

The Lakeville Journal

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

With generators, maintenance and caution are key

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — In a one-two punch, Tropical Storm Isaias' arrival in early August on the heels of four confirmed tornadoes in the Northwest Corner.

The epic weather wreaked havoc on thousands of homes and businesses by knocking out power and plunging the region into darkness for nearly a week.

Not since the freak October snowstorm in 2011 has Rich Crane Jr. experienced such a "disastrous" week.

Crane, owner of Crane's Outdoor Power Equipment on Route 7 in North Canaan, was inundated with frantic calls from customers in the aftermath of the recent storms. They were either looking to buy a portable generator, or seeking help to start up the ones they already own.

The majority of callers, he said, were worried about the loss of food in their refrigerators and freezers after a prolonged period without electricity.

The chaos of a power outage is not the time to troubleshoot your generator, said Crane.

"The biggest problem from callers is with generators that don't get used. They are stored away and then won't start. A lot of people purchased one back in the big October storm about 10 years ago, and haven't used it since," said Crane.

Compounding the situation,

many customers were unable to bring their generators into the shop, so Crane's employees were deployed to house calls. His team dropped all their non-essential work and their summer focus on lawn-related equipment to "try to keep the generators going" for residents homebound due to downed wires and trees.

"We didn't have the manpower to go and pick up every generator and get it running," he said. That's not even counting the additional challenges of the COVID-19 quarantine.

As the days, and outages, wore on, replacement parts also started to run out with many on backorder, including parts for carburetors, whole carburetors and various engine components.

"On top of that, we had no internet, and our phones were down," Crane said during a phone interview Aug. 12, following another long day of nonstop business.

"I forwarded the phone system to my cell phone, and had hundreds of calls on my cell. And since cell service does not physically come into my building, I had to go outside."

Maintenance is key

Like a car, generators require regular maintenance to keep them running smoothly and safely, said Crane.

"Most people think, if I have a gas generator I will do my due diligence and start it up every



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Rich Crane Jr. and Crane's Outdoor Power Equipment in North Canaan were inundated with phone calls from area residents seeking help with generators in the days after Tropical Storm Isaias.

few months, add gas and maybe check the oil, but then time passes and they forget. Next thing they know, they need it in an emergency and the generator doesn't run."

The first thing, he said, is to

understand the fuel requirements of your particular model of generator, as most portable generators run on gasoline with 10 percent ethanol or less. To ready the generator for the next

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Many absentee ballots in a smooth primary voting day

By Cynthia Hochswender

In the Tuesday, Aug. 11, Democratic and Republican primaries in Connecticut, Joe Biden and Pres. Donald Trump were the winners.

In the Republican primary, Trump garnered 70,991 votes (78.48%) statewide according to results on the website of the secretary of the state as of Sunday, Aug. 16.

The other Republican candidate, Rocky De La Fuente, got 6,692 votes (7.40%). And 12,779 (14.13%) registered Republicans statewide voted as "uncommitted."

Among Connecticut Democrats, Joe Biden got 218,790 votes (84.84%), Bernie Sanders got 29,797 (11.55%), Tulsi Gabbard got 3,377 (1.31%) and 5,911 voters (2.29%) took the time to cast a vote saying they are "uncommitted."

In general, the numbers indicate that many more Democrat voters chose to vote absentee than in person, while Republicans were split about half voting absentee and half voting at the polling place.

Registrars who were in contact with The Lakeville Journal on Wednesday, Aug. 12, said that turnout was light but that things went fairly smoothly on Aug. 11, despite concerns about COVID-19 and about the distribution of absentee ballots.

"Everyone cooperated with the safety instructions and we had extra staff to guide people through the one-way traffic lines," said Sharon Democrat Registrar Marel Rogers.

"That helped. I hope we instilled a sense of trust in the system, since everything went smoothly."

One lesson learned that she wanted to share with voters in advance of the November election: "I want voters to know that it's beneficial if they mail or put their ballots in the drop box well ahead of election day."

"There is a process to logging in an absentee ballot and the ones done by the Monday before the election are noted on the official check-off list and are counted in the middle of the day of the election."

"Ones that are delivered after about noon on the day before get counted at the end of the election day and so the results may not be too prompt."

"The postmark grace period means we won't count any late arrivals until Friday morning."

"So if you're voting absentee, you can't vote often — but you can vote early!"

For a full listing of voting results by town go to www.tri-cornernews.com. The results are by town as of Sunday, Aug. 16. The numbers come from the office of the secretary of the state.



PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

Sarah Coon examined the fields of sweet corn at Paley's in Sharon on Friday, Aug. 14. Many crops were smaller than normal this summer because of the hot, dry weather.

Heat (and bears) hurt this summer's sweet corn

By Hunter O. Lyle

While most people have spent the summer trying to adjust to living during a pandemic, farmers in the area have been trying to adjust to a season that saw a collection of obstacles and hardships caused by the weather and by animals.

Connecticut is one of seven states that has experienced its hottest July on record, ac-

cording to the July 2020 National Climate Report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The heat has created challenges for Tri-state farmers.

"The drought has been terrible," said Bruce Howden, owner of Howden Farm in Sheffield, Mass.

One acre of his ears of corn never got large enough to sell, he said. Recent storms have also destroyed some of his crops.

A little less than 20 miles south of Howden, Paley's Farm Market in Sharon, is

See CORN, Page A4



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Chris Marino, owner of Autumn Gun Works in Goshen, said sales of small handguns, like this 9 mm Smith & Wesson pistol, are popular with first-time gun owners.

Social unease triggers a rise in gun ownership

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Connecticut, along with Massachusetts, has among the strictest gun control laws in the country, and the documentation and certification process from start to finish could take several months. But that is not deterring a new crop of first-time gun owners.

Data compiled by FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) shows a 30% increase in firearms background checks in Connecticut during the first six months of 2020 compared to the same period a year prior. The most significant jump in background checks occurred from May (10,935) to June (18,215) of 2020, representing a 66% spike.

The upward trend is nationwide. According to the FBI, the agency processed 3.9 million background checks nationally in June, an all-time high for the NICS and 71% higher than the total reported in June 2019.

See GUNS, Page A4



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Salisbury Rotary Foundation head John Hedbavny, at left in photo, and Salisbury Rotary President Peter Fitting presented Hunter Lyle, far right in photo, with the Salisbury Rotary Robert Estabrook Internship Award last week.

Hunter Lyle is honored with Estabrook Award

By Cynthia Hochswender

FALLS VILLAGE — This year's recipient of the Salisbury Rotary Robert Estabrook Internship Award is Hunter Lyle, a Sharon resident and a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School (Class of 2016) and Southern Connecticut State University, where he earned a B.A. in journalism.

Lyle came to The Lakeville Journal immediately after he

graduated from college. His sister, Kaitlin Lyle, had been an intern at The Lakeville Journal and is now a reporter for the company's The Millerton News.

The Lakeville Journal has had several interns who started after college (rather than while they were in high school). Lyle was one such intern, and was very quickly promoted from intern to paid freelance reporter.

Although his goal is to one

See AWARD, Page A4



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In The Journal this week

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Three-day forecast

Friday..... Partial sun, high 82°/low 62°
 Saturday..... Partial sun, 86°/64°
 Sunday..... Thunderstorms, 84°/62°

POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

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

Struck from behind

On Aug. 7 at approximately 4:15 p.m. on Ashley Falls Road in North Canaan a 2014 Volkswagen Jetta driven by Evan Laudon, 33, of Lee, Mass., stopped for a vehicle making an illegal turn into a private driveway. A 2009 GMC Savana driven by Konrad King, 63, of Sheffield, Mass., driving behind, was unable to brake in time and struck the rear of the Jetta. The GMC was towed from the scene. King was issued a written warning for failure to drive at a reasonable distance apart.

Residential disturbance

On Aug. 8 at approximately 2:30 a.m. Troop B responded to an active disturbance on Lincoln City Road in Salisbury. Brian Thomas Cupole, 30, of Shelton, Conn., was described in the report as attempting to break into a residence and then fleeing in a pickup truck. He was charged with improper use of license plates, criminal trespassing in the first degree and breach of peace in the second degree. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Aug. 10.

Low-hanging wire

On Aug. 10 at approximately

10 p.m. on Popple Swamp Road in Cornwall a 2017 Mini Cooper driven by William Gold, 67, of Cornwall had a front side mirror that caught on a low-hanging wire hanging from a SNET pole. No injuries were reported.

Residential disturbance

On Aug. 12 at approximately 3 p.m. Troop B responded to an active disturbance on West Main Street in North Canaan. Following an investigation, Amy McNealy, 36, of North Canaan was charged with criminal mischief in the third degree, disorderly conduct and assault in the third degree. McNealy was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on Aug. 13.

Car thefts

Troop B is currently investigating the theft of motor vehicles and vehicle break-ins that occurred on Indian Cave Road in Salisbury, Selleck Hill in Salisbury and East Street in Salisbury on Aug. 13, around 2:30 a.m. Anyone with information is asked to contact Troop B. (For more on vehicle break-ins in the area see the article on this page.)

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

How and whys of car thefts

By Cynthia Hochswender

We ran this article in our issue of July 23 but felt it deserved to be printed again in the wake of break-ins last week in Salisbury.

Christopher Sorrell, the resident state trooper for Salisbury, said on Monday, Aug. 17, "They will enter any car that is unlocked looking for valuables and other random items, and steal most any car that has the keys in it."

"If they come across a better car, then they dump the stolen one and grab the one they may like better or may fit their needs better."

"This is a criminal enterprise that travels to the Northwest Corner and to neighboring states to commit crimes. The stolen vehicles are often used to commit other crimes and further their criminal enterprise. They target random neighborhoods, usually in the middle of the night."

"Numerous towns were affected. I am sure they will be back."

Just before the coronavirus pandemic, the state of Connecticut created an auto theft task force to try and figure out why so many cars were being stolen statewide and who was stealing them.

Since the creation of the force on Feb. 1, "the task force has recovered 154 stolen cars, eight stolen firearms and a badge from a local police department," according to a press release from the State Police. "Detectives have arrested 22 juveniles, totaling 59 felony arrests for larcenies, illegal possession of weapons, etc. One person was arrested for operating a drug factory; crack and fentanyl were seized."

The auto thefts are in no way an urban problem. Earlier this summer, the police at Troop B warned area residents to leave their cars locked and empty at



PHOTO COURTESY ROBERT RIVA

Several Salisbury residents reported last week that someone entered their vehicles and searched for items to take. This photo was taken with a security camera on a home in Lakeville. The car by the roadside is owned by the family; the thief was walking along the road from house to house.

night.

