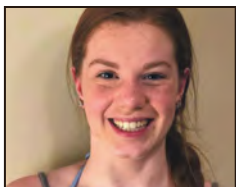


Young weather
watcher
Page A5



Tornado in
Falls Village
Page A6



A political
fantasy
Compass, Page A3

Kent Shop
Safe Summer Sale
Banner, Page A3

The Lakeville Journal

12 PAGES IN 1 SECTION VOLUME 124 NUMBER 1

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2020 \$1.25

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

Paley's market open after tornado hit

By Hunter O. Lyle

SHARON — As the sun rose over Paley's Farm Market on Route 343 in Sharon on Monday, Aug. 3, Chris Coon pulled into the parking lot of his business, where his employees were already working to clean up the aftermath of a tornado from the evening before.

Coon walked over and began surveying the damage with his workers, standing in front of a greenhouse that only yesterday had been fully functional. That greenhouse was now one of three that sat stripped of its plastic coverings, exposing bent metal frames.

"It sure looked to me like it came from Amenia," Coon said. "There were some very strange clouds, almost like a horizontal cloud that you could see stuff going up."

Coon, who owns the farm and market with his wife, Sarah Paley Coon (sister of farm founder and former owner Charlie Paley), took shelter in a small opening between the shop and outside cooler when the weather turned on Sunday evening, Aug. 2, at about 6 p.m.

"It almost looked like someone was burning a huge brush pile" he said of the cloud.

See TORNADO, Page A10



PHOTOS BY HUNTER O. LYLE

The plastic sheets that once covered the greenhouses at Paley's Farm Market lay in tatters after being hit by a tornado on Sunday, Aug. 2. A major storm, Isaias, was also heading for the region Tuesday at press time.



State Sen. Miner's critique of the new police bill

By Patrick L. Sullivan

The "Act Concerning Police Accountability" passed the state Senate 21-15 on Wednesday, July 29, and was signed into law by Gov. Ned Lamont (D) on Friday, July 31.

State Sen. Craig Miner (R-30) voted against the bill.

In a phone interview Sunday, Aug. 2, Miner said the primary reason he voted "no" was he believes the effect of the bill "could be to destabilize public safety."

Miner said the bill will create a new legal process in state (rather than federal) courts for handling complaints about police misconduct and noted that there are often several law enforcement officers present at an incident. He said he was worried that an entire group of officers could be held liable for the misconduct of one officer.

Miner said even though the majority Democrats supporting the bill argued that individual officers would not have to buy their own liability insurance, he noted that the bill creates a task force to report back to the Legislature on the cost of the legislation to

municipalities.

Miner said the idea of individual officers buying insurance is "clearly contemplated."

He also expressed concern that insurance costs for municipalities would rise.

"Towns are obligated to defend" against lawsuits, he said, adding that those lawsuits would now take place "in an uncertain court setting."

He said ultimately he thinks the bill will make it harder for municipalities to hire and train public safety personnel.

Miner was also critical of a provision in the bill that changes the rules for a traffic stop search of a vehicle.

With a few exceptions, "under the new procedure a traffic stop can't end up in a charge for anything else," such as drugs or firearms.

"You'd have to smell marijuana" to have probable cause, he said.

Miner said that with the ongoing opioid epidemic, "you couldn't have picked a worse time to make this change."

Miner said there were parts of the bill he supported, such as provisions for additional mental health resources for law enforcement officers.

"But that could have been done by policy, not legislation."

Connecticut primaries

Things to know about voting on Aug. 11

By Cynthia Hochswender

Area towns are preparing for the primary voting session on Tuesday, Aug. 11. Many voters have chosen to vote by absentee ballot, but town halls and registrars are now preparing to have voters arrive to cast their ballots in person.

Each town's protocols will be slightly different. Masks and 6-foot distancing are requested and suggested. Voters are asked to come alone and not bring children.

Mail-in and online registration ends on Thursday, Aug. 6, but in-person registration is possible through Monday morning, Aug. 10. Unaffiliated voters can also choose a major party affiliation and new voters can register in person until noon on Aug. 10.

Absentee ballots may be mailed in, or dropped in the drop box in front of town hall until 8 p.m. on primary day (Aug. 11). Voters who are uncomfortable going to a polling place because of COVID-19 (or for other legally acceptable reasons) can request an absentee ballot from the town clerk up until Aug. 10. Many towns have the absentee ballot application on their town website. They can also be found (with information about the process) at www.myvote.ct.gov/absentee.

Each town will make its own specific arrangements; questions should be addressed to the registrars and town clerks in the voter's town. Get contact information on the town's website.

— Cynthia Hochswender

Sharon Hospital will now share its president with Putnam Hospital

By Cynthia Hochswender

SHARON — At a time when anxiety about health care is at an unusually high level among Tri-state region residents, the Nuvance Health medical system has announced that it will now split Sharon Hospital President Mark Hirko's time between two facilities.

Nuvance announced on Friday, July 31, that Dr. Hirko will also be president of Putnam Hospital in Carmel, N.Y. He replaces Peter Kelly, who has been president of Putnam since 2016; Kelly will now be president of Vassar Brothers Hospital in Poughkeepsie, N.Y.

Kelly replaces Joseph J. Mullany in that role. Nuvance did not indicate where

Mullany is going or why he is leaving.

