missed every day, and will live on in our hearts.

Uncertainty prompts Amenia to wait on Amenia Green grant

By Leila Hawken

AMENIA — With the deadline for completing the Amenia Green phase one grant application just a day away, the Amenia Recreation Department decided that there was too little time and too much of the application remaining incomplete to warrant continuing with the effort for the current grant cycle.

A statement announcing the decision, issued by recreation director Katie Sterk-Grassi, was read aloud

by Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti at a special meeting of the Amenia Town Board held on Wednesday, July 26.

If the application had been submitted and been successful, state grant funding could have paid for an engineering and permitting study of the first phase of the Amenia Green concept.

Uncertainty about whether the application called for a letter of support or an official resolution stymied any action through the month of July.

Stissing Center to host children's theater group

PINE PLAINS — The Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Childrens Theater group will present a special interactive performance of "Anansi the Trickster Spider: A West African Folktale" on Saturday, Aug. 5, at 10 a.m. at the Stissing Center, 2950 Church St.

A pre-show workshop will take place at 9 a.m. during which children will train with the Grumbling Gryphons to become part of the show, learning songs, dances and chants as well as their roles as animals. No prior experience is necessary.

The tale being told in the performance is "How Anansi Brought the Stories Down," and tells how Anansi, with

help from children in the audience, tricks the jungle's animals, retrieving the world's stolen stories from sky god Nyame.

The show will feature performers Leslie Elias and Daniel Saed, with keyboardist and trombonist Brian Bender. In addition to adapting the well-known folktale into an interactive show, Elias plays numerous roles in the production. She has served as Grumbling Gryphons' artistic director since she co-founded it 43 years ago.

Tickets are available on a pay-what-you-can basis. For tickets and more information, visit thestissingcenter.org or grumblinggryphons.org

Send Family & Friends announcements to editor@lakevillejournal.com



Worship Services

Week of August 6, 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
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860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Rev. Paul Christopherson
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
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www.stjohnssalisbury.org
860-435-9290

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www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232
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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 Street, 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
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Coffee Hour
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Route 83, Amenia, NY
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canaanctumc@gmail.com
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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.
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com
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Do you have a family member or friend in the military who would be interested in the news from home?

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The Lakeville Journal Company offers free online subscriptions to our website, tricornernews.com, for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

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GARDEN

Continued from Page A1

To save the planet, Homegrown National Park wants you to garden

exactly the sort that co-founder and Sharon resident Michelle Alfandari is striving to cultivate. Alfandari, a marketer and entrepreneur, founded HNP in 2020 with Doug Tallamy, a nationally renowned scientist and professor at the University of Delaware, and author of "Nature's Best Hope." Through HNP, Alfandari and Tallamy hope to promote a groundswell of participation in home-scaled ecology. Tallamy handles the science side of the messaging through speaking engagements and video lectures, and Alfandari tackles the marketing, managing, and outreach.

HNP's messaging gears toward positive and encouraging — but Tallamy doesn't pull punches when he describes the scale and severity of the threat the world is facing.

Reporting referenced in "What's the Rush?," HNP's flagship video lecture, includes headlines such as: "2/3 of Earth's Wildlife is Gone," "40% of Earth's Plants Face Extinction," and "One Million Species Face Extinction."

Indeed, since 1970, worldwide wildlife populations have declined by 69% and 2.5% of species have gone extinct. Recent research has suggested that such trends, the loss of species abundance and richness, were what precipitated The Great Dying 252 million years ago, in which 95% of life on Earth perished.

The biodiversity crisis, however, amounts to Tallamy's introduction: Starting small, planting a single oak tree, amounts to a meaningful contribution. It isn't about how much more you could be doing, because there's always more—just start by doing something.

Biodiversity, the variety of life in the world or in a particular ecosystem, is viewed as critical to maintaining life on the planet in a balance.

Of the many causes of the biodiversity crisis, habitat loss is a primary factor, and it occurs primarily as a result of encroaching human development. Traditional, manicured lawns, which account for over 40 million acres of land in the U.S. — an area roughly the size of New England — is what Tallamy

describes as "an ecological deadscape." Very few species survive and thrive in that environment.

If enough private landowners, who own 60% of land in the U.S., commit to planting native plants, which are the bedrock for an ecosystem, then viable habitat larger than the majority of national parks combined could be established, according to Tallamy.

This objective is reflected in HNP's map of all 50 states visualizing the contributions made in each state to native planting. Individual planting sites are visible on a local level, and states are ranked based on the number of active participants. To Alfandari, the map is an invitation to friendly interstate competition, and a way to give individuals a sense of community and accomplishment.

Veiled beneath HNP's message of small-scale individual contributions, however, is a secret hope: that once you start small, you'll want to learn more, care more, and do more. This is more or less Alfandari's story. A few years ago, she had little to no interest in, or awareness of, biodiversity and native planting — much less gardening as an activity.

"It was like, garden? I don't want to garden. I don't like bugs, I don't like insects. But when I heard Doug speak at Hotchkiss in 2017 — that was pivotal. I went there not that interested, mostly out of a feeling of owning it to my neighbors and friends who told me to go. When I got there I learned what biodiversity, what ecosystem services were, pollination services, carbon sequestration. I didn't know any of this."

Alfandari was convinced by Tallamy's clear and simple messaging, but noticed that most of the people who came to his events were, "the choir," people already committed to many of the changes HNP advocates. Reaching a broader audience would be necessary to promote the kind of changes necessary to confront the biodiversity crisis, and so the duo began HNP.

As of writing, HNP has 33,000 participants and over 100,000 acres of land devoted to native plants across all 50



Left, Avalon Bunge giving a tour of the meadows in Elizaville, N.Y. Below, Ken Monteiro on a mission to eliminate pachysandra, an invasive species often planted ornamentally, in Wassaic, N.Y.

states. And as far flung as the varieties of flora being planted are the reasons that participants have signed up and become involved. In New York and Connecticut, that ranges from small front yard gardens, to hundreds of acres of privately owned woodland — and Alfandari arranged a tour of some of those properties to get a snapshot of what it looks like to participate in HNP.

From sweeping acreage to front yard gardens

Our first stop was the home of Ken Monteiro, secretary on the board of HNP, and Leo Blackman, a town councilman in Amenia. Their property in Wassaic is tucked into the banks of the Wassaic Creek and is a testament to Monteiro's passionate gardening. Joe-pye weed loomed tall, mountain laurel exploded in the shade, and oak leaf hydrangea ballooned along a stone wall.

Monteiro has a long history of philanthropy, having served as the vice president, secretary, and general counsel of the Ford Foundation, and became involved with HNP in 2020 when he met Alfandari at Millerton's Earth Day celebration. But like many, a fascination with nature, ecology, and native planting emerged in Monteiro during the early stages of the pandemic. During that time he read Tallamy's book "Nature's Best Hope" and found himself inspired to think about his garden in the more critical terms of native ecosystems.

"One of the things I love about Doug's philosophy is that he doesn't tell you you have to pull out all the things you love. You could just plant

an oak tree. If you can't do anything else, just plant an oak tree on your property, it'll make a huge difference. We've got a garden that's been in place for 20 years — we're not ripping stuff out. But if something fails, we replace it with native plants. It's a simple message, it's easy to join and do something—to make a difference."

That being said, Monteiro and Blackman have some more involved plans for the future of their lawn. The back end of the property has been completely clogged and overrun by invasives — chiefly, the virulent bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)— and they've undergone the process of clearing and replanting that land to promote native flora. First, they'll see what springs up naturally from the seed bank, and then they'll plant and manage the area from there.

Though the work Monteiro and Blackman have done in Wassaic is by no means meager, it is dwarfed by the undertaking of Avalon Bunge and Eli Arnow of Elizaville, N.Y.

With masters degrees in ecosystem restoration and environmental science respectively, the duo stewards some 600 acres of family-owned land, much of it former farmland, across three noncontiguous properties at the end of a long country road. Planting native plants near their home has always been a part of expressing their connection with nature, and Bunge's garden tour included teeming bushels of New England aster, pink yar-



PHOTOS BY ELIAS SORICH

row, steeplebush, meadow phlox, and wild bergamot.

But Arnow and Bunge's main approach to stewardship revolves around working to control deer populations. Arnow views deer overpopulation as a leverage point crucial to address in order to restore a balanced ecosystem. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) agrees, and lists the overabundance of deer as "reducing diversity in the forest understory; enabling invasive species to out-complete natives; and preventing seedlings of many species from growing into the next generation."