This week, Realtor John Harney Jr. reported that his own car was stolen from his driveway in the very rural northern section of Salisbury known as Taconic.

The report from the State Police explained how the thefts are being carried out, and why.

"The task force found that automobiles are stolen in an organized, directed manner," according to the news release.

"The suspects, many of them juveniles, travel to the suburbs from all major Connecticut cities. They go with anywhere from two to six people, possibly more, in a car. The cars they are traveling in are frequently stolen themselves."

The gangs travel to suburban and rural areas usually early in the morning before sunrise.

"They check for unlocked cars in driveways and on streets to search for firearms, valuables (laptops, phones, purse, and wallet), money and car keys," according to the news release.

"Typically, if they encounter a locked vehicle or one without keys inside, they quickly move on to the next automobile."

The stolen cars are driven back to urban areas and parked and locked. The thieves keep the keys, often in a remote location.

The cars are then "rented" for use in crimes by other gangs.

"The suspect either keeps the keys or hides them near the parked car," according to the news release. "The cars are then marketed via social media and smart phone apps to other persons for criminal purposes. An agreement is struck online or in-person, and the location of the car/keys is provided."

"These cars are used for pre-planned shootings/assaults, drug trafficking, human trafficking, stealing other vehicles, etc. At this time, the evidence does not support that these crimes are committed for a 'joyride' or as a result of 'bored juveniles.'"

Locking your car, keeping it empty and holding onto the keys might not deter a thief from stealing your vehicle. However, it certainly decreases the likelihood.

The State Police advised that property owners should "lock all vehicles at all times and remove all valuables (laptops, phones, firearms, cash, etc.) every night. These individuals are committing more crimes — and increasingly more serious crimes — with these stolen cars and the items taken from them, including firearms."

"Make this your mid-year resolution: remove all valuables, grab the keys and lock the doors so that you are not the next victim in our state."

Free school supplies Aug. 22

SHARON — Christ Church Episcopal, at 9 South Main in Sharon will hold a drive-through school supply giveaway for Region One students (public and private schools), on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 10 a.m. until the supply runs out. A limited number of kits (40) is available.

Recipients are asked to stay in their cars, lined up in the driveway and on the roadside. Do not get out of your cars; wear a mask; and remain orderly. Parishioners of the Outreach Committee

will hand out the supplies and give directions in the driveway entrance.

The six towns of Region One are Canaan (Falls Village), Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon.

Questions may be directed to the church office at 860-364-5260.

Sales Tax Free Week ends Aug. 22

The state's annual Sales Tax Free Week this year began Sunday, Aug. 16, and runs through Saturday, Aug. 22. During this one-week sales tax holiday, retail purchases of most clothing and footwear items priced under \$100 are exempt from Connecticut sales and use tax. This exemption applies to each eligible item under \$100, regardless of how many of those items are sold to a customer on the same invoice.

The tax breaks are designed to help families pay for back-to-school clothing.

Hole in one

LAKEVILLE — Lakeville resident James Kelly had a hole-in-one on July 21 while playing the par 3 fifth hole at The Hotchkiss School golf course. His playing partner, Chris Reynolds, noted that the ball bounced a couple of times when it hit the green and then rolled straight into the hole.

Support the USPS at rally

There will be rallies in support of the U.S. Postal Service on Saturday, Aug. 22, at 11 a.m. at the offices in Lakeville and Salisbury. Participants are invited to bring signs demanding better funding for the postal service. To find out more, email Amy Lake at amylake@gmail.com.

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

Check them out inside.

• CVS

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2020-0096 by Women's Support Services for Trade Secrets, a short-term event at 497 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville per Section 221.4 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 6:45 PM in the upstairs meeting room of the Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury. At this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communications received. This application is on file in the Planning and Zoning Office, Town Clerk's Office, and www.salisburycct.org. Paper copies may be reviewed Monday through Friday between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:30 PM. Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
 Martin Whalen, Secretary
 08-13-20
 08-20-20

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF
STEPHEN PETER LAW
 Late of Canaan (20-00294)

The Hon. Diane S. Blick, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated, July 21, 2020, 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:
 Stephanie Law
 Joseph Michael Pankowski
 Wofsey, Rosen Kweskin and Kuriansky, LLP

600 Summer Street
 Stamford, CT 06901
 Megan Williams
 Assistant Clerk
 08-20-20

AG seeks proof of postal tampering

Town clerks in the Northwest Corner had already reported problems with getting absentee ballots out to voters for the primary elections on Tuesday, Aug. 11.

Attorney General William Tong is now seeking information on any incidences of postal slowdowns in recent weeks as he and other attorneys general prepare legal action against Pres. Donald Trump.

In a statement sent to the media on Friday, Aug. 14, Tong said, "Donald Trump ... is gutting the U.S. Postal Service in order to block Americans from voting during a raging pandemic.... He knows his best chance of winning at this point is if people can't vote...."

"I am actively engaged in discussions with attorneys general across the nation to mount a vigorous legal defense of our postal service and the legitimacy of our election."

"If you have experienced a mail slow down or problems with mail delivery as a result of Donald Trump's sabotage of the postal service, please report that immediately to my office."

We need evidence and examples as we build the strongest possible case."

To file a complaint with the Office of the Attorney General, call 860-808-5318, email attorney.general@ct.gov, or file online at www.dir.ct.gov/ag/complaint.



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Our Towns

A failure to communicate in the aftermath of Isaias

By Patrick L. Sullivan and Leila Hawken

Power was restored, slowly, in Region One towns last week after the storm of Tuesday, Aug. 4.

One week later, most Eversource customers in Falls Village, Kent and North Canaan had power, but Sharon, Cornwall and parts of Salisbury lagged behind.

By Thursday, Aug. 13, only Kent and Sharon still had a handful of customers waiting for the lights to come on.

Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand was critical of Eversource's communications. On Thursday morning, Aug. 13, he said that he understands why Northwest Corner towns are at the bottom of the list when much of the state has no power.

But he was frustrated by the difficulty he had in getting answers from the utility.

He suggested the utility have a person dedicated to a certain area who can field questions from first selectmen, who can then report to their townspeople.

That way, "we don't sound like idiots on day five."

The power company has promised in the past to make a central point person available. This did not happen in the aftermath of Isaias.

Rand said the storm uprooted a lot of trees, not to mention phone poles, along Weatogue Road. It takes longer to clear uprooted trees than fallen branches.

That's part of the reason it took several days to get town roads reopened, he said. And even Salmon Kill Road still had a sign indicating local traffic only on Wednesday, Aug. 12.

Falls Village First Selectman Henry Todd echoed Rand's sentiments about the Eversource response. "A complete lack of communication," he said on Thursday, Aug. 13.

Todd said the town crew had all town roads open by last Thursday, Aug. 6, except the section of Beebe Hill Road between Route 7 and Johnson Road, which was cleared by Saturday, Aug. 8.

The crew also returned to Lime Rock Station Road, the site of the Aug. 2 tornado and removed debris.

Cornwall

The wind blew hard on Tuesday afternoon, Cornwall First Selectman Gordon Ridgway recalled, and there was about an inch of rain. Many roads were blocked by downed trees and wires and many people were stuck in their locations and were cutting their own way out if they could, he said.

The town's highway department worked to open up the roads. The town needed to serve as its own emergency services dispatcher. Neighbors helped neighbors.

"We learned from what we did right," Ridgway reported. By Wednesday afternoon, it was clear that the town was on its own, he added.

"It was pretty remarkable how things kept going," Ridgway observed.

Things were not done right by the power company, according to Ridgway, although town emergency officials and state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) endeavored to remain in touch with state officials and power company sources.

Communications were a key problem. The information being provided to the town by the state was not close to being accurate, Ridgway said.

Sharon

In Sharon, the storm damage was equally as severe as in surrounding towns. First Selectman Brent Colley praised the efforts of residents who pitched in to help. At first, there were no power crews to be seen.

"We had ourselves, the fire department and the Town Hall," Colley said.

One large elm tree on the Green near Town Hall lost a large limb and took down a power pole with a transformer attached. He noted that the town was trying to find someone who could set up and orchestrate power trucks. With so many lines down in town, and so many homes operating generators, it was important to be sure that the lines were not live. Home generators can feed power into downed power lines (see story Page A1 on generators).

"Fortunately, no one was injured or killed," Colley said.

After some delay, Colley said that work crews came from all over, including Quebec, Illinois, Alabama, Florida and Vermont.

As in other towns, communication was a significant problem. Colley would like the town and Eversource to get together and come up with a plan to improve communication and provide better updates for residents and emergency workers.

North Canaan

In North Canaan, the whole town lost power, according to First Selectman Charles Perotti. The Green Acres section and the Canaan Valley area were particularly hard hit.

By Wednesday, Aug. 5, power was restored to the town's center, a significant gain.

"Route 44 was closed for an eternity," Perotti said of the main route through town.

Lack of communication was a problem for town officials, Perot-

ti said, citing a lack of response from Eversource. "No one came around to give us a wire status report," he recalled. He praised the local fire department for having done "a super job."

Kent

Kent First Selectman Jean Speck said Monday, Aug. 17, that the power wasn't completely restored until a week after the storm.

The hardest-hit areas were Kent Hollow and Macedonia, she said.

She was critical of the communications with Eversource, although she emphasized it

wasn't the fault of the company's community liaison. She said the same information on where outages were had to be submitted to Eversource multiple times in different formats.

At Town Hall, internet service was restored on Friday, Aug. 7, with a temporary arrangement courtesy of the fire department and Verizon.

Speck said one big worry was the sewage treatment plant, which ran on generator power for several days. Speck said she was worried about what would happen if the generator failed before power was restored.



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Check www.salisburyforum.org for details on how to join this **free** Zoom webinar.

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www.salisburyforum.org

Toymakers Cafe will take a break (perhaps just for now)

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Toymakers Cafe, a Falls Village institution for 18 and a half years, will be going on a "hiatus," after Labor Day (Monday, Sept. 7).

Owners Ann and Greg Bidou made the announcement on Tuesday, Aug. 11.

On Saturday, Aug. 15, around noon, business was brisk. There were at least 20 motorcycles in the lot and people filled the picnic tables, walking up to the plastic-sheet-enclosed side porch to place and receive orders.

In a phone interview on

Monday, Aug. 17, Ann Bidou said that while outdoor dining and take-out service are feasible during the warm weather, "all that changes in the fall."