Hirko was reassuring in an interview on Friday morning. He noted that in the recent months, because of the COVID-19 quarantine, a majority of meetings at the hospital are already being held online, via Zoom.

"Even when I'm on vacation, I'm meeting with the staff everyday on Zoom," he said.

He also is able to rely on Sharon Hospital Chief Nursing Officer Christina McCulloch, who is in charge of many of the hospital's day to day operations. McCulloch has been at the hospital through the tenures of three different presidents at this point,

See HOSPITAL, Page A10

River rescue in problem area in Kent

By Cynthia Hochswender

KENT — An 18-year-old swimmer was rescued from the Housatonic River in Kent at an area that has become a popular swimming and picnic spot for out-of-town visitors.

Kent Volunteer Fire Dept. Assistant Chief Gary Hock was the incident commander for the call, which came in to 911 at about 3:25 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 3.

In total, 10 fire company volunteers and five EMTs answered the call, Hock estimated, and mutual aid was requested from Cornwall and nearby Warren, Conn. Both those towns have water rescue teams.

When the emergency volunteers arrived at North Kent Road #2, the young man had already been pulled from the water by his sister-in-law and cousin, Hock said. The two had jumped into the river to save their relative. There is a heavy current in the water at that area, Hock said, but he added that the water did not

Concerns about visitors and fishing along the Housatonic River continue to be raised. Turn to Page A10 for full story

seem higher or faster than normal for this time of year, in spite of the heavy rains and tornado on Sunday afternoon.

"We didn't have to get down to the river because by the time we got there the party was semi-responsive and conscious and breathing," Hock said.

The volunteers were unable to find out exactly what happened, in part because there was a language barrier, Hock said. There had been other bathers at that section of the river, but by the time the emergency vehicles turned up, most of the cars were leaving. Only the swimmer and his sister-in-law and cousin remained.

North Kent Road #2 has been a problem area for many

See RESCUE, Page A10

Absentee voting and the November election

By Leila Hawken

In an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, the state House of Representatives passed a bill to allow absentee vote by mail ballots for the November election. The bill was passed by the Senate on Tuesday, July 28. Gov. Ned Lamont promised to sign the measure, which allows voters to vote absentee if they are concerned about being exposed

to the coronavirus.

Voting by mail (absentee) is already an option for the Aug. 11 primary.

State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) said the House debate on the Governor's Proclamation containing four bills (one of which was the voting bill) lasted through the night on Thursday,

See VOTING, Page A10



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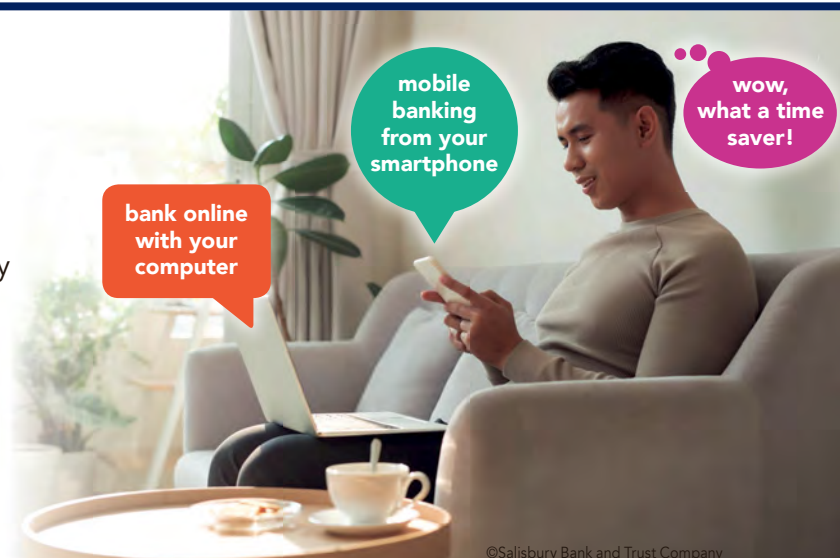
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In The Journal this week

LEGAL NOTICES..... A2	VIEWPOINT..... A8
COMPASS..... A3-4	OPINION..... A9
OUR TOWNS..... A5-6	CLASSIFIEDS..... A11
OBITUARIES..... A7	SPECIALIST..... A12

Three-day forecast

Friday..... Cloudy, high 82°/low 62°
 Saturday..... Thunderstorms, 82°/62°
 Sunday..... Sun, 85°/65°

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 a utility pole

On July 24 at approximately 8:45 p.m. on Clayton Road in North Canaan a 2012 Ford Fusion driven by Adam Derwitsch, 23, of Ashley Falls, Mass., struck an Eversource utility pole. Derwitsch stated he was not looking at the road. He was issued a verbal warning for failure to maintain the lane.

Struck a guardrail

On July 24 at approximately 10 p.m. on Mudge Pond Road in Sharon a 2019 Subaru Forester driven by Amy Tocco, 55, of Sharon swerved off the roadway and struck a metal rope guardrail. She was issued a verbal warning for failure to maintain the lane.

Flat tire

On July 25 at approximately 7 a.m. on Canaan Road in Falls Village a 2010 Subaru Legacy driven by Garrett Happ, 19, of Great Barrington, Mass., got a flat tire and struck an object off the road. He was issued an infraction for failure to maintain the lane.