That is, without a significant reduction of deer, "the foundation of the food web unravels in less managed places," said Arnow. "The whole forest understory, all of the hedgerows, and pond edges in wetlands. It's a widespread ecological catastrophe."

Arnow and Bunge primarily advocate for reforms to hunting laws that would allow for the commercial viability of wild venison, a change that could incentivize

the reduction of deer populations to sustainable levels. But such an object arose after years and years of involvement with environmental science. Bunge, who works as an ecological projects manager at Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley, recalled her initial stages of learning about biodiversity and plant identification as transformative.

"It felt like getting glasses for the first time. The world came into focus in a whole different way."


To that end, both Arnow and Bunge see the work HNP is doing to reach broader audiences and introduce them to the world of ecology as critical to the success of more involved objectives.

"You guys are sailing the ship. I'm so thrilled to see it, see the positivity."

"What [HNP] brings is not political. There's no shame, there's no guilt. It's inclusive," said Bunge.

"It's, 'start where you're at,'" added Arnow.


Coming next: Thinking small scale and combatting invasives.



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Our Towns

Blass from the past: Big leaguer looks back on 'a charmed life'

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — Former Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher Steve Blass returned to his hometown last week for a trip down memory lane.

As part of the Canaan Historical Society's Summer Talks series, on Tuesday, July 25 the 1971 World Series champ shared tales from his youth in Falls Village, his time as a major league pitcher, and his career in broadcasting.

Despite over 400 miles between Canaan and Pittsburgh, a sea of Pirate fans packed the pews at South Canaan Meeting House to hear from Blass.

"I want to talk about Falls Village," said Blass as he began his talk. "It's so special for me, so we're going to hear a lot about Falls Village but there's going to be some baseball in there too."

Blass was born on April 18, 1942, and lived next door to the South Canaan Meeting House. In his early years his father was off fighting in World War II, so Blass said, "for three years it was mom and me against the world."

Blass said his memory of Falls Village in the 1940s and 50s was "connected to the image and perception of Norman Rockwell" artwork.

"I can't imagine growing up in a nicer place, a nicer area, nicer people and a nicer time," said Blass.

He recalled "singular moments" in his youth that shaped his development and left a lasting impression.

"My dad was a plumber and he raised five kids on 100 bucks a week," Blass said as he told a tale of peacefully polishing pipe fittings on a jobsite with his father. "It's just me and dad. The father and son stuff, that's singular stuff."

Through tales of his past, he described an "idyllic childhood" in Northwest Connecticut as he worked toward achieving his big-league dream.

"I never remember not having a ball in my hand," said Blass. "Even to the point where my dad had a load of small stones for something, and I took an old bat out there and I was hitting those stones out into the field."

Blass recognized that becoming a professional pitcher was not a typical goal for a kid from Falls Village but said the support of the community made it possible.

"I wanted to be a baseball player since I was five years old. Nobody around here ever said, 'Well, you're not going to be able to do that. Town's too small.' And I'll never forget it. That's an imprint that I cherish. I was always encouraged," said Blass.

Blass learned the importance of "professionalism and loyalty" while playing for Coach Ed Kirby at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

"As a freshman I was a wise guy. He caught me swearing at a football game," said Blass. "He said, 'I ever hear that kind of language again, you will never play for the baseball team here at Housatonic.' I remember that."

Blass said Kirby utilized tough love to push him to reach his full potential.

"He saw that I had some possibilities to be a profes-

sional baseball player," said Blass. "When I look back, he did the most to help me handle that stuff."

Blass improved as a player throughout his time at HVRHS to the point where up to 15 professional scouts were attending regular season games.

In a game against Torrington during his senior year, Blass said, "I struck out a batter for every scout. There's 15 scouts here: 15 strikeouts. I also walked 15. After the game, Bob Whaling, the Pirates' scout, was the only scout still there."

Blass was drafted to the Pirates straight out of high school in 1960 and opened his professional career in Kingsport, Tennessee in the minor league.

"I'd never been away from Falls Village. In fact, to the point where we flew out from Bradley Field in Hartford and the plane banked right and I leaned over to the left hoping to balance it."

Blass said he initially struggled to adapt to life away from home, particularly in the laundry department.

"I had never been to the laundromat before. I had six pairs of socks and six pairs of underwear," said Blass. "So, I throw them in the machine and look up on the wall and there was a vending machine that said 'Soap.' I had 12 items, so I got 12 boxes of soap."

Blass said after suds flooded the laundromat, he decided to ship his dirty laundry back home to mom in Falls Village.

"Until the middle of August when I sent some dirty laundry out. She washed it all, but she sent some chocolate chip cookies back in the box. I learned how to do the laundry that day," said Blass.

Blass made his big-league debut with the Pirates in Spring of 1964 and began playing beside baseball legends Roberto Clemente and Bill Mazeroski.

"Clemente had this mystique about him. He even had a presence when he was kneeling in the on-deck circle," said Blass. "When I was a rookie, I didn't dare speak to him."

After winning a couple games, Blass worked up the courage to speak with Clemente.

"He was over in his locker by himself, and I was all puffed up. I'd won two games so I'm gonna go and get him squared away," said Blass. "I said, 'If I ever get traded, I'm going to pitch you inside because every National pitcher pitches you away and you hit .350 every year.' He said, 'Blass I going to tell you one time. You pitch me inside, I will hit the ball to Harrisburg.'"

Blass became a permanent member of the Pirates in 1966 as the team worked toward building a championship squad. After dropping out of the playoffs to the Mets in 1969, Blass returned home to participate in a local all-star game.

"I remember it so well for so many reasons. It was like one of those Norman Rockwell settings down in Sharon Valley. It was October. The leaves were out," said Blass. "We won the game 2-1, there was a pitcher from Hotchkiss, left-handed."

As Blass was reminiscing, an audience member who played in the game chimed in. "And you hit the double

"All these things have combined to be part of my dream."

— Steve Blass



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Steve Blass shared stories from his 'charmed life' at the Canaan Meeting House on Tuesday, July 25.

to win it in the ninth."

"Yeah, I did. Glad you brought it up, 'cause I was gonna," said Blass. "That was a wonderful day."

The Pirates reached the World Series in 1971 against the reigning champion Baltimore Orioles. Blass said he struggled early in the playoffs and pitched game three against the Orioles as his team faced an 0-2 deficit in the series.

"I went out and pitched game of my life."

Blass ended the Orioles' 16-game win streak by posting a three-hitter and getting his team back in the series. During his post-game interview, Blass said he was distracted by a fan jumping onto the dugout.

"I'm doing the interview and I see this guy scuffle with security up on the dugout. And then I look over and this man jumps off the top of the dugout and by the time he takes a second step, I see it's dad," said Blass. "My dad jumped off the top of the dugout because his kid from Falls Village won a World Series game. We all have fathers, or have had fathers, and we've all had singular moments. I will never forget that as long as I live."

Blass returned to the mound in game seven of the series and pitched a complete game to win the title for Pittsburgh. "We snuck my dad into the clubhouse after the seventh game," said Blass. "One of the things I'm most proud of about that seventh game in the World Series was getting up on that podium, we just won the World Series, and I said, 'a skinny kid from Falls Village, Connecticut.' I'm so damn proud that I said that."

Blass credited his career success to obsession, professionalism, and loyalty. "When I was 18, the Pirates gave me a chance to live my dream. I will never quit on them. Loyalty is everything," said Blass. "This is my 64th year with the ball club after graduating from high school and going to that laundromat in Kingsport, Tennessee."

Blass continued his pitching career until 1974 when he retired due to an unshakable case of the yips, also known as Steve Blass disease. In retirement, he took up broadcasting in 1983 as a color-commentator and called Pirates games until 2019.

"All these things have combined to be part of my dream," said Blass. "I've lived a charmed life and I will never take it for granted."

For more on Steve Blass' visit, see page A9.



PHOTO BY ROB PEROTTI

The Housatonic Valley Regional High School alum won game 7 of the 1971 World Series after pitching nine complete innings for the Pittsburgh Pirates.



PHOTO BY ROB PEROTTI

A close-up view of Steve Blass' championship ring from the 1971 World Series.

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Our Towns



From top, Emanuel Pariente, Nikka Najdek, Eliya Pariente, and Nathaniel Pariente participated in the Grumbling Gryphons theater camp play on July 29.



On Cornwall Day, Grumbling Gryphons Theater campers ranging from ages 6-13, working with professional and teen counselors, performed "The Mixed-Up Fairytale," a play by Leslie Elias, at Town Hall.