Normally the restaurant can have 15 seated customers, but with social distance requirements that number would shrink to three-to-five customers inside at one time, she said.

Those numbers will not allow the restaurant to cover its expenses.

The Bidous are calling it a "hiatus" because there are some options to explore.

Ann Bidou said she has

been looking into the idea of a food truck using the property, and there has been some interest from a private chef who might want to use the kitchen.

But there is nothing definite yet, she added.

And there is the hope that a COVID-19 vaccine will be developed and become widely available.

"That would change everything," she said. "But we can't make any plans right now."

"I'm proud we were able to keep going as long as we did" as the COVID-19 crisis shut down businesses across the state, starting in March.

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CRANE

Continued from Page A1

emergency, he suggests filling the unit with gas, starting it up "so the gas can run through the system, and let it stand with the non-ethanol gas in it."

Budget is a factor when buying a portable generator, which can cost anywhere from several hundred dollars to upwards of several thousand dollars, depending on size, power and other add-ons, such as wheels to help move it around, weather-resistant storage covers and the installation of an automatic transfer switch that converts the generator to standby mode.

Fire and fumes

While a portable generator can be a lifesaver, if not properly used, it can also be deadly. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 900 people died of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from portable generators between 2005 and 2017, and an estimated 15,400 people were treated in emergency rooms for portable generator-related CO poisoning during that period.

If not properly grounded, generators, which run hot, can also become a fire hazard or cause electrocution. Gasoline, used to fuel most portable generators, is highly flammable and can cause a fire if it is spilled on a hot generator. Over-taxed or faulty extension cords, too, could spark a flame. Owners should also make sure there is nothing combustible nearby.

"Fire and fumes are the most dangerous," said Crane. "People are so worried about getting power back quickly that they don't think of the risks." The power equipment professional suggested that when adding gasoline to the unit, shut down the generator and let it cool off. Then check the oil level and refuel.

To avoid carbon monoxide poisoning, generators should be placed at least 18 feet from the side of your home and 5 feet from your lot line or any window or door. "A lot of people, through this storm, had their windows open," Crane noted, heightening the risk of exhaust

fumes blowing into the home. "We recommend using as long a cord as possible."

Generators produce enough power to cause electrocution or severe shock, and should be placed on a dry cement block beneath an overhang that protects it from rain, snow or moisture. They should only be used outdoors and never inside a home, garage, barn, camper or work area.

Portable or permanent?

There are many considerations to consider when buying a new generator, said Crane, including whether it is intended to be used as a portable generator fueled by non-ethanol gasoline, or as a more permanent, standby home generator that runs off of propane and requires installation of a transfer switch by an electrician.

Backup generators are most popular, with average households looking for between 3,000 and 7,000 watts of power when the lights go out.

This size allows most homes to power their appliances and comfort systems. A generator with between 5,000 and 6,500 watts is capable of powering homes with a well pump and/or a larger heating or air conditioning system.

Crane said there are also diesel and solar-powered generators on the market, but he said these types of models are generally larger and more costly units, used mainly by businesses, schools and other facilities.

Standby generator option

The last thing a homeowner should do is try to power their entire house with a portable generator by plugging it into a wall outlet, a dangerous practice known as "backfeeding." This can lead to electrocution and send electricity into the power lines, posing a risk to the homeowner as well as nearby utility workers and even neighbors served by the same utility transformer.

To avoid such an accident, Crane strongly suggests having an electrician install an automatic transfer switch next to the home's electrical panel. The switch allows homeowners to power the plugs already connected to their home's circuits. A standby generator can power

all of a home's essential circuits, or just a select few.

"The first and foremost important thing I can suggest is to have an electrician make sure the hookup is a correct hookup, and that there is no way anything can be overloaded," said Crane. The added cost of about \$500 for the transfer switch, and a few hundred dollars more for the install, he said, is worth the peace of mind and added safety.

"We try to educate customers" when it comes to selecting, operating and maintaining a generator, said Crane, who, with his parents, purchased the business from the Segallas, who were neighbors in North Canaan, in 1992.

Crane bought out his parents' stake in the business in late 2007, he said, and is the current owner of the expanded Crane's Outdoor Power Equipment, which has

been family owned and operated for more than a half century.

This month's severe storms and power outages, which caused hundreds of thousands of power outages throughout Connecticut and the Tri-state area, illustrate the value of a well-maintained generator, regardless of the season, said Crane.

"This one and the one in October a few years back, were both widespread events, whereas power outages involving winter storms tend to be more centralized to a certain part of the state," said Crane, causing fewer long-range shortages of essentials such as gasoline, bagged ice, bottled water and even generators and generator replacement parts as was the case recently.

Crane's Outdoor Power Equipment is at 337 Ashley Falls Road in North Canaan. Call 860-824-7276.

AWARD

Continued from Page A1

day be a sports reporter, Lyle has done an outstanding job of working on the diverse types of stories covered in a small-town weekly newspaper. In this week's issue, for example, he called area farms to get information on a topic of great importance to Northwest Corner residents: the quality of this summer's sweet corn.

For last week's Lakeville Journal, Lyle covered a story that was closer to his heart: He reported on the Sharon Sprint Triathlon.

The Robert Estabrook Award was created by Salisbury Rotary in 2015 to honor the late publisher and editor in chief of The Lakeville Journal, who died in 2011.

Estabrook was a consummate journalist and also a wonderful teacher. A high point of the summer internship program (for Estabrook and for the students) was when they had the chance to sit down and chat with him about journalism and his days as a foreign correspondent, editorial page editor of The Washington Post and of course his days at the helm of his beloved weekly Connecticut newspaper.

The first recipient of the scholarship, in 2015, was Sam

Bradway, who had joined The Lakeville Journal as an intern in eighth grade and returned every summer until he graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

This year was an odd one for the summer internship program because The Lakeville Journal staff is mostly working remotely during the COVID-19 quarantine. Nonetheless, we had two new interns join us: high school students Anabelle Baum and Mary John from Sharon. And Shane Stampfle of North Canaan returned for a few weeks this summer (he was an intern in the summer of 2019) before leaving for his freshman year in college.

We were not able to offer the training in writing, editing, photography, page layout and small-town government and civics that we normally give our interns. Baum and John and Stampfle took on writing assignments and became more comfortable with writing for newspapers and, especially, with writing in their "own voice," which is always a challenge for students.

Lyle was already trained in journalism basics at college and was able to very quickly jump from smaller test assignments to full-fledged reporting. He has very quickly shown us he writes wonderful descriptive prose; takes excellent photos; and is skilled at getting details right. At a time when the public has trouble trusting journalists and news reports, it's more important than ever that newspapers get the facts right. Lyle gives us confidence in the next generation of journalists.

The Estabrook Award is normally bestowed at a ceremonial dinner at Geer in North Canaan, at which many scholarships and awards are presented to young people from the region by Salisbury Rotary. No such dinner was possible this year. Instead, Salisbury Rotary President Peter Fitting and Rotary Foundation head John Hedbavny came to the offices of The Lakeville Journal in Falls Village on Thursday, Aug. 13, to meet Lyle and present him with a check for \$250.

GUNS

Continued from Page A1

A feeling of unease

Steve Pyskaty, owner of Northwest Connecticut Firearms Training, LLC, in East Granby, Conn., has been a certified firearms instructor since 1994 and has more than two decades of law enforcement experience. The first six months of this year, said the instructor, are among the busiest he has experienced.

"The number of people taking the course has doubled, if not tripled. People who were never really for guns are all of a sudden now looking to own one," said Pyskaty, who asks everyone in his classes why they want to own a gun. The answers sound similar. "They want them for protection. People are nervous with all the riots going on, and they are starting to get uneasy," he said.

Also, said Pyskaty, crime in many small towns is up, particularly car break-ins and home thefts, "and many are worried about the Second Amendment being taken away, so they are hopping on [gun ownership] now before it's too late."

To keep up with the unprecedented demand for his firearm safety courses, Pyskaty said he has had to increase classes from once a month to every two weeks.

Shortage of guns, ammo

When pistol permits rise so, too, do gun and ammunition sales. "Right now it's hard to get guns and ammunition. People are stocking up. They're afraid that if they call 911 that the police won't come, or that they might take forever to get there," said Pyskaty, who has been training police departments in western Massachusetts since 1994. "A lot of people saw this coming and started their doomsday stockpile. They are afraid there might be a civil war."

Chris Marino, owner of Autumn Gun Works in Goshen, said he has had difficulty keeping up with the demand for guns and ammo since early spring, and his store shelves are getting empty. "If anything is slowing us down, it's the supply chain shortage everywhere at the distributor level nationwide," said Marino, who has been in business for four decades.

On a recent Saturday morning in late July, Marino assisted a customer while his brother, Gary, answered calls and unpacked a new shipment of supplies.

"This is a busy summer. Business usually slows down this time of year," but there are no signs of slowing, he said. "Early on we had a lot of New Yorkers come into the store looking to buy guns without permits. They didn't have any knowledge of what the guns laws are in Connecticut," so he had to turn them away, said the store owner.

"Part of the gun shortage is due to the COVID-19 shutdown, and part is due to the riots and demonstrations. People are fearful of what's going on in this country," said Marino. "It

could continue all the way to the elections. People are worried that if Biden gets elected, that the Democrats will want to take away guns, so they are looking to get what they can while they can."

That includes ammunition. Marino said he has had customers come to his small Goshen gun shop from far ends of the state "to buy components for making their own ammo, because even Cabela's is sold out."

In Cornwall, 'a lot of guns'

Marino said that while applications for pistol permits may not be spiking in some Litchfield County towns, that doesn't mean that its residents aren't already armed. Many long-time residents of some of the more rural towns, he said, got their permits a long time ago. "There are a lot of us gun owners out there."

Cornwall First Selectman Gordon Ridgway mirrored Marino's observation.

"We're not seeing a spike or a big change," in new pistol permits, said Ridgway, who reported on July 22 that three gun permits were approved so far this year. That compares to two permits in 2019, six in 2018 and nine in 2017. But the numbers alone can be deceiving. "There are a lot of guns in Cornwall. A lot of people have long guns" for hunting, added the first selectman.

Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand, when contacted in late July, said that the town's resident state trooper, who processes pistol permits, was on vacation so he did not have exact figures as of press time. But Rand, who signs off on the permits, said he "can only think of one permit all of this spring and summer" issued in his town.

In Falls Village, a similar situation. First Selectman Henry Todd, also on vacation in late July, reported "just the normal flow" of pistol permits over the past two years.