Disturbance at camp

On July 26 at approximately 4 p.m. Troop B responded to an active domestic disturbance at the Lone Oak Campsites in North Canaan. Following an investigation, Paola Cartagena, 22, of Waterbury, Conn., was charged with breach of peace in the second degree and assault in

the third degree. She was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on July 27. The other party involved, Samantha Avila, 27, of Waterbury, Conn., was found to have an outstanding warrant. She was charged with failure to appear in the second degree. She was scheduled to appear in Waterbury Superior Court on Sept. 8.

Domestic incident

On July 26 at approximately 5:45 p.m. Troop B responded to a domestic incident on Norfolk Road in North Canaan. Albert Gould, 41, of North Canaan was charged with disorderly conduct. He was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on July 27.

Rear-ended a street sweeper

On July 29 at approximately 7:30 a.m. on Church Street in North Canaan a 2009 Ford F-150 driven by Katherine McClearn, 20, of Summit, N.J., collided into the rear of a 1985 Mobile street sweeper registered to the town of North Canaan and driven by Byron Carlson, 67, of North Canaan. McClearn was transported to Sharon Hospital for minor injuries. She was issued an infraction for failure to drive at a reasonable distance apart.

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

Summer sales, safely, in Kent

KENT — The Kent Chamber of Commerce will not host the Sidewalk Festival this year in order to keep visitors and the Kent community safe. Shops will, however, offer a Shop Safe Summer Sale for two weeks/ three weekends, from Friday, Aug. 7, to Sunday, Aug. 23.

The extended sale period will allow for the limited capacity in shops and social distancing recommendations. Masks are required in all shops. Selected shops will have tents outside offering sale goods and many will have sales and promotions inside.

Participating merchants include: Chestnut Woodworking, The Covered Wagon Country Store, Eckert Fine Art, Foreign

Cargo, Rolling River Antiques & Gifts, Silver & Sage Trading, Sundog Shoe & Leather, Tarot in Thyme and Terston Home Accents & Apparel.

Go to www.kentct.com for more information.

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

Check them out inside.

- CVS
- Herrington's
- Ocean State Job Lot
- William Pitt Sotheby's Realty

How one town's EMTs are coping with the coronavirus

By Leila Hawken

CORNWALL — Having now logged several months of COVID-19 response training and efforts, the Cornwall Emergency Response Team was invited to present a report to town residents on how the virus has been dealt with in Cornwall.

The Cornwall Library sponsored the talk, which was held online on Friday, July 24.

The principal speaker was Elizabeth Ridgway, who is an EMT and an emergency department nurse at Sharon Hospital.

She was joined by Diane Beebe, an EMT and the town's emergency response director and First Selectman Gordon Ridgway (who is also the father of Elizabeth).

All are part of what is known as the town's Unified Command in response to the pandemic.

"We are in good collaborative hands," said Honora Horan, representing the library and hosting the talk. Her comment also highlighted the efforts of the team and the many volunteers who have stepped up to help their

neighbors when needed.

A detailed description of the many aspects of the pandemic in Cornwall was provided by Elizabeth Ridgway, who said that the Cornwall EMTs provide service to all of Cornwall as well as the eastern parts of Sharon.

She recalled the first case that was reported nationally (which was in Washington state) was identified on Jan. 20 of this year. The first case in Connecticut was in Danbury, ascribed to someone who worked at a hospital in Westchester County, one of the early hotspots.

She thanked all of the local residents who have volunteered, providing PPE equipment as necessary and remaining available for a myriad of essential tasks. Much needed to be done, including changing the airflow patterns in emergency vehicles and installing ultra-violet light at the firehouse to decontaminate equipment.

Cornwall has had no fatalities, Ridgway said, noting that it is a good time to be in Connecticut, and that the state's collaboration with New York and New

Jersey in setting restrictions has been productive and helpful.

Diane Beebe praised the local fire department volunteers and town residents' cooperation and amazing community spirit.

"We are not past this," Beebe cautioned.

"My biggest fear is complacency," she added, encouraging everyone to continue to practice the protocols and use the services being provided by the town.

Gordon Ridgway reported that more than \$100,000 was raised for the food pantry from 300 individual donors. He

said that all of the people who came to their second homes in Cornwall to ride out the virus observed the protocols with care. Many are planning to stay on and enroll their children in the local school system, which would enhance the growth of the town. The Region One schools have seen shrinking enrollment in recent years and would benefit from having larger student bodies.

Speaking of the emergency team, Ridgway said, "We are more prepared; we know how to protect ourselves and our community. This is a vicious disease."

SFS offers farm market vouchers

SALISBURY — Salisbury Family Services is continuing its popular Farm Market Voucher program through which eligible families will receive vouchers to be used at the Salisbury Farmers Market and local farm stands. Vouchers may be used for the purchase of produce and meats and/or eggs.

Call Patrice McGrath at 860-435-5187 for more information and to receive a voucher.

Beebe Hill school tours for summer

FALLS VILLAGE — The Beebe Hill schoolhouse, located at the corner of Beebe Hill and Railroad Street in Falls Village, is now open to visitors on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon through Aug. 29.

Appointments to visit may also be scheduled by calling 860-824-0655 or 860-824-8226.

All visitors must wear a mask. A maximum of three people will be allowed inside at a time.

COVID-19 grant for CCCC

NORTH CANAAN — The Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation Women & Girls Fund has awarded a local child care center working to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 at its facility.