PHOTOS BY PENELOPE CONSTANTINO

Music, history and acorn hunting on Cornwall Day

By Emma Spindler

CORNWALL — Twenty-six stores across Cornwall Village, West Cornwall, and Cornwall Bridge participated in Cornwall Day on Saturday, July 29.

In Cornwall Village, parents and children lined up outside Town Hall for a performance by the Grumbling Gryphons, a traveling performance troop. The village was packed despite the high humidity and overcast skies.

National Iron Bank, set up outside Cornwall Village, sponsored a scavenger hunt around the town. Branch Manager Ron Goldstein, stationed himself among the various tents at the local farmers market, showcasing the prizes for participants in the scavenger hunt.

With the activity, Goldstein hopes "people will be their own brand ambassadors," and "let people know they don't have to go to Torrington for their shopping.



The West Cornwall Farm Market featured local produce, knife sharpening, massages and live music on July 29.

PHOTO BY EMMA SPINDLER

We have it all right here."

Participants in the scavenger hunt had to go to twelve participating businesses and find hidden acorns, check it off on their "Cornwall Acorn Hunt" sheet, and return it to National Iron Bank for eligibility.

At Cornwall Historical

Society, artist Richard Klein led a lecture, and somewhat muddy walk, for those interested in the historic ironworks.

He also talked about his art project, "The Understory,

which is "a contemporary response" to the history of American ironworks in the Northeast. His discussion emphasized the heritage of Cornwall and its influence on the economy, history, and

artists like himself.

The West Cornwall Farm Market was full and the town was lively with music performed by Béla Selendy. His wife, and local massage therapist, Helen Selendy, was

stationed nearby and offered free massages in town during the afternoon as a part of the festivities.

The downcast weather did not disrupt spirits, and Helen Selendy was "delighted" to be in town for the afternoon.

Also in West Cornwall was Deidre Fischer, who was showcasing "mind maps" as a part of her life coaching organization Branch Out. Her art, and the art of others, encourages people to "unstick" themselves by drawing a map of where their mind leads. As a part of Cornwall Day, she allowed people to draw maps of their own, offering some color to the gray day.

Additional events, like discounts at Three Guys Ski and Ride and wine tastings at the Cornwall Package Store, encouraged residents and visitors alike to explore the area and the shops it offers.

Crescendo celebrates 20 years of music

By Matthew Kreta

SALISBURY — Crescendo will be kicking off its 20th anniversary season in August, beginning with a free concert on Thursday, Aug. 3, at 5 p.m. at Trinity Church in Lakeville.

The hour-long performance is one of a few free concerts provided by Crescendo this season. The concert is dedicated to legendary harpsichord player and scholar Wanda Landowska, who lived in Lakeville following her career.

The concert will feature flute and harpsichord sonatas by Johann Sebastian Bach. Internationally-renowned flautist Rodrigo Tarraza will be performing alongside Crescendo's Founding Artistic Director Christine Gevert. The pair have per-

formed together in Europe, the U.S. and Latin America since 1995.

Though Crescendo has recently been struck with multiple COVID cases, the group remains committed to continuing its work in the region and is excited for this upcoming season.

Due to the setbacks of these cases in June, Crescendo has not been able to officially release its season's schedule yet but is planning to do so on Aug. 5. Concerts in the works include Baroque, opera choruses, Gilbert and Sullivan and works by Giacomo Carissimi.

"I'm certainly very grateful for the faith of the locals in me and my vision with Crescendo, and for the great support and hard work of everyone around Crescendo," Gevert said.

Salisbury Bank merger on Aug. 14

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Bank and Trust merger with NBT Bank will be official on Monday, Aug. 14, according to a July 25 announcement to Salisbury Bank account holders.

Customers will soon be receiving new NBT Bank debit cards, which may be activated right away but will not be ready for use until Friday, Aug. 11 after 6:30 p.m. Salisbury Bank debit cards

will be deactivated Monday, Aug. 14 at 9 a.m.

Also on Friday, Aug. 11, Salisbury Bank branches will close at 4 p.m.

Access to Salisbury Bank e-banking services will be available until 4 p.m. on Aug. 11. Customers may start using NBT Bank e-banking services mid-morning on Monday, Aug. 14.

All Salisbury Bank offices will be closed Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 12-13 and open Monday, Aug. 14.

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Shanelle King, Vice President, Treasury Management, 860-394-2304

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Sports



HVRHS forward Flynn Ryan split the defense and took flight against Shepaug Valley on Wednesday, July 26. Owen Riemer capped off a 12-point run with a layup.

PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Housy girls defeat Gilbert, boys fall to Shepaug

By Riley Klein

TORRINGTON — In back-to-back games for the Housatic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) summer basketball program, the girls team edged out Gilbert 25-24 before the boys team lost to Shepaug 52-39 on Wednesday, July 26.

With just a handful of games remaining in the Torrington Summer Basketball League (TSBL) regular season, teams have begun jostling for playoff positions.

The HVRHS girls met Gilbert on July 26 with a 7:30 p.m. start time. Temps inside the Armory stayed in

the mid-80s for the duration of the game.

A lack of available substitutes for the Mountaineers meant the starting lineup played the entirety of the game. Gilbert had four reserves to swap in.

Gilbert found success early on and pulled ahead to a 17-14 lead by half time. The Yellowjacket defense locked down Mountaineer Tessa Dekker and held her scoreless for the half.

Anne Moran capitalized on the opportunity and had a field day in the open paint. Moran helped HVRHS stay in the game by putting up 10 points in the first half.

Moran scored another six points in the second half and the Mountaineers pulled ahead 23-21 in the final minutes. With the lead in hand, HVRHS closed out the game on the foul line and prevailed 25-24 over Gilbert.

Following the girls' game, the HVRHS boys took the court to play Shepaug Valley for their second-to-last game before playoffs begin. In contrast to the girls, the boys had a bench full of fresh substitutes to work with.

The sheer size of the Shepaug players proved challenging for HVRHS, causing re-

bounding difficulties on both ends of the glass.

Each team took turns with unanswered scoring runs throughout the game. The scoring streaks gave the sense of a close game after each Mountaineer run, before the feeling of a blowout set in following the Shepaug runs.

HVRHS managed to cut the lead to three-points midway through the first half, but a late run by Shepaug allowed them to open up a 29-14 lead by halftime.

HVRHS clawed back to an eight point deficit in the second half after a monster block by Owen Riemer which he followed up with a fast break layup down court to cap off a 12-point unanswered run for the Mountaineers.

Shepaug then hit a streak of their own and ran away with the lead. Shepaug defeated HVRHS 52-39 in the end.

TSBL playoffs were originally scheduled to begin July 31, but heat advisories in the area on July 27 and 28 forced game cancellations and delayed the post-season. For information on TSBL schedules, call Torrington Armory at 860-489-2274



Tessa Dekker closed out a 25-24 win against Gilbert on the free throw line, July 26.



Jesse Bonhotel lined up a fade-away jump shot.



PHOTO BY JUDY JACOBS

Blass autographs dugout mural

The dugouts at Steve Blass Field in North Canaan were given a face lift recently by artist Cheri Johnson. On Tuesday, July 25 Steve Blass visited the Little League field that bears his name to autograph the dugout and meet with young players from the area. See more, page A7.

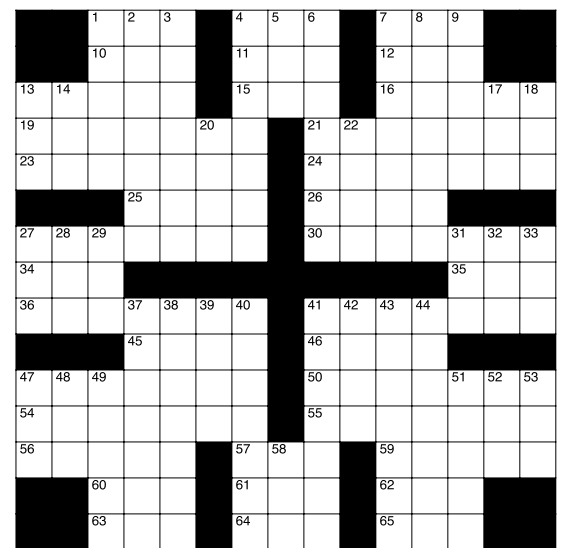
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Indicates tire pressure
- 4. Request
- 7. Clairvoyance
- 10. 007's creator
- 11. Adult male
- 12. Scandinavian god of battle
- 13. Cloths spread on a coffin
- 15. Breeze through
- 16. Ladyfish genus
- 19. It's good to take them
- 21. Noble-governed territory
- 23. Members of U.S. Navy
- 24. Card game resembling rummy
- 25. Affected by injury
- 26. Member of a Semitic people
- 27. Left
- 30. Woman's cloak
- 34. S. American plant
- 35. Prohibit
- 36. Offense
- 41. Dish soap brand
- 45. Ottoman military commanders
- 46. Ancient Greek City
- 47. Makes unhappy
- 50. Discuss again
- 54. Medical instrument
- 55. Promote
- 56. A beloved carb
- 57. Tag the base runner to get him out
- 59. Prehistoric people
- 60. Large African antelope
- 61. Vehicle
- 62. Georgia rockers
- 63. Scientific instrument (abbr.)
- 64. A major division of geological time
- 65. Attempt