'A large handful' in Kent

In mid-July, Kent First Selectman Jean Speck reported a "very large uptick" in residents of her town seeking pistol permits. The town issued a total of eight permits during 2019, compared to 15 through July of this year, with eight of those approved during June and July.

"In the last two months we have had quite a large handful that came through and are at different stages in the process, everything from fingerprinting, to background checks, to the final interview process," said Speck, who conducts brief interviews with applicants prior to granting permit approval. "With the exception of one resident, a sportsman who was looking to shoot clay pigeons, those applying indicated they are seeking to own a gun 'for personal safety [and] home safety.'"

Two sides to safety

Although of course he has a professional interest in saying so, Pyskaty stressed that anyone who wants to own a gun needs to learn how to use it. He and others interviewed for this article all agreed: Gun ownership is serious business. People need to be responsible.

CORN

Continued from Page A1

having similar struggles with their sweet corn.

"We plant two varieties of sweet corn," Paley's co-owner Chris Coon said. "While we did get some [of the early variety,] the yields were way off — I mean, probably less than half of what we would have hoped to have."

Coon said the other variety of sweet corn, which is starting to ripen now, does not seem to have the same problem, possibly due to being planted in shadier fields.

In preparation for a dry year, Coon said he planted sweet corn in fields near the neighboring Webatuck Creek, which typically gets more water than the fields that can be seen from Route 343.

Theresa Freund of Freund's Farm Market in East Canaan said their problems lie with their tomatoes, not their sweet corn.

"This year we're having a great corn year, because it's great corn weather. But what works for the corn doesn't always make the

tomatoes happy," Freund said. "The tomatoes do not like high humidity and rain, which is one of the reasons why we've converted our tomatoes to greenhouse production."

Another problem farms have to face is the threat of pests such as birds and deer. Deer leave behind half-eaten ears of corn. Birds eat the tassels, or the male part of the plant, resulting in an inability to form ears.

Bears have also become a problem over the last few years according to all three farmers. The bears wander into corn fields and flatten multiple crops at a time by rolling on top of them.

"We need to speak to our congressmen to get them to expand the bear [hunting] season in Massachusetts," said Howden. "That will help."

Despite the weather and animal intruders, all three farms have produced seasonal sweet corn. Paley's and Freund's corn will be sold at their stores, with Freund's also selling wholesale to LaBonne's Market in Salisbury.

While he is still considering selling his corn in Salisbury at the farm market as in past years, for now Howden said he will sell his corn only at his farm on Ashley Falls Road.

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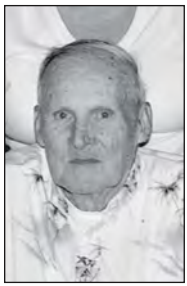
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OBITUARIES

Edward P. Pitcher Sr.

SHARON — Edward P. Pitcher Sr., 88, of South Main Street died Aug. 12, 2020, at Noble Horizons. He was the husband of Mu-riel (Fingar) Pitcher. Edward was born Aug. 10, 1932, in Sharon, the son of the late Mary (Murphy) and William Pitcher. He was a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School and went on to serve his country during the Korean War with the 65th Engineer BN. He worked for Tri Wall for many years and had his own caretaking business. He also was a member of the Sharon Fire Department. Besides his wife he is survived by a daughter, Margaret Paine and husband, Howard; a daughter-in-law, Tina Pitcher; a sister, Mary Adams; four



grandchildren, Heather Paine, Heath Paine and wife Chelsea, Edward Pitcher-Draghi and husband Luke, and William Pitcher and wife Shanna; four great-grandchildren, Garrett, Daphne and Amelia Paine and Evan Pitcher-Draghi; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a son, Edward Pitcher Jr.; three brothers, Gordon, William and George; and two sisters, Margaret and Ana Mae. A graveside service will be celebrated on Saturday, Aug. 22, at 11 a.m. at Hillside Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon Fire Department and Ambulance, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, CT 06069. Arrangements are under the care of the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon.

Anthony Harding Horan

CORNWALL — Anthony Harding Horan, 80, died of cancer Aug. 13, 2020, at his home in Fresno, Calif., with his wife, Marcia Morrison, and son, Frank Horan, by his side. Tony was born in New York City to Francis Harding Horan and Elizabeth Rogers Horan in 1940. He spent his early years in the city and in Cornwall, where the family had a house. He attended St. Bernard's, St. Paul's, Dartmouth and Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons. He spent two college summers pumping gas and fishing at Yellowstone National Park.



After retiring from the VA system, Tony established a private practice in Evanston, Wyo., and later in Delano, Calif., where he had the opportunity to aid many adult and pediatric patients with untreated congenital malformations. He contributed to medical science for 30 years as an active member of the Western Section of the American Urological Association, during which he gave 59 conference presentations and had 49 peer-reviewed publications. Tony was a surgeon and he was also an artist. He was a member of The Century Association of New York, where he exhibited paintings, and he joined community chorales in Walla Walla and Fresno. He and his wife, Marcia Morrison, were avid backpackers in the Western U.S., particularly in the Sierra Nevada. During the winter, Tony loved skiing, both downhill and cross-country, with any family members who could keep up with him. Until his last months of life, Tony enjoyed tennis, golf and reading Thomas Piketty's "Capital in the Twenty-First Century" in French.

While in medical school at Columbia in 1962, Tony worked as a technician on a summer project for Roger Guillemin, MD, and Andrew Schally, Ph.D. Fifteen years later, that project earned Guillemin and Schally a Nobel Prize for the structure of luteinizing hormone releasing factor. Tony also spent five months on research at the Weizmann Institute in Israel. Rather than pursuing a Ph.D. career, Tony aspired to become an MD scientist like his grandfather, John Rogers Jr., who graduated from Columbia P&S in 1892 and became a pioneer in the treatment of thyroid disease. After graduating from medical school, Tony completed a general medicine internship and a general surgery internship at St. Luke's Hospital, followed by a urology residency at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, both in New York City. His training was interrupted by the Vietnam War and he served as an Air Force general surgeon in Cam Rahn Bay during the Tet offensive of 1967-1968.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, T. Bramwell Welch-Horan, MD, and daughter-in-law, Jessica Merrill Horan; his grandchildren, Charlie, Oliver and Phoebe Horan of Housatonic, Texas; and his younger son, Francis H. Horan of Fresno. He is also survived by his brother, John Rogers Horan, and sister, Honora Horan, of Washington and Cornwall, respectively; and his twin sister, Elizabeth Horan Edgerly of Rhode Island. Memorial plans will be announced later.

Beloved fish truck owner dies

By Cynthia Hochswender

SHARON — His full name was Jean Jacques Herman but everyone knew him as J.J., the fish truck guy.

Sharon was lucky enough to have the man himself in charge of the town's fish truck, in the center of Sharon on Fridays and Saturdays. For many area residents, a visit to the truck has been a weekly ritual for years. J.J. Herman died on July 30 from complications of diabetes and other diseases, according to his wife, Carol Herman. He became ill at his home in Torrington, on Migeon Avenue near the former Scarpelli's restaurant. He was taken to nearby Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, where the doctors found he had already suffered brain damage by the time he arrived. He died that night.

He was born in 1946 and was a native of Cannes, France, his widow said. His father was a professional chef who first brought his family to live in New Jersey. He was invited to be the head chef at The White House when Lyndon Johnson was president but he turned down the opportunity. Instead, he continued to cook professionally and to train his son to follow him into cuisine.

During their 47 year marriage, Carol and J.J. owned two restaurants: Le Bon Coin in

Washington, Conn., at the former armory on Route 202; and Le Chalet in Thomaston, Conn. Herman couldn't remember how long ago she and her husband began to bring their fish trucks to first Washington, then Sharon and then Kent, but she estimates it at three decades or more.

At present, she said, all three trucks are still operating but she's short on staff. Last weekend, Mike Amerighi (brother of Sharon Town Clerk Linda Amerighi) was at the Sharon truck, which had a typically large customer base throughout the afternoon on Saturday. Everyone seemed to know that J.J. had died, and everyone was sad to have lost him. He was a solid presence, not exactly a joke-cracking entertainer but certainly witty and fun to talk to, and of course always ready to share cooking tips as needed.

Herman said that the ordering is now being handled by their third new partner (Bill), who hasn't quite figured out how to estimate quantities. She hopes everything will work itself out.

"As long as we can, we'll keep going," she said. Orders can still be phoned in ahead of time; at a moment when there are still challenges with knowing how much to order, it might be a good idea to phone in orders early (860-482-9561). Special orders must be in by Tuesday.



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The Rent-a-Chef food truck in Sharon (and the ones in Kent and Washington, Conn.) are expected to remain open following the death of owner J.J. Herman.

Herman said that a memorial service is being planned at her church in Watertown. She will post information on the three trucks and in The Lakeville Journal.

The trucks will continue to be at their posts on Friday and Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Some patience might be required for the next week or so.

Rare chance to view a WW2 ship

Tri-state residents can watch the last destroyer escort afloat in America as it returns to Albany, N.Y., after repairs. The World War II war ship USS Slater, escorted by tugboats, will go up the Hudson River on Friday, Aug. 21, and can be seen from riverfront parks and the Walkway Over the Hudson in Poughkeepsie.

USS Slater will leave Staten Island at 10:30 a.m. The voyage north is expected to take approximately 20 hours, but due to traffic on the river it is impossible to predict arrival times. Updates will be posted on Facebook throughout the day (www.facebook.com/USS.Slater).

It will be possible to track USS SLATER's progress by following the tugs on www.marinetraffic.com.

Names of the tugs will be released as that information becomes available. Once open, USS SLATER's hours will be Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through the end of November. The ship will be located in downtown Albany at the intersection of Broadway and Quay Street. Regulations and guidelines pertaining to museums opening safely due to COVID-19 will be enforced.

It is expected that the ship will return and staff will have the ship open to the public by Aug. 26. More specific information will be released as it becomes available. For updates, go to the website at www.ussslater.org and Facebook at www.facebook.com/USS.Slater.

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A lifelong Republican changes his mind

I have voted Republican in every presidential election since 1980, including voting for Donald Trump in 2016.”

When you see a lead sentence like that on an op-ed column, the next sentence will most certainly begin with the word “But.”

The writer of this particular piece in *The New York Times* on July 30 is law school professor Steven Calabresi, who sought to assure his readers of his impeccable Republican credentials before making a rather un-Republican proposal.

