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THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 2022 \$2.00

Celebrating Our 125th Anniversary

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



State grapples with cannabis legalization

The first in a series on the legalization of cannabis in Connecticut.

NEWS ANALYSIS TERRY COWGILL

LAKEVILLE — Change is coming to Connecticut with the legalization of a recreational drug that was once part of an underground culture, and it's a momentous step for a state that as recently as 10 years ago continued to honor its Puritan heritage by barring liquor stores from opening on Sundays.

A little more than a year ago, Gov. Ned Lamont signed a bill allowing for the sale and possession

of recreational marijuana, known in the trade as "adult-use cannabis." Nine years earlier, then-Gov. Dannel Malloy had signed a bill allowing for the sale of marijuana prescribed by a physician for medical purposes.

Marijuana as medicine has been less controversial than recreational, as evidenced by the fact that only

a handful of mostly conservative states such as Mississippi and Idaho continue to prohibit it. Still, the legalization of adult-use cannabis in progressive Connecticut did not happen overnight. Possession of small amounts was decriminalized in 2011 and an initial effort to legalize it died in 2018.

Unless it's carefully planned in advance, the legalization of adult-use cannabis typically prompts a mad rush among the states as officials scramble to figure out how to

See CANNABIS, Page A8

SHARON HOSPITAL Nuvance going ahead with phaseout of labor and delivery

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SHARON — Christina McCulloch, the new president of Sharon Hospital, said that the hospital's parent company, Nuvance Health, is going ahead with its plans to close the Labor and Delivery unit and consolidate two critical care units into one.

McCulloch was one of several panelists during an online community forum Monday, Aug. 8. The online meeting included a report

from the independent monitor that evaluates the hospital's compliance with its agreement with the state and is required twice a year.

During the question and answer session at the end of the meeting, McCulloch was asked if the influx of new families into the hospital's coverage area as a by-product to the COVID-19 pandemic might make the hospital reconsider the plan to close the Labor and Deliv-

See HOSPITAL, Page A8

Sharon Hospital earns 3rd consecutive 5-star

SHARON — Sharon Hospital, part of Nuvance Health, has been awarded a five-star rating — the highest overall — 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.

See 5-STAR, Page A8

Passports to close famed Salisbury store

By John Coston

SALISBURY — Passports will be closing its antique and gift store on Main Street in September after more than 15 years in the community.

Passports was founded by the late Elaine LaRoche in the early 2000s as she was living overseas in Asia and had a passion for sourcing unique items during her travels.

In a 2019 article in Main Street magazine, LaRoche noted that she would "scour the countryside and send back containers of Chinese country furniture and vintage items" that would end up in her

Passports store and then in the homes of those in the community.

The success and long-term tenure of the shop can be attributed not only to the unique offerings, but also to the excellent store management and curation by Christopher Baetz and others.

"Passports was one of my mother's passions — she loved sharing the world with others. It has been almost three years since her passing and while Christopher has done an excellent job maintaining the store, we cannot source the same treasures she did. Ultimately, it is time to move forward," said her daughter, Eve LaRoche.

Eve LaRoche will continue to own and maintain LionRock Farm in Sharon, which hosts weddings and events bringing new people to the community and creating a multitude of opportunities for local vendors and businesses.

As pandemic eases, HVRHS students travel the world

By Lia Wolgemuth

FALLS VILLAGE — Housatonic Valley Regional High School students recently returned from soaking in the beauty and marvels of Greece. From learning how to make tzatziki and Mycenaean-style pottery to touring the Acropolis and Temple of Poseidon, the students gained a deeper understanding of ancient history and a richer perspective of the world.

"It was my first trip abroad," said Mackenzie Casey, an HVRHS senior. "I couldn't have asked for a better introduction to international travel."

The school's travel club, Northwest Corner: Students Without Borders, spent nine days exploring Athens, Olympia, Delphi and several islands.

Recent graduate Joe Brennan, who will study diplomacy and international relations at Seton Hall University, loved meeting the lo-



PHOTO BY DANIELLE MELINO

Housatonic Valley Regional High School students and chaperones at the Temple of Poseidon in Cape Sounion, Greece.

calls.

"We walked around the smaller towns and cities of Greece," he said, noting the fun he and a fellow student had playing soccer with local kids.

The Greece tour is one of several school trips since the pandemic. Last year, students visited Costa Rica and Ecuador. In 2023, students

See HVRHS TRAVEL, Page A8



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Devaughn Fraser from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection oversaw a bat count in Salisbury on Thursday, Aug. 4.

Group finds 29 big brown bats in Academy building

By Riley Klein

SALISBURY — As the sun went down over the Northwest Corner, the night sky came to life during the Bat Talk and Count on Thursday, Aug. 4, at the Academy Building on Main Street.

Wildlife biologist and bat specialist Devaughn Fraser led the discussion at Scoville Memorial Library before sunset. She and her team from state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) fielded questions from inquisitive guests and provided a wealth of information on local bat populations.

See BAT COUNT, Page A8



Watch a video short of this event at www.tricornernews.com/multimedia or @lakevillejournal on Instagram



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Regional

In The Journal this week

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The Lakeville Journal Celebrates 125 Years
 Inside: The First Front Page, August 14, 1897

Three-day forecast

Friday..... Sun, high 79°/low 59°
 Saturday..... Sun, 78°/58°
 Sunday..... Sun, 81°/58°

Lakeville Journal history exhibit opens Aug. 13

The Lakeville Journal is celebrating its 125th anniversary with a month-long series of events beginning with a reception for a new exhibit on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 4 to 6 p.m.

The event is sponsored by the Salisbury Association and will be held at the Academy Building, 24 Main St., Salisbury.

“Life of a Community: The Lakeville Journal Celebrates 125 Years” will be on display from Aug. 13 to Oct. 1.

The exhibit chronicles the history of The Lakeville Journal weekly newspaper, whose first issue was published Aug. 14, 1897, along with local events in the six Connecticut towns covered: Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury, and Sharon.

Just as the newspaper business has changed dramatically during that time, the exhibit reflects changes in the community. In an era when many local newspapers are going out of business, The Lakeville Journal maintains its local connection and commitment to covering community news.

On Sunday, Aug. 14, the exhibit will be open during The Lakeville Journal’s 125th Anniversary Fair featuring music, food and fun activities on Academy Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information about the exhibit and reception, call 860-435-0566 or go to www.salisburyassociation.org. For information about the anniversary festivities, go to www.lakevillejournal.com.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Marine scholarships

Seven scholarships were awarded to college-bound graduates on Tuesday, Aug. 2, by the Northwest Marine Corps League. From left, Nick Gandolfo, sergeant at arms, students Megan Foley, Jacob Simonds, Madison Simonds, Victoria Dodge and Steve Bristol, senior vice commandant. Other recipients not pictured are Avery Tripp, Maggie Raftery and Patrick Merrill.

Hunt Library fundraiser set Aug. 21

FALLS VILLAGE — The David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village will host Augustfest in the Village on Sunday, Aug. 21, from 4 to 6 p.m. Held outdoors on the library’s lawn, it will feature grilled bratwursts, craft beers from Norbrook Farm Brewery, hot pretzels from the Falls Village Inn, a silent auction and live music by Kane Clawson with Country Jam. A vegetarian option and lemonade will be served, and guests will receive a limited-edition Hunt Library cup. There will be a silent auction.

Tickets are \$30, or \$5 for children under 12. They can be purchased by calling the library at 860-824-7424, or online at www.huntlibrary.org.

Salisbury Family Services back-to-school assistance

SALISBURY — Salisbury Family Services is sponsoring a back-to-school program effective immediately. Gift cards for school clothing will be provided to children in the town of Salisbury. Families who are in need should call Patrice McGrath at 860-435-5187.

Online This Week

Look for these stories and more, exclusively at www.tricornernews.com.

Sharon’s 63rd annual Arts and Crafts fair
 SHARON — More than 50 area artisans set up shop on the Green for the Sharon Arts and Crafts fair on Saturday, Aug. 6. See video at www.tricornernews.com/multimedia.

Millbrook school superintendent resigns
 MILLBROOK — Superintendent of Schools Laura Mitchell has resigned. Caroline Hernandez-Pidala has been appointed in the interim.

Kent library to hold forum on phishing, online security Aug. 31

KENT — Personal use of technology has left many users with unease about security threats — or perceived threats.

An entry-level, non-technical lecture at Kent Memorial Library on Wednesday, Aug. 31, at 6 p.m. will discuss everyday issues, and show common-sense measures everyone can take to help reduce risks in their online world.

Presenter Michael Jay is a certified Apple Teacher, and the owner of Personal Tech Support.

In addition to the basics of online security, including password management, discussion will focus on the most common threats faced by consumers: “phishing”

messages (scams in emails, texts and phone calls), and “scareware” (fake alerts in pop-up windows).

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

Check them out inside.

• Ocean State Job Lot

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on application #2022-0193 by owners Jon and Savannah Stevenson for a three-lot residential resubdivision at 130 Taconic Road, Map 19 Lot 15. The hearing will be held on Monday, August 15, 2022 at 6:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/agendas. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to aconroy@salisburyct.us. Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
 Martin Whalen, Secretary
 08-04-22
 08-11-22

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2022-0190 by Paul and Judith DePaolo to convert an accessory building to contain a detached accessory apartment on a single-family

residential lot at 18 Burton Road, Salisbury, Map 10, Lot 11-1 per Section 208 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Monday, August 15, 2022 at 6:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/agendas. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to aconroy@salisburyct.us. Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
 Martin Whalen, Secretary
 08-04-22
 08-11-22

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Zoning Board of Appeals

Notice is hereby given that the following application was approved by the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on August 2, 2022.

Application 2022-0191 for a Variance to the setback requirements due to a hardship related to Section 304.1 and 300.3 Zoning Regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury

Assessor’s Map 26, Lot 1, and is known as 475 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville, CT. The owner of the property is Theresa DiGiacomo.

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

Salisbury Zoning Board of Appeals
 Stacie Weiner
 Secretary
 08-11-22

NOTICE OF SPECIAL IN PERSON TOWN MEETING TOWN OF SHARON AUGUST 18, 2022

A Special Town Meeting of the Town of Sharon, Connecticut, will be held in person at the Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main Street, Sharon, Connecticut, on August 18, 2022 at 6:00p.m. for the following purpose:

To discuss and vote on the following question:

Subject to the issuance of required land use permits, shall the Town of Sharon enter into a Power Purchase and License Agreement with the Connecticut Green Bank pursuant to the Solar Municipal Assistance Program, by which a solar array will be erected on Town property at Center School for a term of twenty (20) years with possible additional option years thereafter?

A copy of the proposed Agreement is on file in

the Selectmen’s Office for review. Dated at Sharon, Connecticut, this 26th day of July 2022.