Canaan Child Care Center was awarded \$2,500 in support of emergency gap funding for child care costs

For more information about The Women & Girls Fund or to learn how you can support its mission, go to www.northwestcf.org/womenandgirls.



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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that on August 20, 2020 at 6:30 PM, at a Zoom meeting (Zoom login information will be posted on the agenda which will be posted at Town Hall and on the Town's web site) the Canaan/Falls Village Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the following application.

Consideration of a Special Permit application for an interior lot at 55 Music Mountain Road Canaan/Falls Village, CT; at this hearing, interested person may be heard and written communication received.

Thomas Scott
 Zoning Enforcement Officer
 08-06-20
 08-13-20

LEGAL NOTICE

To Whom It May Concern: Notice is hereby given that on August 20, 2020 at 6:45 PM, by way of a Zoom meeting (Zoom login information will be posted on the agenda which will be posted at Town Hall and on the Town's web site), the Canaan/Falls Village Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on the following application.

Consideration of a Special Permit application for a Memorial Conservation Forest at 300 Music Mountain Road, Canaan/Falls Village, CT; at this hearing, interested persons may be heard and written communication received.

Thomas Scott
 Zoning Enforcement Officer
 08-06-20
 08-13-20

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following applications were approved by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on July 27, 2020:

Site Plan Application #2020-0097 for the demolition and rebuilding of a single-family dwelling in the Lake Protection Overlay District. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 66 as Lot 40 and is known as 27 West Shore Place, Salisbury, Connecticut. The owner of the property is Julie G. Skattum, Trustee.

Site Plan Application #2020-0098 for the demolition and rebuilding of a single-family dwelling in the Lake Protection Overlay District. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 69 as Lot 5 and is known as 22 Channel Road, Salisbury, Connecticut. The owner of the property is Nancy W. Collins.

Site Plan Application #2020-0099 for an addition to a single-family dwelling in the Lake Protection Overlay District. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 58 as Lot 21 and is known as 75 Washinee Heights Road, Salisbury, Connecticut. The owners of the property are Jane Ross & Donald Ronchi.

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

Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
 Martin Whalen, Secretary
 08-06-20



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

August 6 - 12, 2020

COOKBOOKS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Here's What To Do With Your Summer Farm Bounty

The zucchini are everywhere, threatening to take over your kitchen and your garden. No one will accept them as "gifts" any longer. You need a cookbook with some really good summer squash recipes, and while we're at it let's talk about Swiss chard, corn and tomatoes.

"The Berkshires Farm Table Cookbook" is here to help. Published in May 2020, it is oddly nostalgic, showing farmers at work in fields with no protective facial gear. It's also a nice reminder that, no matter how bad things get, there are always tomatoes.

The authors are Robert Bildner and Elisa Spungen Bildner and chef Brian Alberg (formerly executive chef of the Red Lion in Stockbridge, Mass.).



PHOTO BY CLAY WILLIAMS

A recipe for roasted zucchini and cherry tomato pizza is only one of dozens included in "The Berkshires Farm Table Cookbook." The authors will do a Zoom talk on Friday, Aug. 14, with the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Conn.

Continued on next page

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HOT JAZZ ON A SUMMER EVENING AT THS

The Peter McEachern-Mario Pavone Phase 2 Quintet will perform a jazz concert at the Torrington Historical Society on Friday, Aug. 14, at 6 p.m. (rain date: Aug. 15). McEachern, a Salisbury resident, and Pavone are well-known, award-winning recording artists.

There will be 31 socially distanced locations. Each location is \$30 and can seat a group of one to four people.

Wear masks and bring your own chairs or blankets. Advance sales only.

Lawn locations can be purchased at the Society's website, www.torringtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Peter McEachern of Salisbury and his jazz quintet of nationally known performers will put on a show on Aug. 14 in Torrington.



PHOTO SUBMITTED



PHOTO BY JOSEPHINE SITTENFELD

Curtis Sittenfeld, above, will talk about her new novel on Aug. 24 with writer Heidi Pitlor.

FROM THE MOUNT: SITTENFELD, AN HEIR TO THE WHARTON STYLE

The Mount in Lenox, Mass., was the home of one of America's greatest female authors, Edith Wharton, who was among other things a Jane Austen-level chronicler of the social mores of her time.

Many readers feel that Curtis Sittenfeld is the late 20th century/early 21st century's new American Jane Austen/Edith Wharton. Her books on prep schools and the wives of American presidents (and a modern update on Austen's own "Pride and Prejudice," called "Eligible") are fun bestsellers with great depth.

Sittenfeld's newest novel, "Rodham," imagines what Hillary's life would have been like if she hadn't married Bill.

Sittenfeld will discuss her new book and other projects with author Heidi Pitlor in a Zoom



talk sponsored by The Mount on Monday, Aug. 24, at 4 p.m.

Pitlor lives in Massachusetts, near Boston. Sittenfeld has no geographical connection to the Berkshires or The Mount but in many ways embodies and carries on the work of Wharton.

To register for this free talk, go to www.edithwharton.org/event/true-conversations-with-curtis-sittenfeld/.

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"In order to have a safe summer Kent is not hosting the Sidewalk Festival this year but many shops will be offering sales over the course of two weeks/three weekends. The two week sale will allow us to adhere to the limited occupancy in the shops and for social distancing. Please adhere to guidelines and wear a mask while shopping in Kent."