Before we get to that, it should be noted that Calabresi, a professor of law at Northwestern, is a co-founder and co-director of the prestigious conservative/libertarian Federalist Society, whose members have played prominent roles in the confirmations of Supreme Court Justices John Roberts, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh — almost half the court, if you're counting.

Since Trump became president, Calabresi has written op-eds and a law review article on why the Robert Mueller investigation was unconstitutional and an op-ed opposing the president's impeachment.

And if voting for six winning and four losing Republican presidential candidates since Ronald Reagan wasn't evidence enough of his party purity, further research into Calabresi's career reveals he learned his trade clerking for two Republican judicial saints, Robert Bork and Antonin Scalia.

So what Calabresi had to say next was all the more startling:

“But,” he wrote, as anticipated, “I am frankly appalled by the president's recent tweet seeking to postpone the November election.”

“Until recently,” he explained, “I had taken as political hyperbole the Democrats' assertion that President Trump is a fascist. But this latest tweet is fascistic and in itself grounds for the president's immediate impeachment again by the House of Representatives and his removal from office by the Senate.”

Hard to say which action is

IF YOU ASK ME

DICK AHLES

less likely so close to the November election, but Calabresi was making a point. Here is the Trump tweet that prompted his ire:

“With Universal Mail-in Voting (not Absentee Voting, which is good) 2020 will be the most INACCURATE & FRAUDULENT Election in history. It will be a great embarrassment to the USA. Delay the Election until people can properly, securely and safely vote???”

The tweet was published, not coincidentally, I believe, the same day the U.S. economy contracted at its steepest pace since the Great Depression, the coronavirus death toll reached 150,000 and three former presidents warmly and eloquently eulogized an American hero who nearly died defending the right to vote five decades ago.

Not the best day for Donald Trump to suggest illegally delaying the November presidential election.

The White House tried to walk back the tweet, claiming the president was only raising a question while the Democrats were “proposing an entirely new system (of massive mail-in voting) that will result in enormous delays in the election results.” (The “new system” was first proposed by President Lincoln to let soldiers vote in the 1864 election.)

There is little doubt that the coronavirus will still be impacting large sections of the nation on Election Day and the Democrats have at least proposed a safer way to help people vote. The mail-in ballot will certainly slow the vote-counting process, but the president and both parties should be doing all they can to make it as efficient as possible.

Or come up with a better way to hold an election on Nov. 3, 2020.

As noted above, while all this was going on, former presidents Obama, Bush and Clinton were

honoring the memory of Congressman John Lewis, whose life nearly ended five decades earlier when state troopers beat him almost to death as he and other voting-rights demonstrators tried to march across a bridge in Selma, Ala.

“We live in a better and nobler country today because of John Lewis,” said the last Republican president, George W. Bush.

Trump wasn't at Lewis's funeral, but in an interview released a few days later, Axios reporter Jonathan Swan asked him about Lewis's legacy and whether the president found his life im-

pressive. Trump's response:

“He didn't come to my inauguration. He didn't come to my State of the Union speeches. And that's OK. That's his right. And again, nobody's done more for Black Americans than I have.”

It makes you wonder how many other true Republicans are becoming as disenchanting as Professor Calabresi and waiting to express their disappointment, perhaps on a mail-in ballot Nov. 3.

Simsbury resident Dick Ahles is a retired journalist. Email him at rahles1@outlook.com.



Some good, and some troublesome, facts about mailed voting

ON REFLECTION

CAROL ASCHER

President Trump continues to make dire statements about voting by mail, as well as to sabotage our usually trustworthy mail service. His claim that mailed voting will lead to “millions of ballots sent from other countries” is unlikely, since, to be counted, each mailed-in ballot needs a signature that matches the signature at the voting poll. Other statements by the president on mailed voting take a more fulsome response.

1. Mail-in voting will lead to a rigged election.

Forty-six states currently allow at least a portion of their voters to cast ballots by mail. Some states allow all registered voters to receive a mail ballot, and some states, like Connecticut, require a reason to cast a vote by mail. Connecticut has added the virus to its list of reasons a voter can check. Some states, like Connecticut, also require a voter signature in order for the mailed-in ballot to be counted, while other states require witnessed signatures and/or the notarization of a ballot's return envelope.

Election experts say fraud in mailed voting is slightly more common than in in-person voting, with both extremely rare. Amber McReynolds and Charles

Stewart, who study mailed voting, found that, with more than 250 million ballots cast by mail nationwide over the past 20 years, there have been 143 criminal convictions for election fraud — one case per state every six or seven years, or a fraud rate of 0.00006%.

2. Election results will be delayed for months.

There are efforts to block President Trump and Postmaster General LeJoy from removing mail-sorting machines and using bulk mail for ballots. However, even ballots mailed first class need to be individually opened and counted, as well as involve signature verification, so take longer to count than in-person ballots. Since Democrats are more likely to vote by mail than Republicans, one possibility is that, because the mailed-in ballots haven't been counted, Republicans, who vote in person, will lead on election night. Unfortunately, if an early Republican win is followed by a Democratic victory, Trump may claim voter fraud or a rigged election.

Although some states allow administrators to begin processing ballots before Election Day, election results are likely to come in during the week or weeks following Election Day. Delays could be especially noticeable in states that accept ballots postmarked by Election Day but

received afterward — including such battleground states as North Carolina, California and Texas.

If you are used to staying up to watch election results come in, please remember that “precincts reporting,” the metric used to indicate how much of the vote has been counted, will be meaningless in an election where there are large numbers of untallied mail ballots.

3. Mail-in voting will be bad for Republicans.

Although Trump has argued that expanding mailed voting will be bad politically for Republicans, 49% of Republicans support mail voting, with 70% of Republicans supporting it in states where a sizable number already vote by mail. As important, a recent study from Stanford University found no partisan effect of implementing universal mailed voting.

As tensions regarding the upcoming election grow, suspicions are likely to multiply. My suggestion is simple: ask for an absentee or mailed ballot early, but don't rely on the mail to return your ballot. Instead, drop your carefully filled-out ballot in the ballot box installed outside your town hall.

Carol Ascher, who lives in Sharon, has published seven books of fiction and nonfiction, as well as many essays and stories. She is trained as a spiritual director.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More letters next page.

Embracing smallness in Falls Village

Talk about getting it with “both barrels”. We “got it” from the Falls Village Housing Trust (FVHT) on these pages last week. Our small growing group of “dissenters” here in Falls Village has never criticized anyone. FVHT has said FV citizens “have nothing better to do than criticize”, that “citizens efforts to manipulate public opinion makes no sense”? Well, we respond thusly: To quote Harry Truman, “I don't give 'em Hell. I just tell 'em the Truth...and they think it's Hell!”

We weren't, originally, housing advocates. But we sure became fast when we witnessed in April 2019 what the FVHT in league with the NW COG and FV P+Z were trying to “sneak through”.

This entire endeavor has, to me, been cloaked in secrecy. Failure to notify, suppression of public comment and participa-

tion. A “done deal” “open and shut”. On these pages last week, Salisbury resident and FVHT treasurer Martha Miller disparaged and amplified our lovely proud little town's “civic warfare” of the early 90's. The fact that she, as a resident of a wealthy town resplendent with high-priced tax-yielding estates, can cross the river and tell us what's good for us, the second smallest town in Connecticut, is disturbing, to say the least. We do what we gotta do. And we “dissent” when pushed. It's the nature of the beast. And we do our “civic duty”. And, sometimes, it ain't “pretty”.

We in Falls Village are working with small budget numbers, compared to Salisbury. The state is going to spend \$3.5 million on a 29-bedroom “splat” that will raise our already sky-high mill rate above 27.5? How about the state subsidize the added cost to

us? Pay the added cost of an extra 10 students for 10 years? Five years? \$250,000 a year?

FVHT stated last week “The CT Dept of Housing does not currently have funds available for smaller projects”. Really? You mean, like funds that could be available for the scale Falls Village actually could USE: to “in-fill” in Town, renovate existing properties In-Town, do it right.

FVHT said last week that they are not required to use an “Incentive Housing Zone” to proceed with their project. Fine, go by the original, legal FV zoning regulations. Two-acre zoning, dividing up 10 acres = 5 houses. Sell the other 56 acres to conservation. Problem solved. Happy Home OWNERS, paying property tax-

es. A bona fide conservation offer was put on the table. Habitat didn't want to hear it.

We humbly ask the FVHT to withdraw their ill-conceived, out-sized, budget busting behemoth. In this time of COVID stress and dysfunction, tornadoes and hurricanes, desist from taking advantage of these unusual circumstances. Begin anew to approach Falls Village's housing “problem” with fresh eyes, with citizen input and town participation. All the years we in town lamented being off the beaten path? Guess what? That has turned out to be a REAL blessing. Embrace our smallness, uniqueness and create Something REAL. Yes, we can!

Colter Rule

Falls Village

Thanks to Sharon's town clerk

I want to express our committee's appreciation and admiration for Sharon Town Clerk Linda Amerighi, whose tireless work, steady hand and expert understanding of election rules made sure the voters of Sharon were able to properly vote either in person or by absentee ballot in the Aug. 11 primary election. These are extraordinary times, even without the widespread post-storm power outages that plagued our region, now that White House officials are attempting to undermine trust and the processes of our election system.

Not only has Linda been available to answer the many questions from residents that have arisen from the necessarily complex process of voting by absentee, but she has also

been willing to raise important issues with the Secretary of the State's office about its process of mailing ballot applications and the ballots themselves. It was clear from her participation in an online forum held by state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) about absentee balloting that Linda is a trusted expert.

Linda, the voters of Sharon are in good hands with you as our town clerk. We know you are doing everything you can to be sure that our elections are secure, that they run smoothly, and that every vote counts, regardless of whether the voter will cast a ballot in person on Nov. 3 or vote by absentee to protect themselves from the possibility of contracting COVID-19.

Jill Drew

Sharon

Horn is doing a great job for the 64th

Now that most of us have our power back, I'd like to take a moment to thank our state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64). During the outage, just as during the on-going pandemic, Maria's “State Capital Update” has been an informational anchor for me. It is current, accurate, easy to digest and really helpful.

Maria Horn is a great example of servant leadership. Working with all of us in her self-effacing and humble style, she makes it look easy. It's important to be aware of what she does and her results.

Maria digs in, does her homework, and follows through. She has the capacity to look at the

big picture and look to the future while being willing to pitch in in very basic ways. She has proven herself to be indefatigable.

If you don't already subscribe to “Maria Horn's State Capital Update,” please try it. You can get it through Maria's website, through email or Facebook.