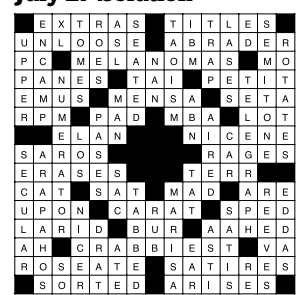
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Plant of the nettle family
- 2. Fit to be sold
- 3. Rather
- 4. Collected
- 5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 6. Patella
- 7. Ageless
- 8. Lists of course requirements

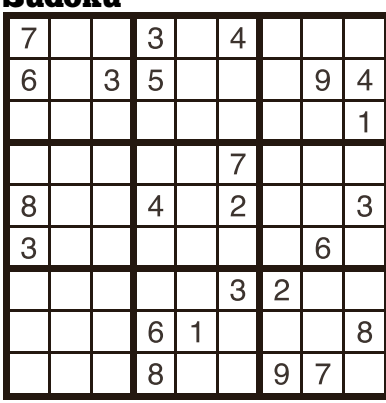


- 9. Pokes at
- 13. TV network
- 14. They ___
- 17. Cooking hardware
- 18. U.S. Army title
- 20. Iron-containing compound
- 22. Swiss river (alt. spelling)
- 27. Former French coin
- 28. Electronic countermeasures
- 29. Taxi
- 31. Helps little firms
- 32. Woeful
- 33. Midway between northeast and east
- 37. Glowing
- 38. Tasks which should be done
- 39. An informal body of friends
- 40. Intrinsic nature
- 41. Neural structures
- 42. Brews
- 43. Where ships unload cargo
- 44. Singer
- 47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- 48. Southwest Scotland town
- 49. Most worthless parts
- 51. Viscous
- 52. Put to work
- 53. Old world, new
- 58. Swiss river

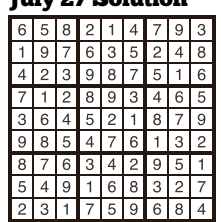
July 27 Solution



Sudoku



July 27 Solution



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BRIDGE

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY MAUD DOYLE

Work on the Salmon Kill Bridge continues, as the contractor tries to finish the job before Nov. 30.

compact machine on a low set of caterpillars; it looked like a mechanical blue giraffe wearing a gas mask. “That should’ve been the first piece of equipment on the site, and the first piece out.”

The road closure, he said, added 20 minutes to each commute between Torrington and Salisbury for him and his employees.

“We’re losing valuable time,” he said.

Repeated delays

The cause of these delays is a concrete and metal mass discovered below the failing eastern abutment of the bridge.

Shortly after the state contractor, Torrington-based Hemlock Construction Co., began construction last September, dismantling the failing eastern abutment of the bridge, they found an unanticipated concrete subfooting, which was encased by and embedded with sheet piling (rolled steel walls sometimes used to support concrete bridge abutments).

In October, Hemlock reported that the steel in the subfooting was obstructing their execution of the original design for the new bridge. In November of 2022, Hemlock concluded that the sheet piling was too embedded in the concrete to remove: the subfooting would need to be analyzed, and the bridge redesigned around the existing pilings.

The DOT, which is overseeing the construction of the bridge, said that the subfooting had been omitted from the as-built plans from the 2002 construction—an error that has resulted in the ongoing series of delays plaguing the bridge project.

“It feels very disconnected and isolating to be cut off from the rest of the Salmon Kill community and Salisbury,” said Ali De Prodocini, who lives on Salmon Kill Road in the house she grew up in. She and her partner returned to Salmon Kill when they had their son, Declan.

Declan, now 8, attends Salisbury Central, and when the road closed last September the school bus could no longer reach the house. “We had to bring him to the end of Salmon Kill and 112 at 7 am, which means he would be on the bus for an hour and a half, [so] we drove him every day pretty much.” But they won’t be able to do that this year.

“Our end of Salmon Kill is full of kids,” she said. “But it feels like no one is in a rush to fix this.”

“The constituents are not happy,” said Rand. “No one is happy about it, but everyone understands that there’s delays.”

2002 bridge

The original structure, a two-lane bridge spanning the Salmon Kill, opened to traffic in 2003. Just one decade later, it became clear that the concrete in its eastern abutment was failing.

Overseen by the DOT, a bridge safety inspection team evaluated the new bridge every two years. In 2012, the concrete in the bridge’s eastern abutment was rated “6,” or “satisfactory”; in 2014, it earned a “4,” or “poor,” signaling “advanced section

loss, deterioration, spalling, scour.”

Josh Morgan, spokesman for the DOT, added that “a bridge in poor condition does not mean it is unsafe, it simply means that the bridge requires rehabilitation to return it to a state of good repair.”

DOT concluded that “spalling”—the term for the internal breakdown and disintegration of concrete, a naturally porous material, caused by the expansion of freezing water—had affected only the eastern abutment, while the western abutment, which had been poured with a different batch of concrete and sits on bedrock, was deemed “in good condition,” and will be incorporated into the new bridge.

In 2020, the DOT performed a Rehabilitation Study Report, assessing different design or rehab options for the existing structure and comparing their relative merits, and decided on replacing the eastern abutment and the entire bridge deck. In early 2022, Stantec Inc., an international design consulting firm founded in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, completed a design for the new bridge; in July 2022, DOT awarded the project to Hemlock.

DOT expects the resulting bridge to last 75 years and survive “a 500-year storm.”

A new bridge

During Hemlock’s winter shutdown, the DOT, Hemlock, and Soil X, Corp.—a soil exploration, boring, and drilling company from Leominster, Massachusetts—managed to ascertain the locations and grades of the sheet pile buried in the concrete. A new design called for drilling 35 well-placed bores through the subfooting—a step that was finally completed in late June.

In all, the assessment, redesign, drilling, and other unforeseen costs will add another \$272,000 to the now \$2.1 million-project. Salisbury is responsible for 20% of the project’s cost, while DOT, using a combination of state and federal funds, will reimburse the town for the other 80%.

Hemlock finished driving the 35 micropiles through the bores in the last week of July. Their next task is to pour the new eastern abutment and the wingwalls, then lay the new superstructure beams on the abutments, and finally install the bridge deck. The hope is to finish the bridge before Hemlock’s winter shutdown begins—by Nov. 30 of this year.

“As with any construction project, rain or inclement weather can impact the schedule of work,” warned Morgan. “The contractor and inspection staff will be mindful of any rain events and take the necessary precautions to reduce any avoidable delays.

Assuming no further surprises, once the construction is deemed adequately complete, a semi-final inspection will be performed.”

“We are still just finishing with the ‘unforeseen circumstances,’” said Rand. “The end of the year, that’s our deadline. That’s my personal deadline to get this done.”

CONSERVATION

Continued from Page A1

department approvals.

Residential, industrial, commercial and other forms of development will not be allowed.

An 11-page abandonment permit issued July 20 by Commissioner Manisha Juthani of the state Department of Public Health (DPH), along with a Memorandum of Understanding with The Metropolitan District Commission (MDC), paved the way for the water utility company to grant the permanent easement to NCLC.

An applicant for an abandonment permit must provide sufficient information to verify that the water source will not be needed for present or future water supply, is consistent with the water company’s water supply plan, and will not be needed by the company in an emergency.

Open space land surrounding drinking water supplies is subject to protections under state law. The abandonment permit resulted in 10 billion gallons no longer being considered a potential drinking water supply by the DPH.

10 billion gallons of water at issue

Earlier this year, MDC sought an abandonment permit for a 10-billion-gallon water storage space in the Colebrook Reservoir.

The MDC owns a total of 6,490 acres in Connecticut and 6,370 acres in Massachusetts in the Colebrook Reservoir watershed, located on the West Branch of the Farmington River.

Environmental groups were concerned that such an abandonment could set a precedent that would potentially jeopardize the status

of the land surrounding the reservoirs, which is currently open space.