Brent M. Colley
 Dale C. Jones
 Casey T. Flanagan
 Selectmen
 08-11-22

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF BETTIE L. SNYDER Late of Sharon (22-00219)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 23, 2022, 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:
 Kevin F. Nelligan
 The Law Offices of Kevin F. Nelligan, LLC
 194 Ashley Fls Rd
 PO Box 776
 Canaan, CT 06018

Beth L. McGuire
 Chief Clerk
 08-11-22

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JOHN BOLELAUS/BRONISLAV SCIEPURA Late of Sharon (22-00301)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills

Probate Court, by decree dated July 28, 2022, 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:
 Margaret Sciepura
 160 Hospital Hill Road
 Sharon, CT 06069

Beth L. McGuire
 Chief Clerk
 08-11-22

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF IRENE G. WHITMAN Late of North Canaan (22-00314)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated August 2, 2022, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

The fiduciaries are:
 Norma Jean Winslow
 and Emily A. Whitman
 c/o Mark J. Capecelatro
 Mark J. Capecelatro, LLC
 117 Main Street
 P.O. Box 1045
 Cannan, CT 06018

Megan M. Foley
 Clerk
 08-11-22

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OBITUARIES

George Thomas Smith

SOUTH EGREMONT — Mr. George Thomas Smith, 84, of South Egremont and South Harbor, Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia, died peacefully at his home on Tuesday, August 2, 2022, or as George would say, he was "gathered up".

Depending on how you knew him, George was affectionally known as Georgie, GT, Bowtie George, HoHo and Dad. He was a man who wore many hats, literally and figuratively. His claim to fame was his longevity in any of his endeavors whether it be his volunteerism in his community, his adventures in his vintage MG, or his patriarchal care of his family. As he got on in years he was often heard saying "I've been doing this for ages" or something to that effect.

Born February 17, 1938, in Winsted, George was the son of Irving G. Smith, a veteran of World War I and an entrepreneur, and the former Mary O'Meara, a teacher. He was an only child who was fortunate enough to grow up during the post war prosperity in small town America. On more than a handful of occasions a youthful George could be caught playing hooky with the mayor's son or on an unapproved drive around town with one of the cars from his father's Chevy dealership. George was fortunate to be able to attend the Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Connecticut, formerly the Loomis School, an all-boys school. He then attended the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business and graduated with a degree in economics in 1960.

While at Penn he was member of St. Anthony Hall, Fraternity of Delta Psi. George remained an active member of St. Anthony Hall for the entirety of his life.

George's professional career began at Anaconda American Brass in Waterbury. Soon after George began selling a bookkeeping system and accounting services throughout Berkshire County and relocated to South Egremont, Massachusetts. Here George had found his happy place, often spending time at nearby Catamount Ski Area where he became a member of the ski patrol and socializing at the Swiss Hutte. It was at the Swiss Hutte that George met the love of his life, the late Jane Cannon Smith, when he extinguished a small fire in her hair by dumping his scotch on her head. After the shock of her introduction to George wore off, his charm overtook her, and they mar-

ried in 1968 remaining in South Egremont where they began a family.

George was immensely proud of his role as a father raising his three children with his wife Jane. Childhood under George was not typical. Instead of organized sports his children were often donning hunting gear and setting out on a Friday night to hunt racoons or spending Saturday mornings hunting pheasants. If you wanted George's parental attention you needed to be a good mechanic as he often was tinkering and fixing his beloved MG TC to make it ready for racing or touring. The winter season brought skiing, a favorite past time and he eagerly taught each of his children how to ski as soon as they could stand. He was also very proud of his role as grandfather and great-grandfather. He looked forward to sharing milestone moments with his five granddaughters and was often a participant in cheering them on from the sideline, encouraging them to study hard or genuinely inquiring about their latest endeavors.

Among his family it was joked that he had a fourth child, his 1948 MG TC. This object of George's fancy received a great deal of attention and care. In 1959 he purchased this classic auto from legendary racer John Fitch. George found equal joy tooling around in his MG with his wife by his side, calling on clients or touring New England. In 1986 he set out on a three-week cross-country adventure with his son Colin. George also took up vintage racing in the mid 1970s and had the opportunity to race circuits throughout New England and the Mid-Atlantic. George remained an active racer late into his 70's.

Along with his love Jane, George discovered peace and relaxation in the highlands of Cape Breton Island in northern Nova Scotia, Canada. They loved it so much that they built a small vacation home there at the oceanside in hopes that children and grandchildren would visit them often as they spent their summers there. George was fortunate to realize this dream and each year would happily mark up the vacation house calendar with the events of each day such as what hike he did or who came to visit.

George is best known for his county wide accounting practice Smith, Watson and

Company, LLP which started in 1973 with John (Jack)

Watson. George and Jack had a reputation of honesty and it allowed them to grow their business from a four-person office to a successful cornerstone business of the community.

Today the business carries on with the success that George and Jack had laid the foundation for. For George, community was so very important to him. Shortly after settling in South Berkshire County George recognized the need for formal emergency medical services after an auto accident in 1967 and along with 24 other community members formed Southern Berkshire Volunteer Ambulance Squad. As the squad grew and became well established George moved on to work with Fairview Hospital, then a separate organization from Berkshire Medical Center. As president of the board, he led the hospital through its building expansion and modernization. He



later would become integrally involved in the merger of Fairview Hospital and Berkshire Medical Center to form Berkshire Health Systems, the healthcare resource our community relies on today. George was very generous with volunteering his time over the years. Healthcare always remained his passion.

George is survived by his three children Colin (Jennifer Gaenzle), Mara and Grinnan; five granddaughters, Marissa, Sara, Catherine, Jane and Lena and one great-grandson, Jake. He was predeceased by his wife Jane Cannon Smith.

A Liturgy of Christian Burial was held at Our Lady of the Valley Church, Sheffield, Massachusetts on August 9, at 11 a.m. The family received visitors at the family home 33 Bow Wow Road, South Egremont, on August 8 from 4 to 6 pm. (Note: GPS location may not be accurate. House is located 1/2 mile in from Route 41 end of Bow Wow Road) Memorial contributions may be made in George's memory to Southern Berkshire Ambulance Service or Fairview Hospital.

Robert D. Harris Jr.

NORTH CANAAN — Robert D. Harris, Jr., age 76, died at home on August 3, 2022. He was born in North Canaan, graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School, and received his BA from the University of Connecticut in 1967. After serving in the Army in Vietnam, Bob worked for the State of Connecticut his entire career, retiring as the Director of the Office of Fiscal Analysis in 2001. He continued his service to the state on the State Library Board and the Capitol Preservation Board throughout his retirement. Bob enjoyed collecting art and antiques, but is best known for his life-long love of reading and books. In his later years he greatly enjoyed meeting authors at signing events and book festivals.



Bob was generous, thoughtful, and funny. He loved to gift books to people, especially when he knew of their interests or hobbies. He also loved chewing gum. Bob is survived by his loving husband and partner of almost 40 years, Father Michael F. Ray, retired pastor of St. Thomas's in New Haven, his daughters Debra (Ryan) and C. Catherine Ray, sons Phillip (Laurie) and Daniel (Hui), grandchildren Anuhea and Evan, and his sister Patricia Harris Glenn.

Bob was a great lover of animals, especially dogs, and was preceded in death by his beloved rescue greyhound Oberon. A memorial will be planned at the convenience of the family. If you knew Bob, you know he rarely threw anything away including the copious paperwork from the many charities he supported. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the charity of your choice, as it's likely one he supported. To send condolences to his family, please see obituary at www.beecherandbennett.com.

For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com. All are Welcome

Katherine G. Disbrow

MILLERTON — Katherine G. Disbrow, 105, a seventy-five year resident of Millerton, died peacefully on Sunday, Aug. 7, 2022 at Sharon Health Care Center in Sharon. Mrs. Disbrow worked for Delson's Department Store and Dick's Pharmacy as a sales associate for many years, and also worked as a waitress and cook at the Millerton Diner. She ultimately retired at the age of 88 when the Dick's Pharmacy closed.



Born July 20, 1917 in Mt. Kisco, New York she was the daughter of the late Edward and Mabel (Hyatt) Sands. Following her years at school, she married Frederick E. Disbrow. Mr. Disbrow died in 1990. Mrs. Disbrow was a life member, past secretary and past president of the Millerton American Legion Post No. 178 Ladies Auxiliary. In her spare time she enjoyed bowling at the Millerton Bowling Alley and at Cove Lanes in Great Barrington. She also liked to dance and enjoyed relaxing on the beach in Miami Beach, Florida, and Atlantic City, New Jersey and Rudd Pond in Millerton. Her greatest joy was spending time with her loving family and many friends.

Colt and her husband Carlisle of Southington, Connecticut and Edna Neubauer and her husband Raymond of Forestville, Connecticut.

She is also survived by three grandchildren; Karen Cooke and her husband Joe of Valatie, New York, Robin Neil and her husband Doug of Rexford, New York and Sherri and Paul Mier of Hudson, New York; eight great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren. In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her dear siblings, Hilda Sands and Douglas Sands of Millerton, her son-in-law, Raymond Schienda and daughter-in-law Elizabeth Disbrow and her granddaughter, Samantha Neil and several additional brothers and sisters.

Private family visitation will be held on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022. A private funeral service and burial will follow at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate. Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Legion Post No. 178, 155 Route 44, Millerton, NY 12546 or Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546. Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY. To send an online condolence to the family please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Mrs. Disbrow is survived by her daughter, Katherine J. Schienda of Millerton and her son, Frederick Disbrow of North Carolina; a brother, Donald Sands and his wife Eva of Meriden, Connecticut and two sisters, Mabel

Flower arranging event Sept. 9

FALLS VILLAGE — On Saturday, Sept. 9, at 3 p.m., Maria Grusauskas of Blue Monday Flowers will lead a DIY flower arranging event at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village.

Grusauskas will supply participants with her Falls Village-grown, pesticide-free flowers and provide information on varieties and tips on arranging. Participants should bring their favorite flower vessel and clippers or scissors. This event costs \$25 per person and is limited to 10 participants.

Registration is required by calling 860-824-7424 or emailing the library at dmhuntlibrary@gmail.com. Payment can be made by Venmo (Maria-Grusauskas)

with "library event" in the memo line, or by bringing cash or check to the event.

Worship Services Week of August 14, 2022

Grid of church services including: The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C., Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Trinity Episcopal Church, North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC, The Sharon United Methodist Church, Falls Village Congregational Church, The Smithfield Presbyterian Church, SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH, and Canaan United Methodist Church.

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Our Towns

Rose Algrant Art Show dazzles

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — In the wake of the pandemic, local artists emerged from their studios to participate in the Rose Algrant Art Show, now in its 63rd year of delighting area art lovers with a show and sale.

The show was held this year at the Cornwall Consolidated School, opening on Friday, Aug. 5, and continuing through Sunday.

Proceeds from this year's art show will benefit the Cornwall Housing Corporation, which supports affordable housing solutions.

A display of ceramics along a far wall drew two observers to agree on a description: "Picasso meets Basquiat meets Jean Dubuffet," a combined assessment made by Kristin Heming of Pace Prints of New York City and local art fan Elizabeth Englander. The latter vouched for Heming's "incredible nose for art," and was both enjoying the show and purchasing art.