— Kent Chamber of Commerce

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ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

From Out of the Mists, An Art Show on Slate Tiles

Like many cultural organizations, the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn., had arts events scheduled for the spring and summer — and had to cancel them because of the COVID-19 quarantine.

The Hunt Library is open once again, and the art show that was on its wall has come alive with it. It's all very Brigadoon — the mythical Scottish town that disappears into the mists for 100 years at the end of every day.

The century-old feeling is intensified by the theme of the Hunt's ongoing show: Tiles from the library's original slate roof (installed two centuries ago, in 1819, which would be two days in Brigadoon time) were distributed to some of the area's most beloved artists. They created small works of art that are now for sale as a fundraiser.

There are works by well-known locals, such as Ann Bidou and Mary Lanier of

Robert Andrew Parker's "Man and Horse," on slate tile, is one of many works on slate in the D.M. Hunt Library's new show in Falls Village, Conn.

Falls Village, Nancy Bevans of Cornwall and Serena Weld Granberry of Salisbury. And there are works by famous locals including Robert Andrew Parker of Cornwall, whose Don Quixote-esque "Man and Horse" is still available for sale (\$300), as is his work "Wildlife" (also \$300). The prices of the works range from \$50 to \$600.

Many of the works are also by students at the nearby Lee H. Kellogg elementary school.

To take an online look, go to www.huntlibrary.org/art-wall; the library hours are also listed there if you would like to stop by and see the works in person.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

For Your Consideration: Women Take The Lead in 2020 Films 'On Demand'

Movie theaters are closed across the country due to the pandemic and many have dubbed this as "The Summer Without Blockbusters." You may wonder, if nothing changes this fall, will there be anything to nominate for the Oscars?

The answer is: absolutely. Small, independent films that were set for theaters have been released "on demand" this year — and it turns out the heroes of quality streaming are female directors.

Here are the top films directed by women that were

released while theaters have gone dark, and what they should be nominated for in 2021.

"BLOW THE MAN DOWN" DIRECTED BY BRIDGET SAVAGE COLE AND DANIELLE KRUDY

In a close-knit fishing village in Maine, under the chill of winter, two young women struggle in the aftermath of their mother's funeral. One sister worries about their bleak finances; the other just murdered a man.

In this quirky thriller, first-time filmmakers Brid-

get Savage Cole and Danielle Krudy blend wit, bite and a pathos that connects the steely women of this town, from the meddling book club set to the young sex workers on the piers.

For your consideration: Best Supporting Actress Margo Martindale. As the bitter glamour-cat who runs the local brothel, Kent resident and Emmy Award-winner Margo Martindale is as ambiguous as she is dangerous. Wrapped in fur and resentment, she takes hold of every scene with wicked fun.

"FIRST COW" DIRECTED BY KELLY REICHARDT

Kelly Reichardt makes slow movies about slow-talking people in the American West. In her poetic epics, quiet is the language of the frontier states, where lonely people live without a safety net.

In "First Cow," two very different men — a kindly cook and a Chinese fugitive — make camp in the Oregon Territory in the early 1800s. It's a place so joyless that the arrival of a single cow hatches an unlikely get-rich scheme.

For your consideration: Best Production Design. Watching "First Cow" feels like going back in time, with long tracking shots that explore the activity of the 1800s colony with meticulously costumed extras, from the worn-down settlers to the indigenous Natives.

"SHIRLEY" DIRECTED BY JOSEPHINE DECKER

Josephine Decker's surreal, voyeuristic "Shirley" is no biopic. The entirely fictional tale instead posits: What if Shirley Jackson lived in a Shirley Jackson story? Taking a few details from the American horror writer's life, this uncomfortable hothouse drama set on the campus of Vermont's Bennington College explores a dark mentorship between Jackson and a pregnant newlywed.

For your consideration: Best Actress Elisabeth Moss. Accepting praise for the publication of "The

... farm bounty

Continued from previous page

The Bildners, who have backgrounds in both law and in food production, spent seven years visiting working farms in Berkshire County, old ones and newer ones, farms on 2 acres and others on 200 acres, dairy farms, vegetable farms, organic farms, you name it. Each farm and its owner/farmers get profiled in text and in photos taken by Robert Bildner.

Alberg developed recipes for each farm, focusing on different summer and early autumn foods. There are also recipes from beloved Berkshire restaurants including the Prairie Whale in Great Barrington and John Andrews Farmhouse Restaurant in South Egremont.

Like a good meal, there is plenty of variety and there are innovative ideas that ar-

en't too far out or complicated (frisee, arugula and tart salad for Ted Dobson and Equinox Farm in Sheffield; pan-seared Massachusetts striped bass, from the Old Inn on the Green in New Marlborough, Mass.; roasted zucchini and cherry tomato pizza, using a pre-made dough from Berkshire Mountain Bakery in Housatonic).

The Bildners will talk about their new book in a Zoom talk hosted by the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Conn., on Friday, Aug. 14, at 7 p.m., as part of the library's summer-long series of online author talks, offered in place of the annual summer book signing.

The talk is free. Register and purchase a signed copy of the book at www.hotchkisslibrary.eventbrite.com.

NEW SUMMER SHOWS AT SHARON PLAYHOUSE

The summer schedule for Sharon Playhouse is coming together as the venue figures out ways to cope with the COVID-19 quarantine.