“The best way to protect our high-quality reservoirs, rivers and streams is to protect the forested lands around them,” Rawson said. “Through the vision and partnership of MDC and the state’s leading environmental organizations, these essential lands and waters will be protected for the public benefit forever.”

Roger Reynolds, senior legal director for Save the Sound, said water supply lands are of “tremendous value” for the present and future generations of Connecticut and Massachusetts residents. His organization’s legal team stepped in after MDC announced it was terminating a contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“These lands are currently quasi-protected yet vulnerable to development, and their conservation is contingent on use of these reservoirs for water supply. This agreement adds an important layer of protection for human health, wildlife habitat, water quality and recreational access.”

Towns backed MDC’s abandonment effort

In making the announcement, Scott Jellison, Chief Executive Officer of the MDC, said it is important to note that each of the four Colebrook Reservoir towns, Barkhamsted, Colebrook, New Hartford and Hartland, have submitted letters of support of the abandonment application to the state health department.

“For decades these town and their residents have partnered with the MDC and its staff in ensuring that the land surrounding the Colebrook

Reservoir is maintained as a protected watershed and available for passive recreation. We are not abandoning that partnership,” said Jellison.

Jellison noted that MDC and the watershed towns recognize the 10 billion gallons of future potential emergency drinking water would not be available during a drought and that the best use is for recreational and river benefits. “The towns do not support diverting the reservoir for drinking water supply.”

The water utility’s rights to 10 billion gallons of water storage space in the Colebrook Reservoir/West Branch Reservoir system come through a contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Termination of the contract means that MDC will no longer have rights to the storage area nor the financial obligations that follow.

Terms of the permit

Under the terms of the abandonment permit, MDC will continue to hold rights to 6.5 billion gallons of water between the two reservoirs. The easement ensures that the abandonment permit and any future changes to the status of the remaining water sources in the watershed do not result in changes to the conservation status of the surrounding lands, according to NCLC.

Environmental powerhouses joined forces

NCLC, along with Save the Sound, Rivers Alliance of Connecticut, Farmington River Watershed Association, Connecticut Land Conservation Council, and The Nature Conservancy in Connecticut jointly submitted comments to DPH in support of MDC’s

move to surrender a portion of its water rights.

They touted the environmental benefits, particularly the potential for unrestricted water flow downriver, which, especially during low flow conditions, could improve aquatic life, river water quality and ecological diversity within the downstream reaches of the river.

In addition, the conservation easement will help maintain “raw drinking water quality” in the remainder of the reservoir’s supply for potential future use, according to NCLC.

For more than a half century, the Farmington River has benefited from the augmented cold-water releases provided by the Colebrook Reservoir through Goodwin Dam, often at a flow rate higher than upstream in-flows, said Aimee Petras, executive director of the Farmington River Watershed Association.

“These flows, and their reliable high quality, have fostered a recreation fishery that is one of the best in the nation, as well as a vibrant paddling community.”

Sarah Pellegrino, land protection and strategies manager for the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, said in a statement that her group is thrilled that this new Memorandum of Understanding with MDC will help protect such a large set of forested lands in the headwaters of the Farmington River.

“In protecting these forests, we are protecting not only their own rich biodiversity, but also one of the highest quality river systems in the Connecticut River watershed.

LIBRARY

Continued from Page A1

Executive Director Gretchen Hachmeister observed that the project was first envisioned in the mid-1960s, followed by two or three unsuccessful attempts to move forward. The cornerstone of the new addition, dated 2023, memorializes the date when the project was completed.

The library now has an ADA-compliant new entrance that will accommodate everyone in the community, featuring an elevator to serve both the main floor and the commons area on the lower level designed to be available for use even outside of regular library hours.

“We’re so happy this day has arrived,” said Hachmeister.

“I love it,” said Katelyn Norkowski, the library’s community engagement coordinator, about the new look that retains the traditional. “I enjoy working with my



PHOTO BY GRETCHEN HACHMEISTER

Books are coming home to the shelves at Hotchkiss Library now that expansion and renovation are completed. The first shipment brought boxes of books from the storage location in Windsor Locks.

colleagues and I’m excited by my new adventure,” she added, describing her work in public relations, social media and marketing. She joined the staff less than a year ago.

Boxes of books arrived in W.B. Meyer trucks first thing Monday morning, July 24, ready for re-shelving by

the Meyer crew. The boxes had been stored at the Meyer facility in Windsor Locks, Conn.

In a summary account provided to the library’s Board of Directors, Hachmeister said that the

Meyer crew had begun by unpacking the fiction collection onto the shelves on the mezzanine, nearly filling the south side.

“The library shelves look so great with books on them again,” Hachmeister said.



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COMPASS

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FROM LEFT, PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY / ORIGINAL POSTER FOR "OLIVER!" ON THE WEST END / MARK LESTER IN THE 1968 FILM, MOVIESTILLSDB

Ivan Howe will star as Oliver Twist in the Sharon Playhouse's production of the musical "Oliver!"

THEATER: EMMA BENARDETE

In "Oliver!" A N.Y. Boy Takes On the London Streets

At just 11 years old, Ivan Howe of Millbrook, N.Y., is preparing to take center stage in a production of "Oliver!" directed by Michael Kevin Baldwin at The Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn., starting Friday, Aug. 4. Howe has previously performed in "Elf Jr." at the Sharon Playhouse.

Emma Benardete: How and when did you get involved in acting?

Ivan Howe: Actually, I was first introduced to acting by my best friend who is doing "Oliver!" as well, Harriet [Luongo]. I actually saw her in "Oliver!" five to seven years ago. I thought it was super cool, her acting on stage, and I thought I wanted to give it a try, and so my mom signed me up for first another theater group called SRO — Standing Room Only — and then I did this and one school play.

EB: What's your favorite part about being in this show?

IH: I really like everyone here. Everyone's super nice. And I also like the show a lot. I think it's really interesting and it's

super fun to be in it.

EB: In what way do you think you're the most similar to the character that you're playing?

IH: Well, Oliver is, for most of the whole thing, searching for love and always wants love, and that is very similar to me, I feel. I'm a people person.

EB: Any part of this role or this show that

has been particularly challenging for you?

IH: In the song "Where Is Love", which is Oliver talking about that feeling, I have to cry in it, and that's been challenging because I have to really connect with the character in order to do that. Also, I'm not the best dancer. I don't have any dance training, so choreography always requires a little practice.

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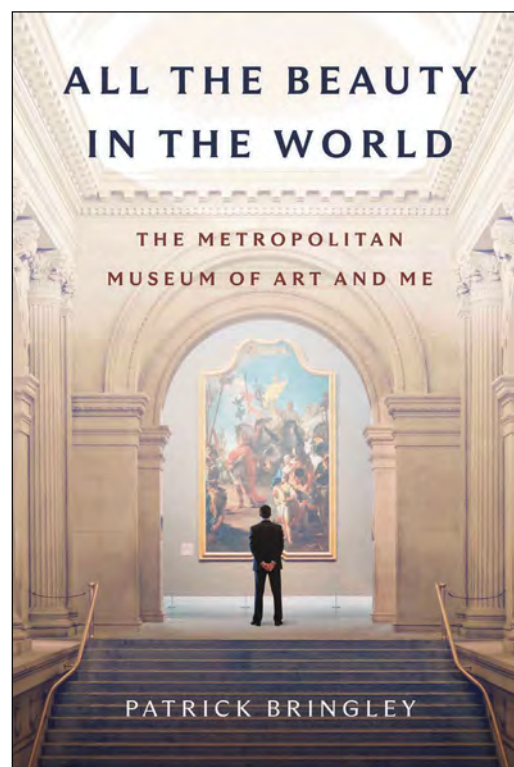
BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Guard's Eye View of The Met

In a state of grief after the death of his brother, a young man quits his job at The New Yorker and takes a position as a guard in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, spiriting himself away to a hushed world beyond the clawing ambition of the city. It may sound like a novel, but this is the premise of a new memoir by Patrick Bringley, "All The Beauty In The World." Bringley will appear in person at The Hotchkiss Library's Summer Book Signing in Sharon, Conn., on Friday, Aug. 4. The Brooklyn, N.Y., based author spoke with me on the phone while vacationing in The Finger Lakes in New York State.

Alexander Wilburn: This is an incredibly literary book in terms of its voice, so much so I kept expecting, in a Donna Tartt narrator way, for something terrible to befall you. Did you have any literary influences or sources of inspiration?