Englander had made a few initial purchases, including Robert Parker's "Aerobats" painting and Molly Morgan's "Bluebird and Butterfly Weed," a mixed media on board piece. Morgan was a part-time Cornwall resident who became full-time during the pandemic and intends to remain full-time. She is an artist and a therapist. "Art is my self-expression," she said.

"I just think the painting is beautiful," said Englander of Morgan's unframed work.

Exhibiting artist and this year's co-chairman was Jacques Schiller. She estimated that nearly 50 artists were exhibiting and all exhibitors were Cornwall artists.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

One of the nearly 50 artists exhibiting at the Rose Algrant Art Show was local favorite Jane Bevans. Her exhibit included examples of her whimsical door frame art.

"Despite the heat, we're doing all right," she said, noting that this year there were several new exhibitors, "so it's exciting."

Event co-chair Ellen Moon, also a popular exhibitor, was busy as cashier and was able to report, "We're doing very well."

Remembering Rose Algrant, who died in 1992, Moon said, "I always wonder what she would think that we're still running the show."

"She was slim and teeny," Moon recalled of Algrant, "but fierce in her passion." Algrant was a teacher and she modeled for some of her artist friends.

"She was doing it for her

friends," Moon said. In the early years, Algrant joined with James Thurber who brought along some of his friends and the art show became a way for local artists to exhibit and sell their works, often at bargain prices to clear some space in their studios.

Jane Bevans had no chickens to show this year, although many asked for them, but she was showing a good selection of her imaginative door frame art using Masonite board coated with gesso.

Bevans said, "This is a very good, exceptional show this year with some very good art."

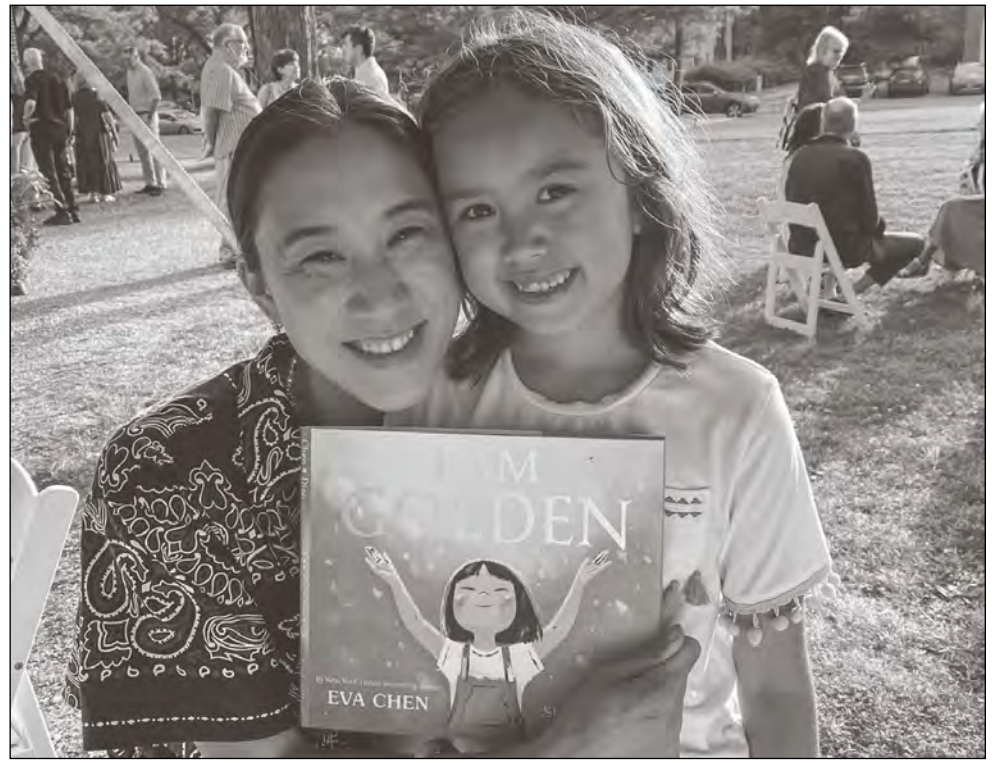


PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Children's author Eva Chen took a pause in book signing to embrace her daughter, Ren Bannister, 9. Chen's book, "I Am Golden," was a favorite with those who attended the annual Hotchkiss Library of Sharon book signing on Aug. 5.

Sharon book signing returns

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Following a two-year pandemic break, the Sharon Summer Book Signing drew authors and book lovers to benefit the landmark Hotchkiss Library of Sharon and enjoy each other's company.

The event on Friday, Aug. 5, sheltered nearly 40 authors under a large tent on the grounds of the Sharon Historical Society and Museum, just next door to the library — which is currently undergoing major renovation.

Adroitly moving among several event duties, Thomas Trowbridge, the library board chair, said the popularity of the event showed a lot of pent-up demand.

Trowbridge expressed gratitude to the Sharon Historical Society and Museum for accommodating the event

on its grounds and opening its museum building to the event's volunteers. He said that the book signing is one of the library's principal fundraising events, instrumental in raising funds for the library's annual operating expenses.

Hundreds of visitors purchasing multiple books to add to collections or give as gifts crowded the tent and its surrounds. Students from Sharon Center School volunteered as waitstaff, circulating with trays of hors d'oeuvres.

Author Eva Chen of Cornwall brought along her new affirming children's book, "I Am Golden," happily sharing a table with author Deborah Freedman, who wrote "Tiny Dino."

"It's my first book festival event," Chen said, calling it a "nice atmosphere."

"So far, it's great," said author Adam Van Doren early

in the event, recalling that he had participated five years ago. "It's so nice to be in person again," he added.

Five years ago, he was introducing his "The House Tells the Story: Homes of the American Presidents." On that work, he collaborated with noted historian David McCullough, who contributed the foreword. (McCullough died on Aug. 7 at age 89.) This year, he brought along his new book, "In the Founders' Footsteps: Landmarks of the American Revolution," with foreword by historian Nathaniel Philbrick.

"It's wonderful. My book came out two years ago," author David Levine said of his "The Hudson Valley: The First 250 Million Years," noting that the unfortunate timing was just at the dawn of the pandemic. "I've been waiting two years."



More power to you

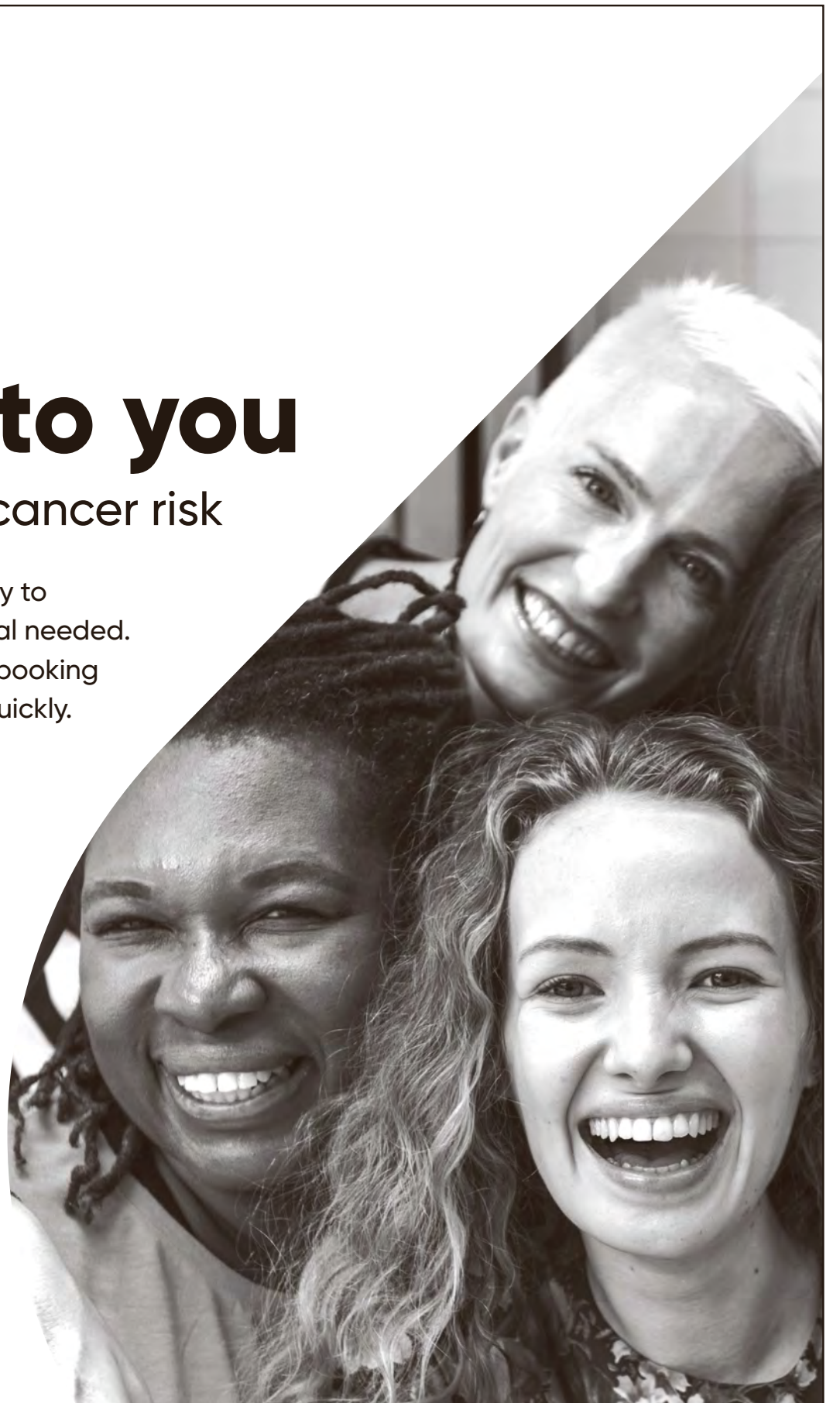
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Sharon Hospital



Our Towns

New ice cream shop — antidote to the summer's heat

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — That everyone is said to love the new little ice cream shop in town is a sure sign that it will succeed. Le Gamin Ice Cream Shop is adjacent to Le Gamin restaurant, offering the perfect way to top off delicious French fare with something sweet and lusciously creamy. Or, the little shop has its own entrance in case treat-seekers want to skip dining and move right to dessert. More good news is that the shop which opened on Friday, July 9, is open seven days a week from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

In between customers, clerk Alec Kovacs, a recent Housatonic Valley Regional High School graduate serving behind the counter, described flavors that include ice cream and fruit sorbets, during an interview on Thursday, Aug. 4. At any one time there are eight or nine ice cream flavors and perhaps two to four sorbets, Kovacs said. Le Gamin owner Robert Arbor said that he now obtains his ice cream from Jane's Ice Cream company in Kingston, N.Y., and is no longer driving to Brooklyn, N.Y., to pick it up from Mont Blanc, his city source. Rich

and creamy in both standard and imaginative flavors, Jane's ice cream is made in small batches using hormone-free cream from local cows and natural local ingredients. The fruit sorbets are completely dairy-free. And if nuts are one of the ingredients, Jane's produces the nut varieties at the end of a day's run just before the equipment is thoroughly cleaned in preparation for the next day's production. "People say it's like a relief to finally have an ice cream store, and one of good quality," Kovacs said. Cameron Smith of Sharon stepped through the door

indicating that he was visiting the ice cream shop for the first time. "I'm excited," Smith said as he considered the various flavors including Butter Pecan, before settling on Rum Raisin, a single scoop on a cone. The conversation over the cone logically turned to golf with Smith commenting that he has won the Sharon Golf Course championship for the 20th time, since he began competing in 1966. Kovacs, too, has distinguished himself on the links, indicating that he has earned a golf scholarship to attend Palm Beach State College in Florida this fall.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Smiles all around at the new Le Gamin Ice Cream Shop in Sharon. Keeping up with the demand on Sunday, Aug. 7, clerk William Iorio had just dished out a blackberry cone to Ella Kotnik, 9, of Sharon.