We are so blessed to have such an aware, alive and energetic champion who is using her big brain and her big heart every day to protect what we have and to grow it.

Thank you, Maria, job well done. Let's keep it going!

Janet Andre Block
Salisbury

We are responsible for judging fact from fiction

Last week I followed a link on the Weather Channel that took me to a survey on holding organizations accountable for fake facts, and an invitation to donate to the Trump campaign, because it declared, if the Democrats win, they will defund the police.

I thought that to be an odd declaration in light of the very real fact that Democratic Connecticut had just voted for police reform, and for increased financial support for those few officers or precincts that might have a legal battle to fight.

As I understand it, our towns will now have more authority in choosing to keep on, or not, the police officers they pay for.

At the same time, towns will be held more accountable and responsible in finding the funds to support legal defense costs so individual officers will not have to pay.

I like that greater authority comes with greater responsibility. We ought to apply similar thinking to citizens at all level: for us as individuals, with lots of rights and choices in this country, this would imply that we exercise lots of responsibility when it comes to judging fact from fiction. The fictional statement that I was presented with did not convince me to donate to the Trump campaign.

Janet Graaff

Lakeville

Realtor® at Large

One of the effects of this pandemic is the inability to properly pay one's respects to friends who have passed away. One of those friends was John Borden. John was a real estate broker for over 40 years here in the NW corner, continuing his parents long term business of Borden Realtors. What was surprising about John was how much he quietly helped people in our community, from supporting the arts at HVRHS with scholarships and art shows to volunteering at his favorite charity, the Corner Food Pantry. Hopefully we can celebrate his life this fall and donations in his memory to the Corner Food Pantry are welcome, please call 860 435 9886.



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EDITORIAL

Goodbye, Millerton News office, it's been great

There's no question about it, it's been a good run. But after 15 years, The Millerton News has made the tough decision to shut the doors to its physical office space at 16 Century Blvd. in the village of Millerton and operate completely remotely. But don't be alarmed — the newspaper itself is not going anywhere.

The decision came about after the newspaper's office closed in mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic, for what we believed was only a temporary basis, out of an abundance of caution to protect our small staff, our deliverymen, as well as those in the community who would oftentimes stop by to purchase a copy of the newspaper or perhaps pay for a classified ad or an obituary, as well as our many sources who would come by to be interviewed or photographed. And then, of course, there are those in the community who would stop by just to shoot the breeze. We will miss each and every one of you greatly, but as all of our readers must realize, times have changed — dramatically.

As of this issue's printing, on Tuesday, Aug. 18, COVID-19 has killed more than 778,363 worldwide. It's infected more than 5,613,357 in the U.S. alone, and promises to infect many millions more as time marches on, guaranteed.

In March, Governor Andrew Cuomo issued the New York State on PAUSE Executive Order that shut down nonessential businesses, schools and social gatherings. The news media was not among those, thankfully, as it is considered an essential business. Yet The Lakeville Journal Co., which owns The Millerton News, along with the company's editorial staff, wisely decided it was in everyone's best interest to send workers home where they could safely do their job and continue to remotely produce both the Millerton and Lakeville papers at the same high quality without putting anyone's health at risk. And that is exactly what we have been doing for the past six months. Successfully so, we believe.

The Millerton News has continued to streamline its process since the pandemic hit. Operating with one full-time reporter, Kaitlin Lyle; one part-time reporter, Judith O'Hara Balfe; one part-time volunteer freelance reporter, Carol Kneeland; and myself, full-time Editor Whitney Joseph; along with Publisher and Editor in Chief Janet Manko; Production Coordinator James H. Clark; and Graphic Designer Caitlin Hanlon, all three of whom operate out of The Lakeville Journal headquarters during normal times, it's managed to consistently produce the same award-winning quality local community newspaper Harlem Valley readers have come to rely on week to week. For that we are especially grateful. Sadly, we had to let long-time Office Manager Betty Abrams go, as I was able to absorb her job duties, though she was kept on the payroll during the six-month temporary closure. Betty will be greatly missed and will hopefully return on an as-needed basis when available.

Technology is such that composing a newspaper remotely is entirely possible these days. Cell phones, Zoom meetings, the internet, not to mention good old-fashioned reporting — it all allows us to follow and investigate the news and then design, lay out and publish a paper in real time from pretty much anywhere.

As our readers are well aware, it's not been easy for our small, independent community newspaper company to survive. Just last year we had to switch to a new membership model and ask for financial support, which we so gratefully and humbly received and without which we wouldn't be here now. Finances, as well as safety concerns, were just as much a part of our decision to close the Millerton office as anything. It is the economic reality: We are able to save on rent, insurance, salary, etc., without a physical office. That money can go back into the company for its future survival, where it is sorely needed.

The Millerton News isn't the only newspaper to leave behind its brick and mortar office space so its staff can work remotely these days. Other newspapers — major newspapers — are doing the same. Just last week, on Thursday, Aug. 13, The Daily News announced its closing its legendary New York City newsroom. It was once the largest circulation newspaper in the nation. The Chicago newspaper chain that has owned The News since 2017, the Tribune, announced that same day its closing four of its other newspapers' offices as well. With there being so many unknowns associated with the coronavirus, with the state of the economy and with the state of public health, we wouldn't be at all surprised if such newsroom closures become a trend in the future.

To reach The Millerton News, continue to email editor@millertonnews.com or call 860-435-9873, ext. 608. Send mail to The Millerton News, P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Whitney Joseph
Editor, The Millerton News

Less than 100 days ...

The United States today is a hybrid of a republic and a democracy. The Founding Fathers were thoughtful enough to create a system of checks and balances that insured that the rule of the majority did not infringe or impugn the rights of a minority. Combine that fundamental concept with the Constitution and subsequent Amendments, and you have the most open, sophisticated and just system for the organization of a nation that has ever come about.

Today, however, there is a growing school of thought which at its heart believes that the will of the majority in and of itself is a violation of the rights of a plutocratic minority. For this group, preservation of individual rights start in the system of education, and finally emerge as tax policy and social policy. This construct

is influenced today by the investments of very wealthy individuals in media and message, as well as in education. This faction's current agenda seeks to eliminate Social Security, public health care in all its forms, progressive tax policies, unions, seriously defund public education and eliminate hard-won protections for the most vulnerable citizens now embodied in the Bill of Rights and subsequent Amendments to the Constitution. The last four years under the Trump administration have proven to be a slow walk on the same path as many authoritarian regimes. Privatizing education, closing our borders, promoting xenophobia, dismantling social welfare programs such as Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act, employing some parts of the media as

a propaganda tool, packing the courts with "loyalists", manifesting scorn for bureaucratic institutions of the government and the debasement of journalistic freedom are just a few examples of this insidious plan. The norms which have served as the guardrails have fallen away. Telling the truth is no longer a norm, and seemingly not even a basic moral precept. The Republican Party has become synonymous with these changes. Certainly not all Republicans, and particularly not those at the local level, but moderate voices in the Republican Party are clearly becoming fewer and quieter. The acronym "RINO" (Republican in Name Only) now exists for those fiscal or social conservatives with more moderate social or political views.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tropical Storm Isaias response

We were without power here in Norfolk from Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 4. Understandably, that led to serious inconveniences to daily life. That said, Eversource, aided by crews from Maine to Florida to Illinois, restored our power yesterday afternoon, Aug. 9. We find it objectionable, although regrettably expected, that our political leaders in Hartford responded to this crisis with angry promises to "investigate" Eversource for its "lack of preparedness" for the worst windstorm we've seen here in 20 years.

Gov. Lamont, Atty. Gen. Tong, and the sitting members of PURA do not string high-powered lines or remove trees blocking roads. The heroic workers of Eversource and related utilities across the U.S. did so, and for that we are deeply grateful.

Instead of an investigation, Gov. Lamont, with the support of the Legislature, should declare a day of statewide appreciation for the utilities workers who got Connecticut powered up again.

Donald Black

Norfolk

Save the US postal service now

This is a letter the writer sent to the below Connecticut public servants as well as to the editor at this newspaper. — The Editor

Dear Maria Horn, Kevin Witkos and Christopher Murphy,

I urge you to immediately do whatever you can, at any level, both governmental and personal, to rescue the U.S. Postal Service and the rapidly disappearing ability of U.S. citizens to vote freely by mail.

The Postmaster General, who has conflicts of interest, is actively working to slow down the mail. All over the country sorting machinery has been taken away and scrapped, mailboxes have been removed and postal workers have been kept from doing their usual good job. The next step (maybe it's happening already) will be to close small post offices like ours in Norfolk.

If we want to have a free, fair election on Nov. 3, this issue is of the utmost importance.

If you are doing anything now, or if you have any suggestion for what an individual citizen can do, please let me know. Thank you.

Sue Frisch

Norfolk

Grant will pay for KAH upkeep

Along with the other accusations and innuendos about Falls Village Housing Trust affordable housing in letters to The Lakeville Journal are a couple of inaccuracies about the work of Kent Affordable Housing (KAH).

The funds raised for rent subsidies for COVID-19 job losses came from our many KAH supporters, not the Town. Condemning affordable housing because the tenants might lose their jobs in a global pandemic is a lot like blaming the victim.

The Small Cities \$1.2 million grant KAH is seeking is not for

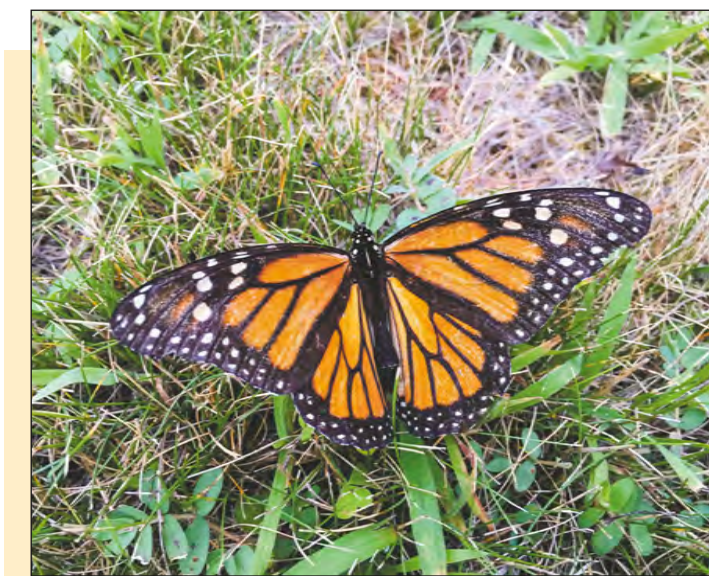


PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

"Butterflies are self propelled flowers."