Patrick Bringley: There were things I liked to read while I was working on the book because they put me in a good mood. I love George Orwell's non-



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SATURDAY, AUGUST 6
2 PM: Traditional Native American Storytelling By Darlene Kascak Of The Schaghticoke Tribal Nation
3 PM: Ulysses Quartet & Oskar Espina Ruiz, Clarinet
GROSSHANDLER / BEETHOVEN / COLERIDGE-TAYLOR

...the met

Continued from previous page

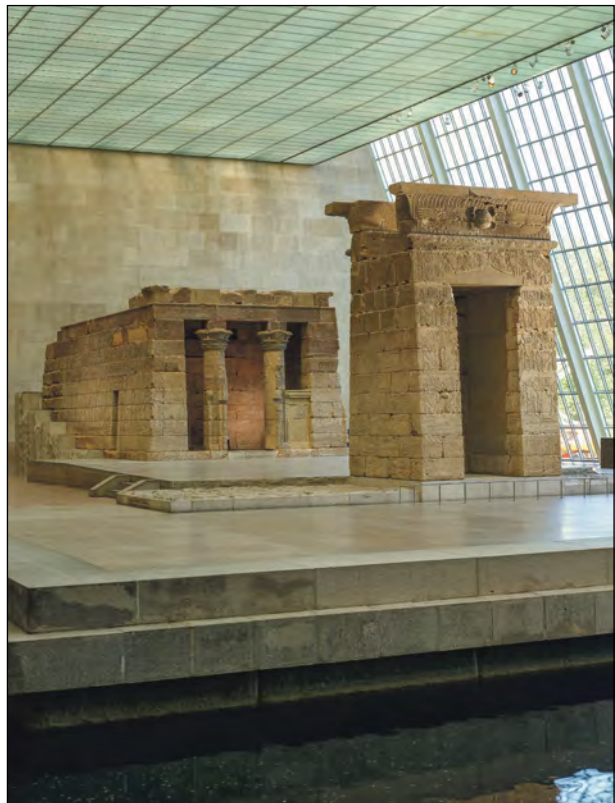
fiction, I love his book "Home To Catalonia." I love Joseph Mitchell, the great New Yorker writer. They both write in a very unadorned way, and I knew they wouldn't unduly influence my voice while I was writing. I came to the voice of the book trying to get the flavor of thoughts that I had on post at The Met. I had all this time to think in a long wavelength, a long quiet rhythm. I tried to mirror that with my prose as I wrote notes on my break and on the subway home.

AW: It's a very interior, solitary experience you share in this book.

PB: Across an eight to twelve-hour day, I had all this time to stand in front of these works of art and think about, "If I were to say something about this, what would I say?" I was trying to dig past what it says on the label or what an art historian might say and discover something that's more authentic to what I feel.

AW: This is an interesting book to be discussing this summer — New York is in the midst of all kinds of union disputes. Your book relays the dignity of a service job that many people view as invisible. You write about an art student who imagines herself alone in a museum room, even though you're standing right there.

PB: When you work with the guards it becomes immediately clear this is an extraordinary corpse of more than 500 people that come from all different backgrounds with different ways of relating to the art. But if you're looking at it in a thoughtless way you might think, "These are the people at the bottom of the totem pole, they're not making much more than minimum wage when they start, and the important people are the curators." But it doesn't take too much reflection to realize that that's not true. The guards are never one type of person, and they're not just someone with an art history degree from a fancy college. You have



THE TEMPLE OF DENDUR, COURTESY OF THE MET

a wide variety of people who step into the role. The Met guards are deserving of more dignity in how they're perceived, and that would be true of workers in all sorts of overlooked jobs in New York.

AW: The Met is, largely, a collection of fairly literal paintings. So much of the work depicts what once was, and even the touches of supernatural or the spiritual look like

us — the Greek gods take mortal form, in Moreau's painting of Oedipus, the sphinx has a human face. These aren't the modern nightmares of Frances Bacon.

PB: When you're looking at this art from a very long time ago you may have two different reactions that exist at the same time. One is that this is done by people who are very different from me, someone who

SILENT FILM, LIVE SCORE

The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival will screen the 1924 silent film "The City Without Jews" on Monday, Aug. 14, at 4 p.m., at Lenox High School in Lenox, Mass. Pianist Donald Sosin and violinist Alicia Svigals will provide the live score. Sosin will also score a screening of silent comedy shorts on the lawn of Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, Conn., on Thursday, Aug. 10, joined by his wife, vocalist Joanna Seaton. Sosin and Seaton will appear for 1923's "Safety Last!" at The Millerton Library Annex in Millerton, N.Y. on Saturday, Aug. 12.

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lived in ancient Egypt 45 hundred years ago. Their structure of the world and their theology can feel very alienating. Other times you can see these were made by human hands just like the hands I have now. They were thinking about life and death and that's what we're thinking about today. They had bodies like mine, heads, and hearts like mine. The sun was shining over ancient Egypt roughly the same way it does now over New York City. You can feel this kinship and realize The Met is about the human species. It's the beauty we find in our lives and the beauty that we're able to create. All those things make you feel like you're not alone, that there's a tradition of thinking these thoughts. That can be true of modern and contemporary art — but there are works that feel like they were created just to be a work of art that would make people impressed, whereas many things in The Met weren't even made to be a work of art. They had a purpose that feels very human.

AW: I won't ask you to pick a favorite piece in the Met. Instead, can you point to a piece that you think is overlooked?

PB: If you go past The Temple of Dendur there's a little room that has these figurines made over 2 thousand years



'OEDIPUS AND THE SPHINX' BY GUSTAVE MOREAU, COURTESY OF THE MET

prior to when the temple was made. They're remarkable because, for one, they were in a hidden chamber, no one had laid eyes on them for 4 thousand years when The Met found them. But another thing is they are depictions of ordinary people, in breweries and bakeries, and a slaughterhouse, and rowing ships. They are made to look authentic to how people really lived. This is something you don't

get almost anywhere else in the museum. They were created to be buried with the rich man who owned the estate that all these serfs were working on. He wanted to take them to the afterlife, as if the figurines would make them eternal. In a way, he succeeded, because here we are thousands of years later, still getting glimpses at these people. It's an extraordinary look at normal people.

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EDITORIAL

Want to feel closer to your community? Volunteer.

On Sunday, August 13 The Lakeville Journal will hold its 2nd Annual Community Fair. We hope it's a lot of fun, and we also want to spread the word about all the ways people can get involved in this place we call home. Volunteers are the lifeblood of our community.

Many of us already know this. We volunteer at the fire department, the ambulance corps, the library, the food pantries, our churches and synagogues and environmental groups.

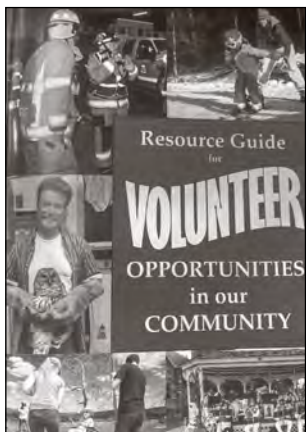
Nearly 30 organizations are coming on August 13 to show us what they are doing and how you can help them. They have many missions: Preserving local culture, supporting land conservation, strengthening education and youth development, fostering economic growth, providing social services and healthcare services, creating affordable housing and encouraging civic engagement.

Some of the organizations attending include:

21st Century Fund, Five Points Arts, Great Mountain Forest, Habitat for Humanity, The Little Guild Animal Shelter, Music Mountain, Noble Horizons, Salisbury Community Dog Park, Salisbury Congregational Church, Crop Walk/ Salisbury Congregational Church, Salisbury Family Services, Salisbury Rotary Club, Sharon Playhouse, SOAR Enrichment, The Corner Food Pantry, The Moviehouse, The Salisbury Forum, Salisbury Winter Sports Association, Project SAGE, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Housatonic Child Care Center, Lakeville Community Conservancy, Taconic Learning Center, Sharon Hospital, The Jane Lloyd Fund, The Lakeville Hose Company, Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service, The Salisbury Housing Commission, The Salisbury Housing Trust, The Salisbury Housing Committee, Sharon Social Services, Geer Village

There's lots of volunteer work to do. See you on August 13!

And thanks to our sponsors Elyse Harney Real Estate and Northeast Ford.