Over 50 vendors at Arts & Crafts Fair

By Riley Klein

SHARON — Artisans from the Northwest Corner and beyond set up shop at the Sharon Green on Saturday, Aug. 6, for the Sharon Arts and Crafts fair. It was the 63rd year of the event. Creativity and craftsmanship were on full display within the tents that lined the Green along Main Street. Matt Andrulis-Mette, who has coordinated the event for 22 years, was pleased with the turnout despite the hot and humid weather. "It's the local-ness, I think, that attracts the people," said Andrulis-Mette. While most vendors are from the area and have been attending the annual fair for years, there were a handful of new faces this year from both near and far. Crafters traveled from across New England, New York and New Jersey to display their wares. For some first-timers, the fair provided an opportunity to introduce themselves to



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Anne Cameron worked on a portable loom during the Sharon Arts and Crafts Fair Saturday, Aug. 6.

their new neighbors. Anne Cameron of Tissé Designs, who moved to Sharon last year, showcased her custom woven goods. As she worked on weaving a scarf with her portable loom, she provided informa-

tion on her products and the process of creating handwoven items. "This is a rigid heddle loom," explained Cameron, "and I teach people how to weave on these." All of the items seen at the fair were original pieces, but Andrulis-Mette said organizers are cautiously considering allowing certain resellers to attend in the future. "We'd like to see more vendors, but we don't want it to become a flea market," said Andrulis-Mette. With over 50 vendors in attendance this year, the outlook for future fairs remains strong. Proceeds of the fair benefit the Sharon Parks and Recreation department.

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"Nuvance's proposed closures are an abandonment that will leave our families high and dry!"

Amy Scheim gave birth to her first child in 2021 at Sharon Hospital and she emphatically explained that, "I can't say enough positive things about my experience, about Dr. Mortman and the entire Sharon Hospital staff."

"I am completely outraged that Nuvance is trying to close Labor and Delivery. Sharon Hospital and their birthing suites really stand out in terms of the level of care and support being offered, well beyond the day that you go home."

"Nuvance has an opportunity to stand out and support pregnant people and families, but instead they're going to abandon them and walk away. They will be abandoning a large part of our population and will ultimately be putting them at higher risk. The closure is an abandonment instead of an investment in our community, and Nuvance will be leaving our families high and dry."



Amy Scheim with her husband and newborn, leaving Sharon Hospital after giving birth in 2021.

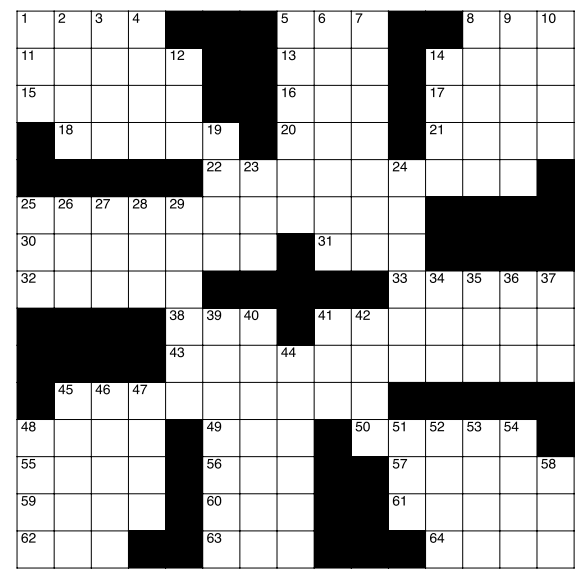
SAVE SHARON HOSPITAL

To learn more about how you can help Save Sharon Hospital, please visit www.savesharonhospital.org

Brain Teasers

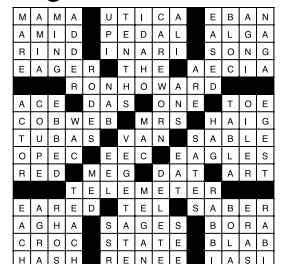
CLUES ACROSS

1. Breezed through
5. Time units (abbr.)
8. Pigeon's murmur
11. Moves aside in fright
13. Partner to "ahh"
14. Taxis
15. Monetary units of Turkey
16. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
17. Prolific Italian opera composer
18. Restaurants
20. One's grandmother
21. Ancient Greek City
22. Italian mountain ranges
25. Data
30. Acted in an obedient way
31. Autonomic nervous system
32. Not on the up-and-up
33. Mock lightly
38. Mimic
41. Built
43. A neighborhood
45. Inflammation of the kidneys
48. Semitic fertility god
49. Temporary name of Seaborgium
50. Wise people
55. Tear down
56. ___-fi (slang)
57. Diamond weight
59. Frosted
60. Predecessor to EU
61. Makes changes to
62. Some are secret
63. Tooth caregiver
64. Old English poet

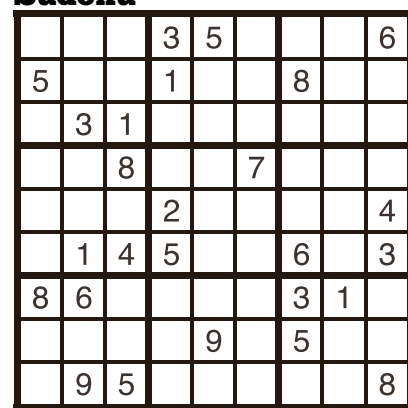


12. Midway between south and southeast
14. French commune
19. Alike
23. A bachelor's apartment
24. Foot part between the ball and ankle
25. Belonging to a thing
26. Japanese classical theater
27. Supervises flying
28. Not even
29. Capital of Saudi Arabia
34. Electronic countermeasure
35. Consumed
36. American politician (abbr.)
37. Sun up in New York
39. Casually looked through
40. Revealed the presence of
41. Peyton's little brother
42. Diana __, singer
44. Study of moral values and rules
45. Civil Rights group
46. Makes less severe
47. Made an emotional appeal
48. Vivacity of style
51. One who is highly skilled
52. Gets around in pursuit of pleasure
53. Famed guitarist Clapton
54. Most common Japanese surname
58. Recipe abbreviation

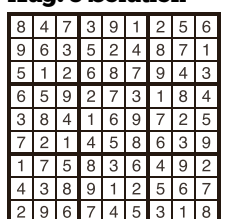
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Our Towns

Town, Historical Society cooperate on maintaining vets' monument

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Responding to a request from the Kent Historical Society, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to assume responsibility for the veterans' monument at its regular meeting on Thursday, Aug. 4.

First Selectman Jean Speck said that she is obtaining a valuation on the monument for insurance purposes and that she is conferring with town attorney Randall DiBella about the procedure.

Resident Andy Ocif, chairman of the Veterans' Committee since 2013, reported that the process of erecting a monument began in 2007, under the auspices of the Historical Society.

"Over the years, the committee has done a great job, a great process," Ocif said, noting that in the past year, only one name has been added to the monument. Wanting to be relieved of the responsibility and the expense of carrying the liability insurance, the Historical Society has asked the town to take it over, Ocif explained.

The selectmen created and appointed members to a new Kent Veterans' Memorial Advisory Committee that will serve as a subcommittee to the selectmen, continuing their interest in the monument and remaining responsible for recommending names to be added.

Donations to the Veterans' Committee will now be payable to the Town of Kent,

with a notation on the memo line that the donation is for the Veterans' Memorial fund.

Clearer budget numbers for school resource officer

Seeking to allay confusion about budget numbers in advance of scheduling a town meeting to approve the expenditure for a second resident trooper, Board of Education Chairman Scott Trabucco explained the need for some flexibility.

Trabucco reported that the next step would be to contact State Police Troop L, the office that would be providing the officer who would divide his time, 70% and 30%, between the school and the town, respectively. It is projected that for the first year, the contract would begin in October, but that the annual cost in a full year would likely run a figure of up to \$200,000.

Representatives of the Board of Education plan to attend the next Board of Finance meeting to firm the figures in advance of asking the selectmen to schedule a town meeting.

Selectman Glenn Sanchez recalled that the original base contract was to define an expenditure of \$187,000, and Trabucco responded that the Board of Education added an amount to cover 15 overtime days.

"For this year that will be a partial year, it will be less, but going forward in full years, it might rise up to \$200,000," Trabucco said, adding that the cost might be \$150,000 for this partial year.

Kent historical exhibit showcases chairs that hark to 17th century New England

By Riley Klein

KENT — On Saturday, Aug. 6, the Kent Historical Society opened an exhibit titled "Put It Down Over There; Musings on Early Chairs" at Seven Hearths on Studio Hill Road showcasing a variety of classical chairs, with some dating to the early 17th century.

Jeffrey Morgan, trustee of the Society, provided a guided tour through the themed rooms, explaining the unique attributes of each chair.

"Many people who come through say they've never seen anything like it," said Morgan.

Some of the chairs on display are original to Kent's Flanders Historic District, while others are on loan from private collections. Chairs from Connecticut, Rhode Island,

Massachusetts, New York and even England are all available for viewing, organized by style and features throughout the rooms of the museum.

The exhibit displays The Governor William Pitkin Chair, which dates to the 1750s and was made in Norwich. The title card explains this is "one of Connecticut's best chairs, with its balloon seat and pointy ears (which indicate its Norwich origin)."

To Morgan, whose personal collection contributed to the exhibit, the chairs are more than just old seats. He sees them as "the most intimate piece of furniture because you touch it with your whole body."

The exhibit is available for viewing by appointment. Go to www.kenthistoricalsociety.org for more information.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Jeffrey Morgan, trustee of the Kent Historical Society, with one of his favorites, a ladder-back arm chair from the Lower Hudson Valley.

Cornwall plans a fall forum on housing

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Housing remains a priority in Cornwall according to a report during the regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, Aug. 2.

Several initiatives are being discussed, with the Housing Committee aiming to hold a public forum in the fall to report and to hear residents' opinions.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway reported that the committee has learned that in order to have a Community Housing Fund as discussed at past public meetings, there would need to be an ordinance. Any proposed ordinance would need to go to a town meeting vote, Ridgway

said. "Such an ordinance could be helpful to the town, allowing the town to acquire funds to purchase land in the future," Ridgway said.