— Robert A. Heinlein

Horn does a great job for her district

I wanted to give a shout out to state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) for her tireless work during the Isaias storm power outage last week. She understood that the laggard nature of Eversource's response did not just inconvenience her constituents but represented safety issues and endangered the sick and elderly. She was on the ground to deliver aid, she was in constant contact with the power company, she asked folks to report outages directly to her that Eversource wasn't registering, she worked tirelessly to make sure Eversource was held accountable to get the power on.

The statistics she published regularly online helped paint the true picture of Eversource's abject failure. The video she posted days after the outage as she drove her car around the district, still showing downed trees

on power lines across the roads, helped drive home the disdain with which Eversource treated its customers.

Maria is up for re-election on Nov. 3. She has served our district well, communicating with her constituents via video, newsletters and on Facebook. She is very accessible. She shows up. She listens. Even if a decision she makes is not to your liking, she always gives an explanation as to how she arrived at her decision.

Being a pragmatist and a realist is very useful to improving our daily lives in the Northwest Corner. In today's divisive political environment, she is someone trying to get things done, finding the real world solutions for which she showed us this past week, she is deeply involved.

Jane Zatlun

Kent

Holding Eversource responsible

I remember the first time I met Maria Horn. Tall, slim, smart, hyperactive, she seemed to be on top of every issue, every legislation. But what I didn't know then, but I do know now, is that Maria is a very empathetic person. She identifies with every one of her constituency, she is there for them, she listens and tries to help. She treats the people in the 64th District like her family.

Whenever Maria is working on legislation in Hartford, she thinks of us, what she can do for us to make life easier and better. She is concerned about the quality of life, clean air, clean water, affordable housing, good education, and decent jobs. When COVID-19 spread through her

district, she reached out to the elderly and studied the unemployment insurance and affordable health care available in her district. She helped with the distribution of food packages in Falls Village with the young people at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

In the post-storm disaster that swept her district, Maria continually urged Eversource to communicate with the towns, for they knew the citizens who most needed the help. Eversource failed to contact the town governments, which slowed recovery, and Maria wants to hold them accountable with an immediate investigation. Unlike state senators, state representatives do not have paid staff. When you call or email Maria, she is the one who responds. She is the one who cares.

I cannot think of anyone who could do the job better and fight for her district more than Maria Horn.

Liz Piel

Sharon

More letters
previous page.

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

100 years ago — August 1920

The daily papers of Wednesday carried news that greatly pleased the people of our town and especially friends of Richmond W. Landon of Salisbury. Richmond was one of six men chosen to represent the United States in high jumping at the Olympic games now being held at Antwerp, Belgium. On Tuesday, he not only proved victor over all the other contestants in the high jump, but he established a new Olympic record by clearing the bar at 1 meter 93 1/2 centimeters.

50 years ago — August 1970

KENT — The repair and enlargement of Carter Road Bridge, postponed for several years for a multitude of reasons, is actually underway by the town highway crew with assistance from Bill Gawel and his bulldozer.

25 years ago — August 1995

The Advic family — Osman, Emira, Aida and Edin — have been in Salisbury for four months, arriving here after being driven out of their native Bosnia and spending five months in a Croatian refugee camp. They were brought here through the sponsorship of a church-affiliated committee headed by Jean Moore of Sharon. The committee will be organizing a drive soon to raise money to help the family through the next winter.

These items, taken from old Lakeville Journals, have their original wording intact as much as possible. Our columnist is still the same, just with a new last name.

No change required

I apologize in advance if Michael Kahler, the author of the sophomoric and inane poetry that this paper consistently wastes print space on, is an adolescent or, at best a teenager. I could forgive someone of that age for such feeble attempts at verse. Reading such nonsense put me in the mood to submit an opposing view:

I despair for our country's
Fragile, clumsy minds
Thin skinned and splintered
All together untogether
They continue to whine

Touch their white,
blinding virtue
Steam shoveling
at our doorsteps
Opinions among rubble and fret
They beg us to never forget
They are right and we are wrong

All becomes ear tinder
A rolling wind of
mimicked noise
Falling down the noses
Of those employed
To tether us to our
"better natures"
Who are truly the intolerant?

Rob Funkhouser
North Canaan

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Bob Whelan

Sharon

COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

August 20-26, 2020

HISTORY: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Women: Don't Forget To Vote!

At a time when the nation is largely divided along partisan lines and when there is a great deal of anxiety about the upcoming presidential election, it's a wonderful time to celebrate the success of the women's suffrage movement, which secured the vote for women in August 1920.

Historical societies across America have exhibitions this year commemorating the seminal change in how Americans vote. Some can be seen online; some can be visited in person.

In New York and Massachusetts most of the suffrage events were held a year or more ago. You can still find some of their history paths online, such as at the Dutchess County Historical Society site, which has interviews, articles and vintage photos of notable figures and events from upstate New York (the cradle of the suffrage movement) in the fight for the right to vote. Go to www.dchsny.org/wvt-index/#voiceindex.

The Dutchess County Women's Democratic Caucus has an abundance of interesting history at its web page, in the section called 100 Years of Women's Suffrage (www.ddwc.org/100-years-of-womens-suffrage).

And New York State Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106) has put together a booklet with short histories of vital women in the suffrage campaign; find it at www.assembly.state.ny.us/member_files/106/womens_history_hv/pdf/wod_2014_booklet.pdf

Massachusetts is just

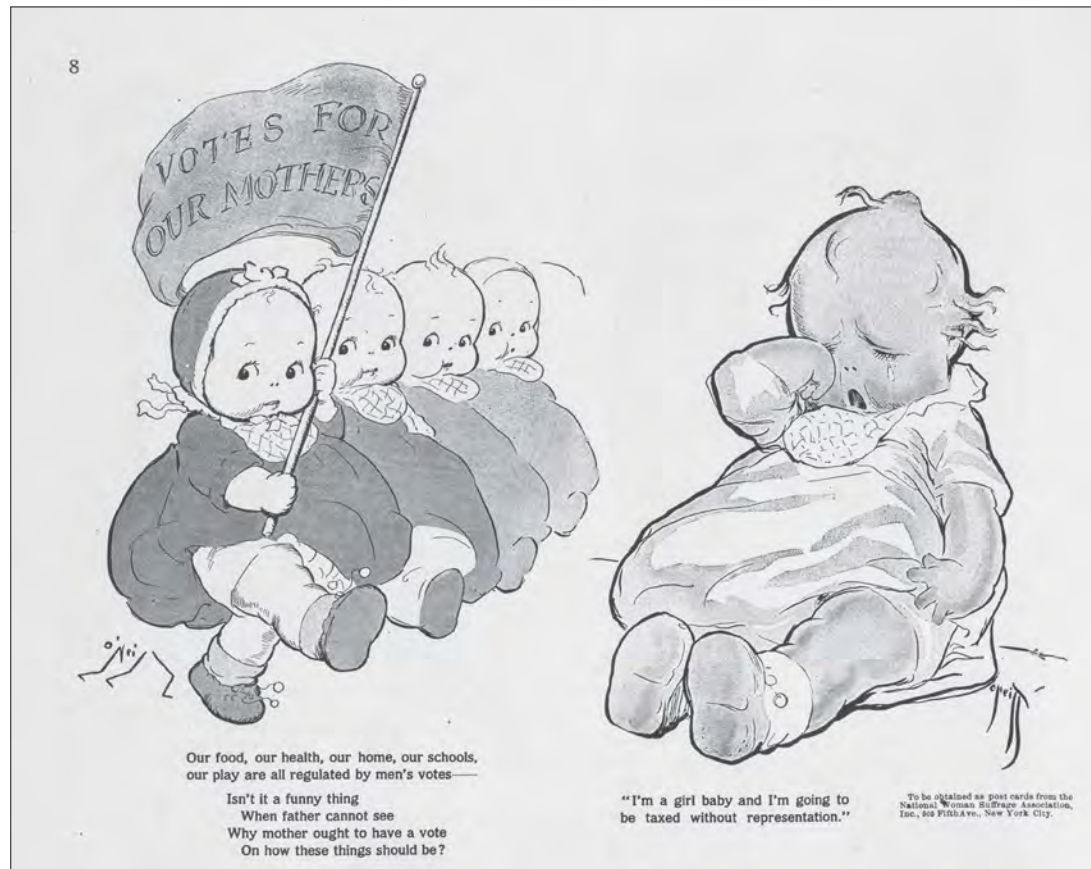


IMAGE FROM THE NORMAN ROCKWELL MUSEUM

The Norman Rockwell Museum celebrates 100 year of suffrage for women with an ongoing exhibit of the work of illustrator Rose O'Neill.

tifiably proud of the part the state played in getting women the right to vote; of particular note, Susan B. Anthony was born in Berkshire County in Adams, Mass. Most of the state's planned suffrage celebrations for this summer were postponed because of the COVID-19 quarantine.

But the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Mass., has an ongoing show of work by illustrator Rose O'Neill, who lived from 1874 to 1944 and for whom voting rights for women was a particular passion. The show is called "Rose O'Neill: Artist & Suffragette." The museum is now open to the public again with special COVID-19 protocols.

Massachusetts ratified the 19th Amendment on

June 25, 1919. To find out when other states ratified, visit the National Parks Service suffrage web page, with a map of the United States and information on each state, www.nps.gov/gis/storymaps/maptour/v3/index.html?appid=fab-3966cc1b447c0b67e96e6e-bc12470.

At www.votesforwoment.com, a website dedicated to women's voting rights in Connecticut and sponsored by, among others, Secretary of the State Denise Merrill, there is a gallery of images and ephemera from the fight for and against women's suffrage; and there are biographies of many of the key historical figures involved in the campaign.

The Sharon Historical Society in Sharon, Conn., has an exhibition dedicated to the 19th amendment that will be on view through Nov. 28.

On Saturday, Aug. 29, from 4 to 5 p.m. and again on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 4 to 5 p.m., the society is offering a talk by Heather Munro Prescott

about Seneca Falls, N.Y., and its part in the suffrage movement — and she will talk about efforts made throughout New England that were just as important if not as well publicized. No registration is required; to join the Zoom meeting go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6312716761>.

For more information, go to www.sharonhist.org.