Screenings and stage performances in the parking lot have proved popular. Audience members remain in their cars. Tickets are \$50 per vehicle. Space is limited. The patio bar opens at 6:30 p.m., with social distancing and plenty of disinfectants and wipe.

The performance begins at 8 p.m. Parking spaces are assigned on a first come, first served basis.

Coming up on Aug. 15 and 16 is the always popular Michael Berkeley's Diva's show; this year it's "Divas Do the Drive-in."

"Motown Under the Stars" is on Aug. 29. The Connecticut premiere of the musical "The Perfect Fit" will be on Sept. 5 and "Ivy Stand-up, the Ivy League of Comedy" will be on Sept. 12.

Discounts are available for buying multiple shows ahead of time (call 860-364-7469 ext. 200). Ticket purchases otherwise can be made online at www.sharon-playhouse.org.

Lottery" in The New Yorker but privately anguished over what she will write next, this Jackson is a cruel, manipulative alcoholic who Elisabeth Moss — with a mad, sweaty grin — makes engaging and unpredictable.

"NEVER RARELY SOMETIMES ALWAYS" DIRECTED BY ELIZA HITTMAN

Two teenage girls secretly depart from their working-class town for New York City when one of them becomes pregnant. Because of state laws, a minor cannot have an abortion without consent from a parent in Pennsylvania, and "Never Rarely Sometimes Always" follows the two best friends on their homeless trek through Manhattan over two-nights, using what money they have for a procedure at Planned Parenthood.

For your consideration: Best Director Eliza Hittman. "Never" is writer-director Eliza Hittman's third film ("It Felt Like Love,"

"Beach Rats") in a thematic trilogy about the ways sexual vulnerability affects low-income teenagers in New York City. Shot with a beautiful, airy tenderness you might not expect from that description, Hittman is a bit like if Sofia Coppola grew up on Coney Island. Her latest is a masterpiece of the unspoken knowledge of young girls in America who toughen up early, who guard themselves against risk and who look out for themselves when no else will.

All these films are now available for rental across streaming platforms. "Shirley" was available online this summer through The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., at www.themoviehouse.net. Check The Moviehouse and The Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington, Mass., at www.thetriplex.com for new independent films available to stream.

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Our Towns

HVRHS graduate charts an unlikely path

By Shane Stampfle

SHARON — “When I was young, my parents and I would sit outside on our front porch whenever there was a thunderstorm,” said Allison Black, 18. “They didn’t want me to be afraid of thunder.”

Although they could not have anticipated it at the time, this planted the seed for her love of meteorology.

A member of Housatonic Valley Regional High School’s Class of 2020, Black is pursuing her passion for gnarly weather at Ohio University next year. She is the recipient of a scholarship from the Sharon Land Trust, given to a student studying natural sciences.

“I’m dying to see a tornado,” said Black, who has been fascinated with them since seeing one on television at age 11. “The next day I went to my science teacher, who said I should be a meteorologist.”

While Athens, Ohio, may not seem like a hotbed of tornado activity, Black was impressed with their meteorology department and connection to Oklahoma.

“I chose Ohio partly because

in the spring they take a group of students to Oklahoma to go chase tornadoes, and that’s my dream.”

She deemed the Sooner State too far for her undergraduate study, but plans on attending the University of Oklahoma for graduate school.

Black hopes eventually to work for the National Weather Service, but acknowledged that realizing that aspiration is partly out of her control.

“They go on hiring sprees when they get their meteorologists,” she said. Those are followed by 10-to-15 year stretches when the Weather Service “hardly hires anyone.”

There are some jobs in the field she has already ruled out.

“I was surprised to find that very few meteorologists are broadcast meteorologists,” she said, before adding, “I don’t want to be on TV.”

Black sees meteorology as an ever-relevant profession.

“The weather affects everyone, and it’s always changing.”

Editor’s note: This article was written before the tornado hit the Northwest Corner on Sunday, Aug. 2.



PHOTO BY EILEEN BLACK

Allison Black intends to pursue tornadoes, thunderstorms and her passion for meteorology when she starts college this fall.

Hilltop Road residents repeat speeding concerns

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Traffic and speed along Hilltop Road led residents to repeat their concerns at the regular meeting of the Sharon Board of Selectmen on Tuesday, July 28.

Representing a group of residents who live along the road, Robert Lindgren asked the selectmen to consider installing stop signs at the entrance to Sharon Center School. Such signs, he reasoned, might deter speeders and discourage drivers from finding the road to be an attractive northbound shortcut between routes 4 and 41.

When the issue was first raised in November 2019, the selectmen put residents in touch with the State Police at Troop B in North Canaan. Speed monitoring devices were set up. Residents of the road said that the preventive measures taken so far have not been effective.

Results of a seven-day speed study conducted by the State Police were outlined by First Selectman Brent Colley, who noted that 80 cars were clocked as traveling between 46 and 55 mph in the 25 mph zone. In total, 1,190 cars were exceeding the speed limit, or 65.9%, over the seven-day period.

“We really need to do something more impactful,” Lindgren told the selectmen, adding that the police can only be there occasionally. He voiced his understanding that the town has the authority to install stop signs.