The committee is also defining the services of a volunteer Cornwall Housing coordinator. Ridgway said that the coordinator would help people who want to come to live in Cornwall, or who wish to remain in Cornwall.

Volunteering to help as housing coordinator is resident Jessica Brackman, trained in social work and eager to assist — including as a back-up to Heather Dineen, the town social worker, if needed.

The committee also intends to request \$100,000 in

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for site development, although the town is still awaiting receipt of its second half of funding.

The Planning and Zoning Commission has appointed a subcommittee to review regulations that would apply to accessory dwellings, Ridgway said.

Wastewater project

"There is quite a bit of work to be done," Ridgway said, in connection with arranging for the town to receive the \$3 million awarded in federal funding, beginning with an environmental review. Engineer Stephen McDonnell of WMC Engineers of Newington, who had been actively involved in the application process for the grant,

is expected to be responsible for that review.

The selectmen also voted to convert the wastewater study committee into a seven-member construction committee, adding some members with construction expertise.

An early step will be to select an engineer for the entire project, Ridgway said.

Pickleball coming

A request by the Park and Recreation Department to add a pickleball court to Foote Field was approved by the selectmen.

"It's a different population and a different sport," Ridgway explained. Plans call for modifying the existing basketball court by extending it 20 feet toward the pavilion.



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Bat Count

Continued from Page A1

“There are nine species of bats in Connecticut and we love them all,” said Fraser. “The bats we will see tonight are called Big Brown Bats” (*Eptesicus fuscus*).

At sundown, the group migrated to Academy Street to witness the bats heading out for their nightly flight.

The partnership between the Salisbury group and DEEP began last year as the Salisbury Association sought options on how to mindfully manage their upstairs neighbors in the Academy Building.

There is much to consider when sharing a space with airborne mammalians, which is why the Salisbury Association called in Fraser.

She conducted studies and advised on measures that can be taken to make cohabitation possible. This is an especially challenging task considering the historical status of the Academy Building.

“We’re looking into op-



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Abeth Slotnick, left, and Devaughn Fraser prepped a group for the bat count outside the Academy Building in Salisbury Thursday, Aug. 4.

tions like washable insulation to help manage the guano,” said Abeth Slotnick, a trustee of the Salisbury Association.

As part of her work, Fraser keeps a count of the bats on-site. Attendees were provided

clickers to help keep track as the bats departed from the eaves of the roof.

At the end, the official count was 29 bats. “We may have to make this an annual event!” said Fraser.

CANNABIS

Continued from Page A1

regulate the cultivation and sale of a substance that, on the federal level, remains a Schedule I narcotic on a par with heroin, LSD and mescaline.

Until recently, almost all the states that legalized adult-use cannabis had done so through ballot initiatives. That’s mostly because elected officials were hesitant to leave their fingerprints on legalization, lest something go terribly wrong. So they were willing to let the people decide.

Except for legislative-referred constitutional amendments, Connecticut has no such mechanism for putting issues before voters in the form of a referendum, so it was up to the General Assembly to pass legislation, which it did last year. Some key Democrats withheld support for the measure unless it included provisions for “social equity.” More on that later.

For guidance and, in an effort to avoid mistakes already made elsewhere, Connecticut looked to other states that had already legalized the substance. As cannabis aficionados in the Nutmeg State are aware, the cultivation, sale and use of recreational cannabis-related products was legalized in neighboring Massachusetts through a 2016 ballot initiative. The measure passed by almost 7.5 percentage points statewide and by roughly 30 points in neighboring towns to our north such as Great Barrington and Egremont. Implementation of the new law was left to the hastily created state Cannabis Control Commission (CCC).

In Connecticut, officials opted against creating a stand-alone commission to regulate the industry. Instead, the state Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) was charged with regulating and licensing cannabis businesses. The DCP says it expects retail sales of adult-use cannabis to begin



PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

“Papaya Punch” is a popular item at The Pass in Sheffield, Mass.

in Connecticut in late 2022 or early 2023.

For its part, the Bay State was able to learn from Colorado, which had legalized adult-use in 2012. What officials have found in both Massachusetts and Connecticut is that the barrier to entry into the business nationwide is quite high. Because cannabis remains illegal on the federal level, most banks will not loan money to cannabis entrepreneurs for fear of losing their federal charters. One Boston-area cannabis investor told the Boston Globe it takes at least \$1 million to get started in the retail cannabis sector.

As a result, officials in Massachusetts were concerned that those who had been disproportionately affected by cannabis prohibition — mostly people in communities of color — would be among the least likely to obtain commercial financing.

The CCC subsequently created the Social Equity Program, the goal of which is to “ensure that people from communities that have been disproportionately harmed by marijuana law enforcement are included in the new

legal marijuana industry.”

In Connecticut, officials have created the Social Equity Council, which says on its website that it was “developed in order to make sure the adult-use cannabis program is grown equitably, and ensures that funds from the adult-use cannabis program are brought back to the communities hit hardest by the war on drugs.”

Last month the DCP allowed 16 cannabis cultivators to move forward with applications that had been previously approved by the Social Equity Council. The licensing fee is a whopping \$3 million but those funds will be allocated into the state’s social equity fund to help social equity applicants.

The state has identified more than 200 census tracts that qualify as “disproportionately impacted areas,” including 12 in Litchfield County (11 in Torrington and one in Morris) but none yet in the far Northwest Corner towns of the Region One School District, according to the DCP website.

There is also the matter of cannabis cultivation needed to supply demand from retail outlets and consumers. Connecticut took a cue from Massachusetts, as officials here amended state statutes defining agriculture.

In what is surely the first of more to come, one social equity applicant, Hartford Cannabis Company, last week filed a lawsuit against the DCP, claiming it had been “wrongfully denied a provisional cultivator’s license” earlier this month.

“The terms ‘agriculture’ and ‘farming’ do not include the cultivation of cannabis,” the state Department of Agriculture announced not long after the General Assembly voted to legalize adult use.

This means that so-called “right-to-farm” communities may regulate cannabis production, and neighbors who have the standing may engage in litigation to stop it. Since the mid 1980s, at least a dozen towns, mostly in the rural eastern portion of Connecticut, have passed right-to-farm ordinances that broadly protect those who engage in agricultural activities from certain nuisance lawsuits and regulations regarding odors, noises and other nuisances associated with traditional farming. Cannabis cultivators do not enjoy those protections.

Next week: What are towns in the Northwest Corner doing to prepare for the retail and cultivation of adult-use cannabis?

HOSPITAL

Continued from Page A1

ery unit.

McCulloch said that while the hospital looks at current as well as historical demographic trends, the new families would not result in “nearly enough volume to drastically change our strategic plan.”

McCulloch started off by recognizing and praising hospital staff and by noting a number of awards the hospital has recently received, including a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (See story, page A1.)

Noting some \$14 million in capital investments, McCulloch said the hospital has added 3D mammography, updated MRI capacity and access, and sponsors several support groups, including groups for stroke patients, people having joint replacements, and an arthritis exercise class.

Recruitment of staff has been an ongoing concern. McCulloch said a new primary care physician has been hired and will start in the fall. (The presentation also included a short recruitment video featuring actors Liam Neeson and Meryl Streep.)

McCulloch also mentioned the hospital’s expanded telehealth facility, which aims to improve patient access to specialists.

McCulloch said the certificate of need application for the phasing out of the Labor and Delivery unit is complete and the next step will be a public hearing before the state Office of Health Strategies (OHS).

She said the certificate of need application for consolidation of two critical care units into one “progressive care unit” is in progress.

She said the current units have underused space and the new configuration will be more efficient.

“Same staff, same equipment, different location.” That application will also be the subject of an OHS public hearing.

David McMillan of PYA, P.C., the independent monitoring firm that was hired by OHS (and is paid by NuVance) to monitor the hospital’s compliance with the original settlement agreement with the state, went through a lengthy list of conditions and concluded that the hospital was in compliance during the

biannual evaluation period that just ended.

McMillan did say that NuVance’s cost savings projections have “in most cases fallen short.”

He explained that in such a case, NuVance has to explain why their estimates were off, and have done so, and are therefore in compliance.

Pressed during the question and answer period about NuVance’s plan to close Labor and Delivery, McMillan explained that while he and his company are aware of the discussion and issues involved, PYA’s job is to determine whether or not NuVance is in compliance with the original agreement, not pending matters.

One questioner asked how a new EMS coordinator, a position that was announced, will function. McCulloch said the new job will involve acting as a liaison between the hospital and local emergency crews.

A scheduled presentation on the hospital’s Health Equity, Diversity and Inclusion program didn’t happen because of technical problems and will be rescheduled.

HVRHS TRAVEL

Continued from Page A1

will tour Japan, Ireland/Scotland and the Galapagos.

Through fundraising, HVRHS sends about 50 students a year on international trips.

Lasting impact

“These trips leave a lasting impact on students,” said John Lizzi, a social studies teacher at HVRHS and club board member. “The authentic learning cannot be replicated in the classroom.”

Recent graduate Natalie Wadsworth, who traveled to Costa Rica last December, said, “I practiced Spanish with store owners and our tour guide, which helped me prepare for the Spanish exams and seal of biliteracy I just completed.”

Bringing these experiences home to the HVRHS community will be evident with the upcoming Ireland/Scotland trip. Danielle Melino, an agricultural education teacher and club board member, designed the trip to include tours of several farms renowned for their environmentally sensitive management.

Students will learn about Iron Age pigs, Belted Galloway cattle, racehorses, reindeer and sheep breeds such as Soay, Blackface, Icelandic and Suffolk.

“We raise sheep at the

high school, so visiting a sheep farm was high on my list,” she said. “They also have working sheep dogs that help manage the flocks.”

HVRHS student Casey said the farm tours were a big reason why she signed up for this trip. “I lost most of my freshman year,” explained Casey, referring to the pandemic, “so I didn’t get as many experiences. I want to cram in as much as I can.”

Traveling during the pandemic

“As the world has seen, COVID-19 changes plans on a dime,” said Melino.

When the pandemic hit, the club canceled its trip to Italy. And then as COVID-19 spread across the world, a trip to the Galapagos kept getting rescheduled every six months.

Once borders reopened, in 2021, students packed their bags and took precautions by isolating, wearing masks and getting PCR tests. They made it as far as Ecuador — but then four travelers tested positive for COVID-19 and had to quarantine. Melino, who chaperoned, said that the tour director modified the itinerary so that the rest of the students could make the best of their time in Ecuador.

“While the students who

had dreamed of visiting this beautiful ecosystem for over two years could have taken on a negative attitude, they continued to focus on this amazing experience,” said Melino. “They made use of their Spanish as they negotiated prices at the artisan market, tried a traditional dish of cuey [guinea pig], purchased alpaca blankets in the Andean highlands and enjoyed exploring Quito. They shifted gears and soaked up every moment.”