The Salisbury Association has published this resource guide for volunteer opportunities. Find copies at the Academy building in Salisbury or online at www.salisburyassociation.org.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Grumbling Gryphons rocked the house

On Saturday, July 29, at 11 a.m. at Cornwall Town Hall, 17 Grumbling Gryphons Theater campers ranging from ages 6-13, in tandem with professional & teen counselors performed "The Mixed-Up Fairytale" an original play by Leslie Elias with music by Elias and Nathaniel Leich. A live band of three very talented musicians dressed as Pinocchio characters provided live music which rocked the house! 25 performers made their debut for the grand kick off of Cornwall Day in Cornwall, CT. Every seat in Town Hall was filled. The magic of intergenerational theater provided laughter and suspense for the enthusiastic crowd. Despite the heat, these valiant troupers put on a show that will never be forgotten. Characters such as The Mad Hatter, Cinderella, Dorothy, Captain Hook, Peter Pan, The Crocodile, Little Red Hood, Alice in Wonderland, The Queen of Hearts, The Snow Queen, Merlin

and many, many more, sang, danced and uplifted spirits as their stories interwove in a mad mix of plot twists and turns. "Did you ever wonder what happens after "Happily ever after?" Cheshire Cat and narrator played by Silvia Birdsall, begins the story and the magic ensued. Here are lyrics from one of the original songs entitled

"Madder than a Hatter!"
(sung by whole cast as mad maskers)

*Join us in our witches brew
Count your lucky stars
Taste our spicy story stew
As magical as mars*

*Gender, time, and politics
Changing every day
Get lost in our maddened mix*

*Throw your cares away
Honor all the lunatics
Lose your mind and play*

*Life in wonderland
Where you feel so free
Cheshire cat is beckoning*

Join us now for tea

*Come on through the Rabbit Hole
Where fantasy abounds
Step on through the looking glass
Turn your mind around*

Children made their own masks & props for the production under the direction of Micah Conway and Johnny Segalla. Scenery and costumes were created by Ellen Moon of Cornwall Bridge. After the performance The Berkshire Resilience Band, a five-person band led by Shamu Sadeh performed outdoors as the Gryphon's 10 person Dragon Puppet delighted crowds for Cornwall Day! The band was co-sponsored by The Cornwall EDC, Co-op Farm Market and Grumbling Gryphons. Full and partial scholarships were provided for campers thanks to The Berkshire Taconic, artsnorthwest.org, and Connecticut Office on the Arts.

Many Thanks and BRAVO to all the children, counselors, musicians, actors, visual artists, plus parents and grandparents who joined together in a joyful, creative, festive celebration!

With gratitude & deep appreciation,

Leslie Elias
Artistic Director
West Cornwall

A community effort at the Jane Lloyd Clambake

This year's Jane Lloyd Fund Clambake, held last weekend on SWSA's Satre Hill, epitomizes the joy this community derives and creates when working together on behalf of others. Hundreds attended this joyous annual event, united in their will to ease the crushing financial burden cancer inflicts on our friends and neighbors.

We are especially grateful to the many extremely generous local businesses whose sponsorships ensure that 100% of the Clambake proceeds will be granted to community members living with cancer. Particularly notable are the lead sponsors Salisbury Bank, Lime Rock Park, Carmody Law, Litchfield Bancorp and Nuvance Health.

We are also indebted to the Salisbury Winter Sports Association whose unstinting hospitality provides the backdrop for this wonderful community celebration.

We salute our dedicated, indefatigable volunteers whose energy, passion, and commitment invigorate the clambake year after year and we thank the hundreds of community members who seize the opportunity to bring help, hope, and comfort to those in need.

Your robust support of the clambake continues the "circle of generosity and goodwill" on which the Jane Lloyd Fund was founded, advancing its mission of "helping cancer patients day to day".

Thank you clambake volunteers, donors, sponsors, and guests for the hope and help you make possible.

The Jane Lloyd Fund
Donna Lloyd Stoetner,
Tanya Tedder,
Caroline Burchfield,
Barbara Kennedy Weiss

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

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — 1923

E.R. Smith has moved into the lower rooms of the Kelsey house.

W.P. Bishop is driving a new Chevrolet Sedan. Mrs. John Surdam has purchased the car formerly owned by W.P. Bishop and is learning to drive it.

LIME ROCK — Hilan Eggleston is on the sick list, suffering from throat trouble.

Charles Vosburgh was struck and knocked down by Dr. Thomas' auto in the Casino driveway last Thursday. Dr. Thomas had driven into the Casino driveway to turn around and was unaware of Mr. Vosburgh's presence. Mr. Vosburgh's injuries fortunately are not serious and he suffered principally from the shock and jar, as he is not in the best of health.

Adv.: Lost — A Ball Brand rubber boot, between Taconic and Lakeville. Will finder please leave same at the Lakeville Post Office.

Gasoline is going down and automobilists may now buy it as low as 23 cents per gallon in Massachusetts and New York.

50 years ago — 1973

According to figures released by the state this week, Cornwall is the marryingest town in the state, with Falls Village running a close second. The state's Department of Health says that there were 26 marriages in Cornwall (population 1200) last year, or 21.7 marriages per 1000 people there. Falls Village's rate for 1972 was 21.6. Town Clerk Kay Fenn pointed out that Cornwall has become a popular location for out-of-towners who apply for a marriage license on Monday or Tuesday, say "I do" on Friday or Saturday and promptly disappear from Cornwall forever.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Gentile, who have operated the Apothecary Shop in Lakeville since the mid-50s, have sold their business to Richard O. Walsh of Fairfield and look forward to a well-earned rest. Mr. Gentile, termed by his associates as "a very hard-working guy," came to Lakeville in 1932 shortly after completing his education as a pharmacist and worked for about 10 years in Vincent Leverty's drug store in the Holley Block.

Members of the Canaan Housing Authority received confirmation this week that their long fight to bring housing for the elderly to the community has ended successfully. Authority Chairman Art Baldwin said that he received word Friday that the State Bond Commission has approved Canaan's grant for \$384,000 to build 24 units of housing.

Members of the North Canaan Congregational Parish got a first look at the young man who is to be their new minister last Sunday and liked what they saw. The Rev. Peter A. Dakers of Trumbull was invited to preach last Sunday in the East Canaan church by the Pastoral Selection Committee. Following the service he was approved to fill the vacancy created when the Rev. Robert Loesch left for Madison, Conn.

First they recycled bottles, then paper — now cars! Canaan First Selectman Leo Segalla announced this week that old cars are now being crushed at the Canaan sanitary landfill site, and that Canaan and Falls Village residents are invited to bring their junk vehicles for the pickup.

25 years ago — 1998

While driving eastbound on Route 112, Theodore Brun, 79, of Mt. Kisko, N.Y., lost control of his car which crossed the lawn at 363 Lime Rock Road and struck the house. The car was hurt worse than the house or the driver.

NORFOLK — It was built as a theater in 1883. Over more than a century it has also been home to grocers and butchers and a barber shop. For the past five years it has been simply a vacant building on the main highway through town. Apple House as it came to be known because of the last grocer to occupy the street level space was purchased this week by playwrights and producers Maura Cavanagh and Richard Smithies of West Cornwall and New York City. They plan to begin immediately renovating the three-story shingle-style building and reopen it as The Greenwoods Theatre.

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

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

Editorial Staff: Patrick L. Sullivan, managing editor; Riley Klein, digital news producer; Alexander Wilburn, Compass A&E editor; Maud Doyle, reporter.
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Viewpoint

Our Home, Our Future

Voices from our Salisbury community about the housing we need for a healthy, economically vibrant future.

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

AUGUST 4

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon Book-Signing 25th Annual Event

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, on the lawn of the Sharon Historical Society and Museum, next door at 18 Main Street, Sharon, CT.

All proceeds support the vital programs and services for patrons from Sharon and beyond. We are a nonprofit and, with the exception of printing and copying, everything we provide is free of charge. Come celebrate the power of books and libraries! Meet your favorite authors, discover new ones, chat with your friends and neighbors, buy signed copies of books for yourself and as gifts. Be a part of Litchfield County's Premier Literary Event.

AUGUST 4-6

Weekend in Norfolk, Conn.

Go to www.weekendinnorfolk.org for the full schedule.

A town-wide festival starts Friday, Aug. 4 and runs all weekend with art shows, stained glass window tours, a fly-fishing lesson, hikes, live music, food and more.

Litchfield County 4-H Fair

Goshen Fairgrounds, 116 Old Middle St., Goshen, Conn. Go to [www.https://4-h.extension.uconn.edu/litchfield-county/](https://4-h.extension.uconn.edu/litchfield-county/)

The 90th Litchfield County 4-H Fair will be held on Friday Aug. 4 through Sunday, Aug. 6 at the Goshen Fairgrounds. The fair is open to the public from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. all three days.