Now that people are living in their second homes up here in the Northwest Corner, Lindgren said he saw the need to preserve and defend small-town life, including ensuring the safety of children being dropped off and

picked up at Sharon Center School. He noted, too, that residents are willing to contribute the cost of installing any stop signs.

Indicating that his role is to represent the whole town and think of the town’s issues as a whole, Colley said, “Even when you install stop signs, people don’t always stop.” The issue would need to be shared with the town’s wider public to gain their input, Colley added.

Selectman Dale Jones said that he could be in favor of stop signs, but that people tend to interpret “stop” as an option. However, he added that he looked favorably on the idea because of the safety concerns.

Saying that he understands the residents’ frustrations, Selectman Casey Flanagan observed that pedestrians along Hilltop Road do not have much room to walk. He noted that Hilltop does help to reduce the traffic flow through the town’s center, and he would need to study the topography of the road and how the presence of stop signs might cause traffic back-up.

Recognizing speeding as a universal problem throughout the town, Colley noted that the selectmen need to deal with the town as a whole. A further issue lies in enforcement, he noted.

“It’s a tough problem that we have as a small town,” Colley said.

In other news, the selectmen announced that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, three annual events have been canceled. They are the Car Show sponsored by Christ Church Episcopal, the annual Craft Fair and the Sharon Classic Road Race to benefit the Sharon Day Care.

Salisbury continues plan for affordable rentals

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — In a brief special meeting on Thursday, July 23 (held online), the Board of Selectmen extended the Salisbury Housing Committee’s option on the Holley Block property by one year.

At a town meeting on June 27, 2018, voters approved an option to lease the Lakeville property to the housing trust for the possible construction of 12 to 18 affordable housing units.

The option was scheduled to run out at the end of this month.

First Selectman Curtis Rand said the COVID-19 pandemic has brought many projects to a halt, including the Holley Block.

He reminded the board: “This isn’t a lease. It’s an option to someday enter into negotiations with the Board of Selectmen.”

Selectman Don Mayland said, “I can’t think of any reason we wouldn’t do this.”

Selectman Chris Williams agreed.

The vote to extend the option by one year was unanimous.

No wasted time at an in-person town meeting

By Leila Hawken

SHARON — Attendance was sparse at a July 16 town meeting to approve expenditures and tweak the wording in a road construction ordinance.

Seven residents were present for the appropriately distanced in-person meeting on Thursday, July 16, with Barbara Prindle elected to serve as moderator. Town officials got it all done in under six minutes.

Unanimous votes came in rapid succession for approving the 2019 financial report, and approvals for various expenditures that had been rec-

ommended by the Board of Finance.

Minor changes to the town’s Highway Construction Ordinance were also approved.

Reached for clarification of the changes, First Selectman Brent Colley said on Thursday, July 23, that the changes will have no effect on current town roads. The town presently has just under 29 miles of dirt and gravel roads. The wording changes are to align the ordinance with the wording in planning and zoning regulations in an effort to minimize any confusion when future subdivision applications are submitted.

PROPERTY TRANSFERS

The following property transfer information is from the individual towns. Other property transfers were listed in the issue of July 30.

Salisbury

June 23, property at 19 Hemlock Lane from Norma Cirincione to Michael Kiernan and Marielle Chaves for \$635,000.

June 24, property at 23 Walton St. from Marylee Trinchitella and Nicholas P. Trinchitella to Evan J. Cooper for \$317,000; and 10 acres at Lot 1 Taconic from Denise K. Nordland and Jeffrey D. Nordland to Mies O’Neil Surdaval for \$400,000.

June 25, property at 67 Old CNE Road from Dunraven Corporation to William J. Colaric and Stephanie L. Colaric for \$995,000; and property at 351 Twin Lakes Road from Peter Spiegel trustee and Jan Ellen Spiegel trustee to the Tyler Rosenlicht and Jill Pace Revocable Trust for \$805,000.

June 26, property at 19 Washinee Heights Road from Luis F. Arroyo and Thomas M. Callahan to Washinee LLC for \$2,950,000.

June 29, property at 192 Wells Hill Road from Mark Woods and Stacey Woods to Karen L. Nickerson for \$1,115,000.

June 30, property at 94 Washinee Heights Road from Bernard R. Morel to Joshua M. Levy and Amanda A. Levy for \$675,000.

Cornwall

Feb. 3, property at 74 Flat Rocks Road from the Salisbury Bank & Trust Co. trustee and Arthur Schor Revocable Living Trust Declaration to Michael Royall and Beth Twersky for \$405,000.

Feb. 24, property at 92 Cream Hill Road from Peter D. Caruso

to Keith J. Bodwell and Christiann K. Bodwell for \$329,000.

March 5, property at 12 Burlington Lane from Sleep Reader Management LLC to Rebecca Roache for \$350,000.

March 12, property at Cream Hill Road from Lawrence M. Stevens Jr. to the Robert J. & Joan C. McGuire Residence Trust for \$110,000.

April 7, property at 76 Popple Swamp Road from Ingrid Gould Ellen and David Gould Ellen to William H. Schenk for \$730,000.

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Confrontation: This was a case of indignity on Capitol Hill

It has been a couple of weeks or so since the day when U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho (R-Fla.) addressed his female colleague Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) with the most obscene and sexist language. And surprisingly, in the culturally twisted culture that we are currently living in, I heard many reflecting on this distasteful and vulgar encounter with, "What's the big deal? Everybody does it." And truly, yes, it happens all the time. From the streets of New York City to the alleys of California, whether in factories, bars, night clubs and even in seemingly dignified corporate offices, this shameful culture of embarrassing and insulting women has been accepted as a common behavior.