“The students changed their mentality from this being just a trip of amazing places they were going to see, to a trip that showed them that they had grit and tenacity that many of them did not realize.”

Travel costs money

The club raised \$30,000 last year and hopes to reach \$50,000 this year through the Wine, Dinner and Auction at The White Hart in Salisbury on Friday, Sept. 16, at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, go to www.winedinnerandauction.com.

Lia Wolgemuth is a freelance writer based in Salisbury. Her child is a student at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and a part of Northwest Corner: Students Without Borders.

5-STAR

Continued from Page A1

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Sharon Hospital is one three hospitals in Connecticut to earn the five-star rating and one of 429 facilities in the nation to earn the top score. More than 3,000 hospitals are measured by the federal agency.

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professionals who share in our culture, one dedicated to excellence and the best outcomes for every patient,” said Christina McCulloch, the hospital’s new president. “We thank you, our community, for the support to help us reach this achievement, and to our staff for their dedicated leadership in quality and safety standards across the institution, especially during the pandemic.”

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

THE UNGARDENER: DEE SALOMON

Should it Stay or Should it Go? You've Got to Let me Know

At least from where I sit, in Litchfield County on the banks of the Housatonic River, two plants flowering in the woods have caught my attention. Both are small and delicate; one is native and one is not.

I found a group of about 20 native spotted wintergreen on my way to the swamp. Called Pipsissewa by Native Americans (the Latin name is *Chimaphila maculata*) these plants are 3 to 4 inches tall. They have thick dark green leaves with white veining that spread from the very bottom of the plant, and a single thin red stalk that grows above its leaves and branches out at the top like an umbrella. At each tip is a white flower that later becomes a seed capsule.

The other plant, the non-native one, is a small orchid, the *Epipactis helleborine* (helleborine as in resembling a hellebore.) The ones deeper in the woods seem to blossom better than those in the sun, which can look like small, wilted asparagus. It is pretty when it is in bloom, liked by bees, and is not terribly invasive — so far.

There are native plants that act like invasives and there are non-native plants that behave well in the woods. Last year, in the exuberance of naiveté, I posted on Instagram a photo of native *Clematis virginiana* sprawling its small white blossoms over some



PHOTOS BY DEE SALOMON

Native clematis, left, and non-native helleborine orchid both grace the woods in late summer. Should only one be allowed to stay?

shrubs. I was a bit miffed when Anne Day commented, “A killer invasive — be careful.” Well, kill it did. It killed the shrub underneath and this year sprouted all around the area where it had grown the prior year, ready to smother more small trees and plants. Luckily it is not hard to cut back, which is what I have been doing, but should have heeded the advice sooner.

Anne’s comment underscores an issue I have with the term “invasive,” as it has come to mean a non-native plant with invasive tendencies. But natives can also have invasive tendencies, as Anne considerably tried to warn me.

This presents a challenge: in one’s effort to

restore our woodland and meadows; how does one decide which plants should stay and which should go (and why do I feel like Carrie in “Sex and the City” at this moment)?

Aubree Keurajian, botanist and founder of Ungardening Native Plants, hesitates to make any blanket statements about a particular species, as decisions vary with each individual property or habitat.

“Many introduced species can provide pollen and nectar to adult pollinators and some more than others. For example, Queen Anne’s Lace (*Daucus carota*) is one of the very few that is also a caterpillar food source. The foliage is eaten by Eastern Tiger

Swallowtail caterpillars. “Some native plants have gained a bad reputation for being bullies in the garden, but I absolutely love *Clematis virginiana*. Its flowers are a total powerhouse for medium and small pollinators. A few moths, including the Brown Bark Carpet Moth and Spotted Thyris, feed on the foliage as caterpillars.

“It is not browsed by deer and other mammals, which can cause it to be overrepresented in some areas. It responds well to being cut back so periodic maintenance — perhaps a yearly big cut — can be sufficient to keep it in check. In naturalistic or rewilded habitats, while it may dominate an area for a short time, other native species will be able to compete with it and strike a balance.”

I keep thinking that some kind of decision-making matrix (one that includes amongst other variables environmental detriments and benefits, growth tendencies and aesthetics) would help me make better decisions about which plants should stay and which should go. Any suggestions? Maybe a native plant wiki?

Until that resource exists, Aubree suggests paying attention to which insects are enjoying which plants and how they grow alongside others in the habitat. Which means slow down and look. That is a suggestion I can appreciate and will apply to the helleborine orchid.

What I am pulling out now is poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*). This highly toxic invasive is now in flower and looks like it could be the evil stepsister of Queen Anne’s Lace. Look it up and look for it on your property.

Dee Salomon “ungardens” in Litchfield County.

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL THROUGH THE YEARS

It is the job of newspapers to explain the events of the world, and to help put them into context. It’s fitting, then, that there is a new exhibit at the Salisbury Association that celebrates the 125th anniversary of the Northwest Corner’s own newspaper, The Lakeville Journal, and that offers history and context.

“Life of a Community: The Lakeville Journal Celebrates 125 Years” will be on display from Aug. 13 to Oct. 1, at the Salisbury Association’s Academy Building, 24 Main St. in Salisbury, Conn. There will be an opening reception on Saturday, Aug. 13, from 4 to 6 p.m.

The exhibit chronicles the history of the community-owned weekly newspaper from its first issue (published Aug. 14, 1897) up to the present day.

The exhibit talks about the major events in the six

towns that the newspaper covers: Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon.

Just as the newspaper business has changed dramatically during that time, the exhibit reflects changes in our community. In an era when many local newspapers are going out of business, The Lakeville Journal maintains its local connection and commitment to covering community news.

On Sunday, Aug. 14, the exhibit will be open during The Lakeville Journal’s 125th Anniversary Fair featuring music, food and activities on Academy Street from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information about the exhibit and reception, call 860-435-0566 or go to www.salisburyassociation.org.

For information about the anniversary festivities, go to www.lakevillejournal.com.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Chairs are such an essential part of our lives that we rarely think of where they came from and how they developed. A show at the Kent Historical Society offers some enlightenment.

JUST SIT ON IT: CHAIRS AND HOW THEY GOT THAT WAY

“Put It Down Over There: Musings on Early Chairs” is this summer’s exhibit at the Historical Society in Kent, Conn., headquartered at the historic Seven Hearths

Museum. The show opened July 30 and will be open on weekends from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Sept. 5.

There are more than 40 chairs from several donors, with information cards written by design historians Roger Gonzales, Frank Tosto and Jeffrey Morgan. Admission is free for members; there is a suggested donation of \$5 for non-members.

For directions to Seven Hearths and more information, go to www.kenthistoricalsociety.org or call 860-927-4587.



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BOOKS: DIVYA SYMMERS

The Unexpected Warmth of the Getty Clan Makes for a Perfect Summer Read

It's not surprising that the Tri-state region book launch for "Growing Up Getty: The Story of America's Most Unconventional Dynasty" took place last month at Tent, the sumptuous home furnishings shop that opened in Amenia, N.Y., in late 2020.

Author James Reginato has been friends with the store's owner, interior designer Darren Henault, for at least 20 years, and they share a luxe sensibility informed by appreciation for what are generally considered the finer things in life.

It's also a nice coincidence that Aimee Bell, editorial director at Simon & Schuster's Gallery Books, which published "Growing Up Getty," is a long-time resident of nearby Lakeville, Conn. Married to writer David

Kamp, she was previously deputy editor at Vanity Fair, where Reginato is a writer-at-large.

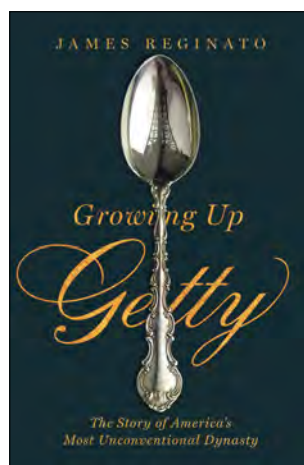
Born in Chicago but a New Yorker since graduating from Columbia, Reginato has famously interviewed everyone from the Aga Khan to the Prince of Wales, with whom he spent a week gallivanting by private plane on a royal 70th-birthday tour. His previous book, "Great Houses, Modern Aristocrats" (Rizzoli Books), offered "an intimate and lively look at some of Great Britain's most historic and majestic houses" as well as the fabled families who dwell in them.

His interest in the kind of lifestyle that only great fortunes can buy stems to the 1990s, when he was features director

at W magazine. "John Fairchild [the publisher] was fascinated by high society, so it became part of my beat," he said at Tent, where copies of his new book sold out. "I specialized in getting hard-to-get people to open up."

Over decades, he interviewed a number of Getty family members, but writing the book was more of a challenge than anticipated, he says. It took three years, including a full year of meticulous research, to untangle various plots and subplots involving the wives (five), girlfriends (numerous), children (five sons), grandchildren (19) and great-grandchildren (47) of J. Paul Getty, who died in 1976.

Luckily, Reginato had access to the Getty Center's archives, which in-



clude Getty's daily diaries, many from Sutton Place, the grand English manor where he spent the last 16 years of his life with a famously upper-crust butler and two pet lions.

Getty's fortune began in 1903 with his father's lease of a small but oil-rich Oklahoma lot; it pinnaled a few years after his own prescient 1949 lease of the former Neutral Zone in Saudi Arabia. By 1957, Forbes cited him

as the richest American, and in 1966 the Guinness Book of World Records named him the richest man on earth. The key to his success, he explained, was easy: "Rise early, work hard — and strike oil."

He was a serious collector of rare, historic furniture and art and today his public legacy is less about oil (the company he founded was dissolved in 2012) and more about the stunning Los Angeles museum that bears his name. It also includes a well-endowed third and fourth generation of Gettys who are artists, designers and musicians as well as business owners and quiet environmentalists.

Most surprising to Reginato, the image of J. Paul Getty as cruel and unfeeling (those of a

certain age remember his much-publicized refusal to pay his 16-year-old grandson's kidnappers, even after the boy's ear was sent to the police), is patently false.

This was a man who married five times yet remained friendly with his exes. A man who remembered old lovers' birthdays with red roses and gifts of money. A man whose journals kept a record of daily oil prices while fondly noting his grandchildren's christenings and visits.

"J. Paul Getty is so often portrayed as this cold, monstrous character, but people who knew him really liked him," Reginato says. His book is a "rapturous biography for casual readers," says the Library Journal. And that makes it perfect summer reading.

STREAMING: ED FERMAN

From Stage to Screen: Three Groundbreaking Musicals

If you love musical theater or want to introduce it to your kids or grandkids, here are three landmark shows that can be streamed.

"OKLAHOMA"

Rodgers and Hammerstein reinvented the musical in 1943 with "Oklahoma," the first show to integrate the book — and a rather dark one — with the songs.

The 1955 film stars Gordon MacRae as Curly, a cowboy whose romance with a farm girl, Laurey (Shirley Jones), is violently interrupted by a disturbed farmhand, Jud (Rod Steiger).

Rodgers and Hammerstein oversaw the film, and few changes were made from the stage version. This was almost certainly a bad thing. What works on the stage can look oddly unnatural on the screen. Fred Zinnemann's hands were tied and he never directed another musical.