The Cornwall, Conn., Historical Society's exhibition "Stand Up! Speak Out! Fight On! The 19th Amendment @ 100!" opened on July 4 and remains on display until Oct. 17. For information on how to see the exhibition, go to www.cornwallhistoricalsociety.org.

Georgia Exner, a Public History graduate student at Central Connecticut State University, put the Cornwall show together. It talks about the hard work done by women across the nation and it highlights how the women of small, rural Cornwall used their power to effect change.

It also shares the story of the division in Cornwall between women in favor of suffrage and those against it. The exhibit includes a petition against women's suffrage signed by many of Cornwall's best-known families.

Wondering why it's called "suffrage"? Go to the National Archive for a detailed explanation at www.prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2019/05/14/what-is-suffrage.

FOR ROBINSON AND MOORE, A HOMECOMING AND A ZOOM TALK

Authors Honor Moore (formerly of Kent, Conn.) and Roxana Robinson (of Cornwall, Conn.) will talk about their new books in a Zoom talk sponsored by the House of Books in Kent, the Cornwall Library and the Kent Memorial Library.

Robinson describes her book "Dawson's Fall" (published in 2019) as a biographical novel about her father's Southern family, "exploring race, principle and history."

A descendant of the Beecher clan (including author Harriet Beecher Stowe), Robinson said of her connection to Cornwall that, "My family — the Scovilles — came to Cornwall in the 18th century and have lived here more or less ever since. My great-grandfather, Samuel Scoville, married the daughter of Henry Ward Beecher. Beecher and his family — Harriet Beecher Stowe among them — lived in Litchfield.

"The Scovilles have been ministers, farmers and lawyers, and have taken care of the North Cornwall church since it was built in 1812. I live in the house my grandparents built — Samuel Scoville Jr., who was a lawyer and writer."

Moore is the author of "Our Revolution: A

Mother and Daughter at Midcentury," published this year.

"Kent was my primary residence for 17 years," she said. "I owned a house there for about 30 years that my parents had bought in 1950 or so as a summer place. When we moved to Indianapolis in 1957 the house was rented to a local family.

"I took over the house in 1972 as a summer and weekend place and then lived here full-time from 1984 until 2001, when I sold the house. I wrote two books of poems and my first nonfiction book, "The White Blackbird," there. I ran women's writing workshops in my living room in Kent from 1977 or so into the '90s on and off. I think that many women poets in Litchfield County were part of those groups and many of them are still living in Connecticut."

Join the free Zoom talk with Roxana Robinson and Honor Moore on Saturday, Aug. 22, at 5 p.m. For log in information, go to the library websites at www.kentmemoriallibrary.org or www.cornwalllibrary.org; or go to www.houseofbooksct.com.

REVISITING BOB DYLAN'S 'HIGHWAY 61 REVISITED'

This has been a year for the record books, certainly. One of the high points of 2020 is that it is the 55th anniversary of the release of Bob Dylan's "Highway 61 Revisited."

The Bardavon in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., is celebrating with a free show at its Bardavon@YouTube site online with new performances of Dylan songs by well-known and newer musicians. Highlights include "It Takes a Lot to Laugh, It Takes a Train to Cry," by Jimmy Vivino, Rich Pagano and John

Sebastian; "From a Buick 6" by blues master Guy Davis; "Ballad of a Thin Man" by author and musician Steve Earle; and "Queen Jane Approximately" by Lucinda Williams.

The performance on Sunday, Aug. 30, begins at 8 p.m. There will be commentary by Bardavon Executive Director Chris Silva.

To register and make a donation (funds from this show go to People's Place in Kingston, N.Y., and Dutchess Outreach in Poughkeepsie) go to www.boxoffice@bardavon.org.

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PHOTO COURTESY SHARON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Historian Edward Kirby will talk about the region's industrial history, including the making of iron in Sharon, Conn. (this photo shows molders in Sharon, holding the tools they used for the compacting of special sand for casting the metal into shapes).

THE REGION'S RICH HISTORY — IN IRON ORE — EXPLAINED

Beloved historian Edward Kirby of Sharon, Conn., will give a Zoom talk in partnership with the Sharon Historical Society and the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon on Friday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m.

Like many Tri-state area towns, Sharon had rich beds of iron ore that were used for everything from cannonballs for the Revolutionary War to train wheels in the early 1800s to mundane items such as irons and other household tools.

Kirby is expert in all the ways the iron was made in the region, how it changed the landscape of the region,

and what happened to put an end to the blazing orange skies from the iron foundries and allowed the area to return to bucolic bliss.

Kirby is a Sharon native, an expert on local history and a compelling and interesting teacher. A former superintendent of the regional school district, he has also coached and known the area's most successful baseball stars.

The talk by Ed Kirby on Friday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. is free.

To register, go to www.eventbrite.com/o/the-hotchkiss-library-of-sharon-27611407297

DRIVE-IN SCREENINGS OF ROCK 'N' ROLL FILMS

Call it Simon's Rock and Roll for Labor Day weekend as the Great Barrington, Mass., college partners with the nearby Mahaive Theater for a weekend of music-themed films that can be viewed "drive-in style."

The screenings will be at Simon's Rock, at 84 Alford Road, which is just around the corner and up the hill from the theater.

The gates open at 7:15 p.m. each night and the screenings begin at 8:30 p.m. (audience members are asked to arrive no later than 8 p.m.).

The first film (on Thursday, Sept. 3) will be a 2019

documentary called, "Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles," about the making of the film version of "Fiddler on the Roof."

"Amazing Grace," released in 2018 and featuring a live concert by Aretha Franklin (at the New Bethel Baptist Church in Watts, Los Angeles) in January 1972 will be shown on Friday, Sept. 4.

Martin Scorsese (director of the definitive film about Woodstock, among other cinema classics) made "Shine a Light," during the Rolling Stones' "A Bigger Bang" tour. The documentary history of the band will screen Saturday, Sept. 5.

And on Sept. 6, Mary Wharton's film "Jimmy Carter: Rock & Roll President" explores the part that popular music played in the 1976 election of the plain-spoken president from Plains, Ga. This film is presented in partnership with the Berkshire International Film Festival.

Audience members will watch from their vehicles; audio is transmitted on radio station 104.3 FM. Patrons may only leave vehicles for concessions and restrooms, and must wear masks when outside their vehicle. Portable toilets on-site follow accessibility regulations.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Beginning this week, look for a calendar of events for children at our website, www.tricornernews.com/events-calendar, which we will also include in our print edition as space allows.

Amenia Library, 3309 Route 343, Amenia, NY, www.amenialibrary.org
Craftersnoon with Ms. Haylee, Aug. 26, noon to 1 p.m. (online)

The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, NY, www.centerforperformingarts.org
"Guys and Dolls Jr.", Aug. 22, 10 a.m. and noon, Aug. 23, 10 a.m.

Fellowship of the Books: Five Libraries, More programs at www.facebook.com/fellowshipofthebooksny
Toddler Jam with Jonny G, Thursdays, 11 to 11:45 a.m. (online); Take A Storywalk every day, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (in person, various venues)

KidsPlay Museum, 61 Main St., Torrington, CT, www.kidsplaymuseum.org
Bilingual Stories in the Meadow, Aug. 26, 10 to 11 a.m.

Norman Rockwell Museum, 9 Glendale Road/Route 183, Stockbridge, MA, www.nrm.org
Around the World with Ted and Betsy Lewin, Sept. 19, 10 to 11:30 a.m. (online)

North East Community Center, 51 South Center St., Millerton NY, www.necmillerton.org
Teen Team Social Justice Book Club, Thursdays (online); Virtual Toddler Program, Mon., 11:30 a.m., Fri., 10:45 a.m. (online)

STARS ALIGN FOR AUG. 22 BSC READING

Jason Alexander (star of stage, screen and "Seinfeld") and Patti Lupone (star of stage, screen and formerly of Kent, Conn.), Tony Award winner Santino Fontana ("Tootsie," on Broadway) and Michael McKean ("This Is Spinal Tap" and "Better Call Saul" among

countless other favorites) are among the dozen actors who will do a staged reading to benefit the Barrington Stage Company in Pittsfield, Mass., and The Actors Fund.

Their performance of "Judgment Day" (written by Rob Ulin, directed by Matthew Penn) pre-

mieres on Saturday, Aug. 22, at 7:30 p.m. and will be available for viewing for 96 hours, through Tuesday, Aug. 25.

To access "Judgment Day," go to www.barringtonstageco.org and make a \$35 donation (click on the card for "Judgment Day").

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TAG SALES

LAKEVILLE, CT
ESTATE SALE: Furniture, accessories, rugs, tools, garden tools, housewares, red transferware. Too much to list. Excellent condition. Friday, Aug. 21, and Saturday, Aug. 22, 9am to 3pm. 99 Robin Hill Lane, Lakeville. Mask, gloves and social distancing!

MILLERTON, NY
HUGE MOVING SALE: Lots of Furniture, Household Items, Art, Books, Kid's items and More. ONE DAY ONLY Saturday, Sept. 5 from 10am-5pm. Cash Only. No Early Birds Please. 180 Rudd Pond Road, Millerton (Masks Required).

YEARLY TAG SALE: Friday, Aug. 21, and Saturday, Aug. 22, 9-3. A little bit of everything, rain or shine. Highland Drive, Millerton, NY. Masks required.

HELP WANTED

REGULAR EDUCATION PARAPROFESSIONALS WANTED: Salisbury Central School is seeking qualified regular education paraprofessionals to support teachers and students in EK-8th grade beginning August 31st. This is a 10-month position (180 days), 28.75 hours per week (9:00am-3:15pm daily) with sick days and holidays but no medical benefits. To apply, please go to region1schools.org and click on Search Open Vacancies under Employment Opportunities. Call 860-435-9871 with questions.

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MATURE, RESPONSIBLE BABYSITTER NEEDED: for after school hours (approx. 3-5:30ish) starting September. Two children (4 and 7) in Falls Village. Perhaps COVID derailed your Fall plans? Great, easy-going family. Call/text/email: Sasha: 917-502-1698 or sasharudensine@gmail.com.

HELP WANTED

energetic, compassionate and physically able. A good sense of humor is a plus. Please leave a call back number. Email: inailit@optonline.net.

PART-TIME TRANSFER STATION GATE ATTENDANT: The Town of Salisbury is looking for part-time Transfer Station Gate Attendants (typically 15-20 hours/week). Job description can be found at Town's website www.salisburyct.us/employment. For more information or to submit cover letter & resume please e-mail transferstation@salisburyct.us by Thursday 8/27/20. The Town of Salisbury is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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