AUGUST 5

Roxana Geffen, mixed-media art workshop in Cornwall

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine 30 Pine Street, Cornwall

Roxana Geffen, a mixed-media artist based in Washington, D.C., whose art is on display at the Cornwall Library as part of a show called "Life and the Memory of It," will host a workshop at the library on Saturday, Aug. 5. From 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Geffen will talk about her art and the exhibition, explain the processes behind the work and then lead the group in making their own collages. Those interested in attending the workshop can register at Cornwalllibrary.org. Registration will cost \$25 per person.

AUGUST 13

Lakeville Journal's Jam on Academy

Academy Street in Salisbury, Conn.

Join more than 20 area nonprofits on Sunday, Aug. 13 from noon to 6 p.m. on Academy Street in Salisbury for The Lakeville Journal's 2nd annual community fair: Jam on Academy. We'll have food, live music, face painting, furry friends hosted by The Little Guild, a scavenger hunt, and more.

AUGUST 16

Goodspeed Opera House – Summer Stock

Goodspeed Opera House, 6 Main St., East Haddam, Conn.

The regional Parks and Recreation programs are pleased to offer a trip to the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, Conn., to see Summer Stock, a fun and whimsical musical. The trip is planned for Wed. Aug. 16 and includes Northwest Transit bus transportation, departing the Sharon Town Hall at 9:30 a.m., with lunch at the Gelston House and tickets for the 2 p.m. show. The cost is \$100. Please contact Sharon Parks and Recreation for your reservation. 860-364-1400 sharon.rec.ctr@snet.net

ONGOING

Hybrid Teen Writing Club

Pine Plains Free Library, 7775 South Main St., Pine Plains, N.Y. pineplainslibrary.org

Scoville Memorial Library and Pine Plains Free Library hosts a hybrid (online and in person at the Pine Plains Free Library) teen writing club on Fridays 4:30 to 6 p.m. Teens in 6th-12th grade are welcome. Registration is required. To register and for additional information, please email host and local writer and poet Abbey Gallagher at agallagher502@gmail.com.

Tony Sarg: Genius at Play

Norman Rockwell Museum, 9 Glendale Road / Rte. 183, Stockbridge, Mass. nrm.org

Norman Rockwell Museum presents Tony Sarg: Genius at Play, the first comprehensive exhibition exploring the life, art, and adventures of Tony Sarg (1880-1942), the charismatic illustrator, animator, puppeteer, designer, entrepreneur, and showman who is celebrated as the father of modern puppetry in North America and the originator of the iconic Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade balloons, floats, and animated store windows. On view through November 5.

Kent Historical Society Announces Its Summer Exhibition at Seven Hearths Museum

Seven Hearths Museum, 4 Studio Hill Road, Kent Conn. kenthistoricalsociety.org

Sticks & Stands: An Exhibition of Candlesticks and Candlestands from Private Collections is open weekends through August 27, 2023, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and by appointment. Admission is free for KHS members with a suggested donation of \$5 for non-members.

Scoville Library Book Donations

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

The Friends of the Scoville Library are currently accepting donations of books for their ongoing book sales Mondays 10 a.m. to noon.

All proceeds benefit the library's programs.

"Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future."

—John F. Kennedy

A good education is critical for children to develop their potential and thrive in our knowledge-based economy.

With skyrocketing housing costs, many families who would like to take advantage of the quality education our schools offer cannot afford to live here. The cost of housing is also a serious challenge for teachers and other workers needed to run our schools.

This has been a long-running issue exacerbated by Covid. The increase in part-time residents who make up approximately 50% of our households has reduced housing stock available for full-time residents.

An increase in short-term rentals such as Airbnbs and very expensive seasonal rentals has put more homes out of reach. According to the Litchfield County Board of Realtors, between 2018 and 2022 the area historical median housing prices increased in Salisbury 59.6%. The increase in Sharon was 79.7%, Canaan 173.6%, North Canaan 67.4%, and Cornwall 148.1%.

High housing costs have had a huge impact on families with school-age children.

The student population at

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

By MARY CLOSE OPPENHEIMER



PHOTO BY MARY CLOSE OPPENHEIMER

Ian Strever, principal, Housatonic Valley Regional High School

our local public schools has been declining for years.

The number of students has declined at Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) from 613 in 2005 to 300. Fortunately Salisbury Central School's population has increased slightly since 2015 thanks in part to a stable population of private school faculty's children who get free housing and a bump from families moving into town during Covid. In the past 10 years Sharon Central School's population declined from 177 to 100.

Ian Strever, principal of HVRHS, said he recently purchased a home in Falls Village. He says, "At the time I was looking in Salisbury, the lowest-priced piece of real estate was \$890,000. There is nothing remotely realistic in Salisbury on a public school teacher (or administrator) salary. Unlike in the past when teachers were part of the community, new teachers can't afford to live here. Almost all live outside of the district in towns that have more diverse housing stock and options like condos, smaller homes and rentals. There is a waiting list of about 100 peo-

ple for Sarum Village and the rare affordable free-market rental or small home here are quickly snapped up by local people who hear of the opportunity through word of mouth. If a teacher is new to the area they don't have that network. It makes attracting and retaining qualified staff very difficult."

Recognizing the challenge of attracting teachers to the state, Connecticut has established CHFA, a Teachers Mortgage Assistance Program that is designed to attract more teachers with below market interest rates and down payment assistance. In January of 2020 science teacher Kurt Johnson came here with his wife and son. He struggled to find a home he could afford and found that housing costs in Salis-

bury and Sharon were too high to qualify for the CHFA \$325,000 cap.

After a lengthy and intensive search he ended up buying a home in Canaan.

While this is considered a wealthy area, 30% of the students at HVRHS qualify for free or reduced-price lunches. When our young people finish school where will they live? Where will they go when they want to move out of their parents' homes and begin independent lives? Even traditionally affordable neighboring towns have become prohibitively expensive. There are no starter homes available for young people so they can remain in the community they love and where they grew up.

They are our future workforce and our town's future.

Airlines struggle with a pilot shortage

THE RETIRED INVESTOR

By BILL SCHMICK

Between the weather, shortage of planes, computer snafus, and pre-pandemic levels of customers, air travelers face a gauntlet of travel delays. A lack of pilots and air traffic controllers is adding to the high level of aggravation during this summer season.

The pilot shortage has been building in the aviation industry for several years. It is not confined to the U.S. Global air travel has surged in the post-pandemic era as emerging economies grow and more people can afford air travel. Airlines have expanded their fleets while extending and adding new routes to capture this spike in business.

This has led to increased demand for airline pilots just as a substantial portion of the pilot population here in the U.S. is reaching the mandatory retirement age. You can blame the Baby Boomers once again. Nearly 50% of the commercial airline workforce will retire in the next 15 years.

This year, the gap between demand and supply of pilots will be roughly 17,000 unfilled positions or 15% of the workforce.

The root cause of the scarcity of pilots comes down to two factors. The 1,500-Hour Rule, enacted in 2012 by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), requires first officers in the commercial airline industry, also known as co-pilots, to have a minimum of 1,500 hours of flight training time. Some say this rigorous requirement has made American skyways the safest in the world. Detractors argue that it is a major roadblock in putting more pilots in the air.

The high cost of receiving an airline transport pilot certificate, accruing hours, and flight training are other

with senior captains making \$500,000/year and senior first officers over \$300,000 yearly.

As for the regional airlines, the growing scarcity of pilots is forcing even the cheapest of the cheap companies to reconsider their pay scale if they want to maintain their existing flight schedules. More pilots, however, only compound the understaffing issues facing the FAA on the air traffic side.

The shortage of air traffic controllers nationwide has been around for several years. This year there is an estimated shortfall of 3,000 controllers, according to the FAA. There is no quick fix since, once hired, it requires months of training and three years of on-the-job experience before certification. Many drop out long before that happens. In addition, air traffic controllers are required to retire at 56 years of age. What's worse, the FAA hates to hire anyone over 31 since they want candidates to have at least a 25-year career path at the FAA.

This understaffing is both a negative for traffic as well as a danger to the public. This year, there have been several near misses between planes on U.S. runways in at least seven airports. In some airports, like those in the New York metropolitan area, the FAA has asked airlines to reduce summer traffic. A key radar facility there is only 54% staffed.

The shortage problem has now caught the attention of lawmakers and both the industry and its workers are looking to Congress to come up with some solutions. Two ideas to relieve the pilot shortage would be to increase the retirement age from 65 to 67 years of age. Another idea would be to change the 1,500-hour rule to allow some of these hours to be done in flight simulators.

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

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