There is also a 1999 film of the Royal National Theatre production directed by Trevor Nunn and choreographed by Susan Stroman. Watch this one if you can find it; it's grittier and Hugh Jackman as Curly is a better actor than MacCrae.

While this book doesn't match the brilliant plots of the other shows covered here, the songs are pure joy and all probably embedded in your mind. My favorite is "The Surrey with the Fringe on Top." Ask YouTube or Spotify to play the covers by Jackman or Mel Torme. Stream on Disney, rent on Amazon and others.

"CABARET"

It's hard to think of a musical more inventive and ambitious than "Cabaret," which opened on Broadway in 1966, about a singing star in a Berlin club during the beginnings of anti-Semitism and Nazism in 1931. The book is by Joe Masteroff (who also wrote the musical "She Loves Me") with songs by John Kander and Fred Ebb.

Bob Fosse directed the 1972 film, and many changes were made from the stage version, all to the film's benefit. The side romance between Fraulein Schneider and Herr Schultz was dropped, and Kander and Ebb added new songs including "Money Money" and "Maybe This Time."

Although many talented actresses have played Sally Bowles, it's hard to think of anyone in this role except Liza Minnelli, who won an Academy Award, as did Joel Grey as the master of ceremonies. The movie won eight Oscars but missed Best Picture; it was the year of "The



PHOTO FROM IMDB

Ariana DeBose, Ana Isabelle and Ilda Mason make a compelling case for watching the new "West Side Story," made in 2021 by Steven Spielberg, with new choreography by Justin Peck.

Godfather."

If you have only seen stage versions of "Cabaret," this very different film offers an enjoyable surprise. Stream on HBO Max, rent on Amazon, Apple, others.

"WEST SIDE STORY"

At age 25, Stephen Sondheim saw himself as a composer and did not want to write lyrics for this show. He was encouraged by his mentor, Oscar Hammerstein, who said, "You'll learn something."

And so Sondheim got together with compos-

er Leonard Bernstein. They wrote "Something's Coming" in one day in Bernstein's apartment. Both were baseball fans: "Catch the moon, one-handed catch." When the show opened on Broadway in 1957, their reimagining of Romeo and Juliet on the

streets of Manhattan became an instant landmark musical.

The 1961 movie, directed by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins, won many awards, but it might be hard to watch today, with a miscast Natalie Wood, the Sharks in brown-face, and most

songs dubbed by ghost singers.

You should watch the 2021 film, in which Steven Spielberg and Tony Kushner update this classic in spectacular fashion. Rachel Zegler made her film debut as Maria; she won the role at age 16 in an open casting call. She looks lovely and has a thrilling voice. Ariana DeBose won an Oscar for her role as Anita.

The dance numbers are stunning and more realistic and suitable to the action than the choreography in the stage versions. In short, a great play renewed as a great movie. Stream on HBO Max.

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EDITORIAL

With gratitude: We made it because of you

The challenge of keeping any business or service going for 125 years cannot be overstated: As times change, needs change, and there are no easy answers to remaining relevant. So for a small community weekly newspaper like The Lakeville Journal to have continued over all these years was not a given.

Consider the rate at which other community media outlets have been closing over the past few years, and continue to close. This news outlet is grateful to be here still to serve our communities in the Northwest Corner and beyond.

But we would not be here without the extremely generous support of our readers, donors and advertisers. When this newspaper saw the writing on the wall in 2019 that it would not be able to survive without taking desperate measures, and asked for extra community support to continue publishing weekly, the call was answered and exceeded. Now having attained nonprofit status, we can offer our donors additional benefits, and can apply for grants otherwise unavailable to us.

Thank you to all our supporters and to everyone who reads their local news every week. However you find us, in print or online, our goal is to be here for you as long as you want to know about what's happening in your communities.

— Janet Manko, publisher and editor in chief

Celebrating 125 years

In a country ruled by division — every front page of every major newspaper is about division — here in the countryside we have our own. We have our weekend residents from Manhattan and Brooklyn, we have the former weekenders making the shift to the weekday local life. We have the old-timers, the Connecticut families with passed down legends of long ago, who remember the iron works and furnaces, the secrets and scandals, the festivals and fairs.

But whether you're a movie star, a self-published historian, a newcomer, or the great-great-grandson of a family with their name on a street sign, what makes this corner of the countryside special is that we all share. Together we squeeze into the aisles of the grocery store, we cozy up at the bar in winter, we stretch out at Lakeville Lake. In a close-knit community of little equalizers, The Lakeville Journal has stood the test of time as one of our most reliable.

The same paper for everyone, covering everyone, printed every week. It's the hub for announcements from every organization in our region: the nonprofit fundraisers, the church tag sales, the local government meetings, the land preservation grants. It marks the graduations, the wedding announcements, the memorial services and the tributes to the lives we've lost.

The Journal has been witness to the greatest achievements of our small towns, even the little ones, especially the little ones, the victories that the rest of the world would never notice. The Journal has been there at every record breaking ski jump, at the garden tours, at the middle school play. When a volunteer receives an award for their lifetime of service, when a girl and her horse nail that big jump, when a black bear on Main Street is finally caught by the wildlife preserve, The Journal's been there.

We're a community of New England traditions, and The Lakeville Journal, founded in 1897, stands alongside our oldest 19th-century institutions — the stone libraries, the boarding schools, our historic inns and our landmark homes. The current staff — our editors and writers, photographers and delivery drivers — are not the owners of this 125-year-old paper. We are its caretakers. We have inherited its past, we preserve its present. But it is only together, as a community, with donor support, that we ensure it remains a tradition with a future.

— Alexander Wilburn, senior associate editor



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Corn season

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wrestling for the common good

Fifty years ago, in the summer of 1972, New Survey Finds Nixon Leading McGovern 62-23 was the NYT front page headline. In that upcoming presidential election, neither Republicans nor Democrats wanted to press hard on the June 17th Watergate burglary. Accountability was forlornly ignored, Nixon was elected. A year after the burglary, June 1973, John Dean, the White House Counsel, began his congressional testimony, the dam broke, there were tapes. Nixon didn't resign until August 8, 1974.

With a 2024 presidential election upcoming, today's national headlines are crammed with the Jan. 6 Commission exploring, exposing evidence on Trump's accountability for coup planning and execution between Nov. 4 (Election Day) and Jan. 6 (election certification.) As it was in 1972 to 1974, the nation is divided, wacky conspiracy theories abound, Roger Stone preens. Related to Nixon and Watergate, it took the American public time to assimilate indisputable evidence into an opinion of Nixon's guilt — it took over two years before hundreds of Americans were stop-

ping McGovern at airports, public places, to assure him that they had voted for him against Nixon — that "dirty dog." The tide of public opinion did turn, for most, not for all.

On July 24, 2022, on the campaign trail, many Republicans see a civil war was the front page Washington Post headline. The story chillingly outlined the distrust, disdain and danger of hate metastasizing across America — conspiracies and extinction theories — vast hatred stoked with misinformation campaigns/vile resentment responses. Once white robed Ku Klux Klan coerced, now it is over 500 pro-violence groups dispersed in small clusters intimating and threatening at school board meetings, town halls, democratic forums. Today hate is well organized, well marketed.

We aren't two packs of cultural jingoist — Republicans and Democrats — but a national population with differences being jerked about by organized extremists conjuring conspiracies that are violent, armed terrorists arriving to intimidate and leave having controlled the outcome of a local public

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — August 1922

ORE HILL — Michael Maloney of Jersey City is visiting his cousins, Daniel and Matthew Maloney.

Classified Adv.: FOUND 8 head of young cattle roaming at large last Sunday. Chas. Harrington, Town Hill.

LIME ROCK — Mrs. Ellen Brusie has had her house wired for electric lights.

50 years ago — August 1972

More than 80 large trees were uprooted or snapped off

at the Norfolk estate of Richard Childs and neighboring properties late Monday night when a tornado swept off the east side of Canaan Mountain during a severe thunderstorm. Residents along West Side Road reported hearing "a roar like an engine in a tunnel."

— Edward Heacox of Calkinstown Road in Sharon has been named a corporator of the Litchfield Savings Bank. Mr. Heacox is owner of the Sharon Pharmacy in the Sharon Shopping Center.

— A farm in North Stonington that has been in the Brown family since 1832 and a farm in Litchfield that has been in the Webster family since 1868 have been designated Century Farms for 1972 by the Connecticut Agricultural Information Council.

25 years ago — August 1997

Department of Transportation Commissioner James Sullivan has agreed a flashing yellow light at the intersection of Route 44 and Lincoln City Road is an appropriate alternative to the proposed construction. The construction project was originally slated to begin next spring and would align Lincoln City Road and Prospect Street and lower the crest of Route 44 four feet. The DOT's plan met with resistance from residents.

— When crews of United Parcel Service (UPS), which calls itself "the tightest ship in the shipping business," went on strike Monday, some businesses relied on the old standby, the post office. Because of its strict regulation of handling packages, the postal service is not always the company of choice when it comes to shipping. But when the lead company bows out, the post office and other companies have to step in.

LAKEVILLE — As the ground thawed this past spring, a planter at the Holley House museum seemed to be sinking. When workers from the museum moved it aside, they discovered an underground room beneath it. Thursday, the state archaeologist Nick Bellantoni, said it measured about four by seven feet, and that it could have been a cellar for the general store which once stood on the site, a cistern or even a storage room used by the underground railroad. The dry stone structure did not yield any artifacts.

These items were taken from The Lakeville Journal archives at Salisbury's Scoville Memorial Library.

forum. Disagreement is part of a democracy when it is not poisoned by an underbelly of terroristic violence egged on by media/political bullhorns spewing loud lies. Daily news — any medium — is a trash packer of events (Orban in Texas), of revelations (tossed texts), of candidates who can only lose/win by theft.

Will the conservative, establishment Republican party separate itself, dig out from extremes ushered in by the Freedom Caucus then swelled by rally cries of a president running for office, in office, ousted from office? Domestic violence is the issue of law enforcement, of the courts, and of the Congress if they can, if they will. Make no mistake about this being aggrieved individuals acting out — evidence points to it as well planned, well-staged, well-armed. In time the 2020 election will fade, not the drum beat of violence. Violence, its perpetrators are a common enemy of the good, of the nation. Time to wrest back everyday good.

"Hate, it has caused a lot of problems in the world, but has not solved one yet."

— Maya Angelou

Kathy Herald-Marlowe Sharon

An inspiring candidate for 5th

Over the past nine months, I have had the pleasure of spending time with a candidate for Congress here in the 5th District. His name is George Logan. George is the son of Guatemalan immigrants with Jamaican roots, and is fully bilingual in English and Spanish. George grew up in inner-city New Haven and had to work his way up the ladder to become successful. George went on to attend Trinity College in Hartford, where he obtained a degree in mechanical engineering.

After college, George went on to start a family with his wife Lisa and work as an engineer at a water company, where he has been employed for nearly thirty years. In ad-

dition to his business career, George is also a former two-term state senator, sits on the Griffin Hospital Board, and is involved in several non-profit community advocacy programs, including the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club, the New Haven Symphony Orchestra, the Housatonic Valley Association, and BHCare.

George is extremely personable and charismatic. Since announcing his candidacy, he has been everywhere in the District. George cares deeply about our District and the State; his message of lowering costs for families, supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs, improving our schools, and supporting law enforcement is sensible and realistic.

We all know that things in Washington have long been broken; we cannot keep sending the same people down there to continue engaging in the same partisan rhetoric rather than looking for sensible solutions to our many problems. George is a good man and a great problem solver and I eagerly look forward to voting for him on Nov. 8.

Tom Morrison, chair, Republican Town Committee Salisbury

Great reporting in LJ

Debra Aleksinas's article, "Removing Barriers: Manufacturers collaborate to attract, retain post-pandemic work force" is just terrific journalism and offers our Northwest Corner towns a peek into a robust future. We have always been beautiful, historic and intimately scaled but our economic relevance in the new economies was not always clear.

Her reporting explains how our local opportunities for manufacturing in the 21st century are being supported by a creative approach to solutions and collaboration.

As manufacturing returns to the United States, our excellent educational institutions, strong workforce values, recognition of

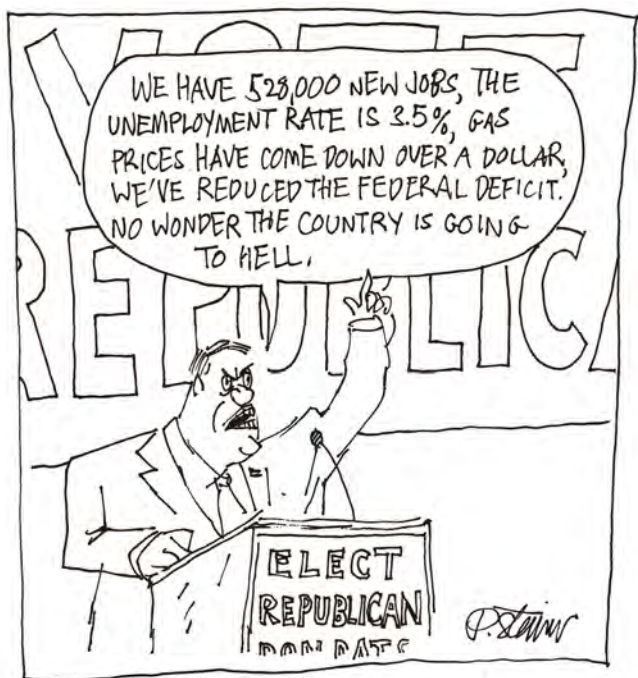
the role of good wages and benefits, along with cost effective transport of materials, makes us ready to support a manufacturing renaissance right here.

Local manufacturers have formed a Northwest Regional Sector Partnership RSP... well, read the article, it is all in there and our local Region One Housatonic Valley Regional High School can explore how their campus can become part of the new economy for our families and our future.

Kudos to Debra Aleksinas for great reporting and to The Lakeville Journal for being a stalwart member of our community for 125 years.

Daly Reville

Falls Village



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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.

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Kent Land Trust helps to raise pollinator population awareness

By Leila Hawken

KENT — Bees and butterflies were first on the agenda on Monday, Aug. 1, when the Kent Land Trust (KLT) met with the Chamber of Commerce to raise awareness of its pollinator initiatives.

The KLT is working to encourage plantings and land management on behalf of a dwindling population of beneficial insects, whose numbers include bees and butterflies.

The meeting was held at the Village Farm in Gaylordsville, featuring a guided tour through the farm's thriving pollinator garden, in advance of the Chamber's regular August meeting.

Leading off the event was Melissa Cherniske, KLT program manager, presenting an overview of the work of the land trust that stewards more than 3,000 acres in Kent, land that is open for public enjoyment.

"This is our second year of spreading the word about local participation in the Pollinator Pathway program," Cherniske said.

The Land Trust has also promoted the no-mow May effort, encouraging homeowners, businesses and farms to allow pollinator-friendly plants to grow and attract beneficial insects in the spring.

"Farms need pollinators; the majority of foods also need pollinators," Village Farm owner Lisa Goedewaagen commented.

"We need to be mindful of how our habitats connect," said Connie Manes, KLT executive director, at the start of her tour of the Village Farm pollinator garden.



PHOTOS BY LEILA HAWKEN

Kent Land Trust Executive Director Connie Manes led a tour through the pollinator garden at the Village Farm in Gaylordsville in advance of a meeting of the Kent Chamber of Commerce on Monday, Aug. 1.

"Without pollinators, we would not eat," she warned.

A first step in supporting habitats of native insects and birds is to assess how your property relates to properties around you, Manes said.

Assuring listeners that "anyone can do it," practical advice offered by Manes included limiting use of herbicides and pesticides and removal of invasive plants

because some invasives are like junk food for pollinators, citing Black Swallow-wort as an example. Swallow-wort mimics milkweed but is harmful to monarch butterflies when they mistake it for the real thing.

KLT trail guide booklets are available. To maintain visibility, the KLT serves as co-host for town concerts and the farmers market.

For more information on the programs of the Kent Land Trust, go to www.kentlandtrust.org.

North Canaan approves variety of ARPA awards

By Leila Hawken

NORTH CANAAN — Following the recommendations of the town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Advisory Committee and its report on July 20, the Board of Selectmen gave the list its unanimous approval at their regular meeting on Monday, Aug. 1.

Requests for funding from emergency and public safety services aligned with the ARPA guidelines as needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Fire District was awarded \$107,929 in funding and the fire company was granted \$65,816 and \$168,628 for equipment upgrades. Town Hall will see improvement to its air conditioning for \$49,120; painting and building upgrades for \$31,840; building department computer upgrades for \$35,460; and other Town Hall computer upgrades for \$18,000.

Drainage improvement and blacktopping will be seen at Lawrence Field (\$27,022) and at the Roraback Building (\$37,176), the latter also benefiting from building improvements.

A pole barn project for the town garage was granted \$57,500.

A grant to provide a new ambulance for the North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance amounts to \$194,620, also providing a stretcher and stair chair.

A project to install a West Main Street storm drain will receive \$35,625 and the Couch Pipa VFW will receive \$89,714 for the cost of a generator, roofing and an elevator.

The ARPA Advisory Committee is still receiving applications for the estimated \$45,000 in ARPA funds awaiting distribution.

Its members are: First Selectman Charles Perotti, Emily and Bill Minacci, Matt Devino, Selectman Craig Whiting and Brian Allyn Sr.

Intending to apply for additional grant funding available through the state-administered Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP), Perotti reported that he is engaged with the application process to meet the deadline of Aug. 15.

Noting that grants of up to \$500,000 can be applied for, Perotti said that he is focusing on window replacements and playground fencing for the day care and after-school programs, projects that could be termed small but important.

New music director brings broad range of experience

By Matthew Kreta

SALISBURY — The Congregational Church of Salisbury has hired David Baranowski as its new music director, succeeding Samuel Lord Kalcheim, who has been the music director at the church for the past two years.

Baranowski is currently music director for the Westchester Choral Society, as well as a professor of music theory, ear training and piano at Western Connecticut State University. He received his bachelor and master's degrees from Purchase College Conservatory of Music.

Baranowski has a wide range of musical experiences, having conducted operas, musicals and church choirs. In addition to his wealth of conducting experience, he has been touring as a performer in Europe for the last 18 years as a keyboardist for Blackmore's Night (led by Ritchie Blackmore, a founder of 1960s rock group Deep Purple).

The group has performed in nearly 25 countries and has appeared on German television multiple times. According to Baranowski,

the band plays a lot of new music that is a blend of folk renaissance and rock.

Baranowski said the experience of a keyboardist in an ever-changing band, in both style and members, is an invaluable experience for a music director.

"Your role as a keyboard player is to fill in what's not there," Baranowski said in an interview on Aug. 1. "It makes one listen to the music as a whole and make it work."

Salisbury Congregational will not be the first church job in Baranowski's career. He was the director of music at St. Jude Roman Catholic Church in Monroe, Conn., before assuming his new role in Salisbury.

"The church is beautiful and the choir seems well versed. I'm hopeful," Baranowski said.

He will be continuing

the tradition of Meeting House Music and Meditations on the first Friday of every month, but is hoping to add some of his own flair and ideas.

"Typically in the first year of something it's always smart to keep your eyes and ears open and figure out what people want," he said.

"His skill as a conductor stems from his understanding of vocal technique, while his virtuosity on the harpsichord, piano, keyboard and organ has us all — choir and the congregation alike — singing for joy. The Search Committee celebrates that our opening for Music Director was in sync with David's beat," Emily Elliot, chair of the Search Committee said in a press release.

Baranowski lives in Danbury with his wife, Jennifer, and their son, Vincent.



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Saturday, August 13, 4-6 o'clock

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The Lakeville Journal's 125th Anniversary Day
Sunday, August 14, 10-4 o'clock
Academy Street, Salisbury

Come one, come all to Academy Street in Salisbury as The Lakeville Journal takes you back to the good old days with our classic summer fair to celebrate our official anniversary — the very first issue of The Lakeville Journal was printed on August 14, 1897. We're commemorating this historic birthday with traditional New England flair — food stalls, ice cream, live music, children's games, stilt walkers, a community tent and a specially designed streetscape for the occasion. And the exhibit at the Salisbury Association will be open, too.

In 2021, The Lakeville Journal Foundation was founded as a 501(c)(3) non profit, which accepts tax-deductible contributions. The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News are owned by the Foundation.

The Lakeville Journal • 860-435-9873 • www.lakevillejournal.com

Correcting Errors

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

Our Towns

Mailer/Jenkins art show Sept. 3

FALLS VILLAGE — Beginning with a Labor Day Weekend reception on Saturday, Sept. 3 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village will host an exhibition of artworks by Danielle Mailer and Ani Jenkins.

The exhibition will remain on display through Friday Oct. 7. For more information, call the library at 860-824-7424 or visit huntlibrary.org/art-wall.

Stress reduction class at Noble

SALISBURY — Suzanne Mazzarelli, who teaches Noble Horizons' weekly Therapeutic Movement class, is offering a series of free in-person stress reduction classes at Noble on August 23 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Mazzarelli specializes in techniques to address chronic stress and anxiety which have been linked to many serious health conditions,

among them heart attacks, strokes, accelerated aging of the immune system and high blood pressure.

Mazzarelli is a certified therapeutic yoga instructor and owner of Be Well Community Yoga. Her class is offered at no charge and does not require registration. More information is at www.noblehorizons.org or 860-435-9851



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Kent begins sidewalk replacement

Construction work on new sidewalks in the Kent town center began on Monday, Aug. 1. The schedule called for granite installation beginning on Monday, Aug. 8.

To Place an Ad Call 860-435-9873 or visit www.tricornernews.com/classifieds

Classifieds

Real Estate

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MILLERTON, NY

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