But if this kind of loathsome outburst toward a woman is a commonplace occurrence in various facets of our lives, one still could have hoped that this would never happen in the hallways of our Congress, where we hope our leaders aspire to having the rules of proper personal contact, civility and courtesy formulated and exercised. But as it became clear to us all, the mask of politeness was shattered and

the true face of Rep. Yoho was revealed for all to see.

There is no doubt in my mind that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez has not been the most hushed and reserved member of the Congress since she began her freshman term. From day one on her job, she has expressed her views in a spirited and at times forceful manner. Especially for a young representative, she has boldly questioned and criticized legislation and fellow representatives, to ensure that any new laws will benefit the hard-working members of the working class. Her demeanor naturally made her a target as one of the most criticized and despised members of the Congress by the right and the Republicans. But this attitude toward a U.S. representative does not give any congressman the right to speak to a congresswoman in

This was a brilliant speech delivered by a junior member of the Congress, a woman, advising men who are much older than she about proper behavior, dignity and respect.

I AM WIDE AWAKE

VAROUJAN FROUNDJIAN

the despicable, foul-mouthed manner that Rep. Yoho did. I would like to note here that none of the Republican congressmen who heard Rep. Yoho's words addressed to AOC even expressed disbelief or advised him that he had crossed the line.

Rep. Ocasio-Cortez reacted to this rude event presented in very realistic terms when she said that, "Every congresswoman and every woman in this country, all of us, have had to deal with this in some point and some shape in our lives."

Interestingly, Rep. Yoho did offer an apology, which was characterized with glaring insincerity. Instead of offering a genuine apology, Rep. Yoho tried to portray himself as a decent man who is a great husband and father. Although Rep. Yoho did utter the words, "I apologize," he cynically

used the moment to make sure that people think highly of him. But that artificial apology did not offer him escape from being disgraced, in my opinion. As The Washington Post reported, "A Christian nonprofit organization that fights world hunger asked Rep. Ted Yoho (R-Fla.) to resign from its board."

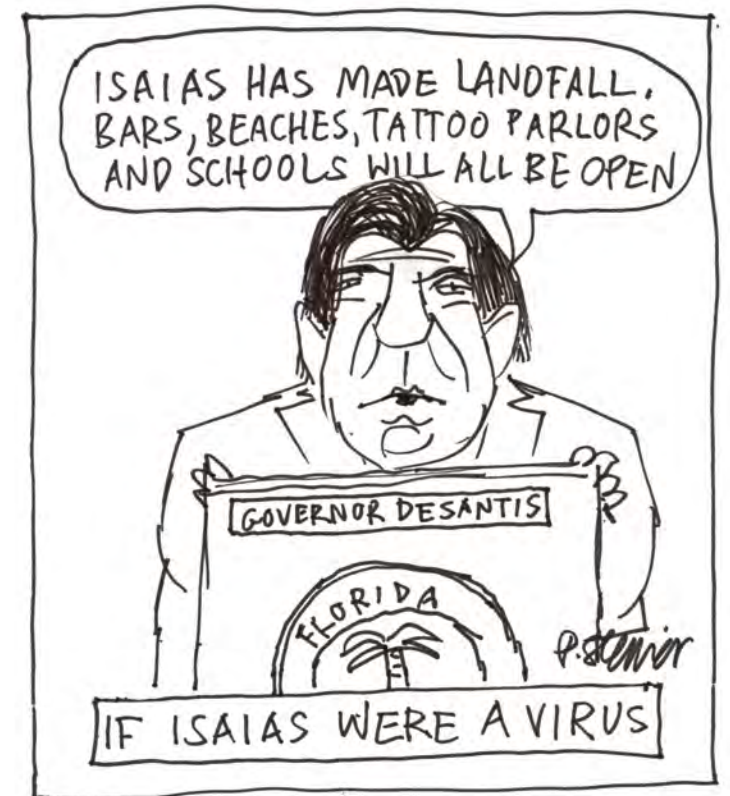
What is significant here is that Rep. Ocasio-Cortez brilliantly transformed this cruel incident into a broader issue of proper behavior and accountability. She made it a challenge for the entire nation to face and examine. In her speech, which has now gone viral across cyberspace, delivered on Capitol Hill, she made it clear that the verbal confrontation goes beyond a politician's views on a particular legislation. What she passionately expressed in her daring speech was her view on a man's dignity. It was about how men should behave when communicating with female members of their organizations. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez eloquently spoke about other men who also have families, and said that while they may be providers, and they may have wives, daughters and nieces, unfortunately none of these circumstances will prevent men

who feel it is their divine right to do so from treating women as if they were lowly creatures who can be insulted and shamed as they please.

This was a brilliant speech delivered by a junior member of the Congress, a woman, advising men who are much older

than she about proper behavior, dignity and respect.

Varoujan Froundjian is a graphic designer, Photoshop artist, writer, cartoonist, information technology and wine expert. He can be reached at varoujanfroundjian@gmail.com.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

More letters next page.

Winners for Connecticut

We have seen how hard it can be to get timely and essential legislation out of our state and national capitals. But the Connecticut Legislature has come together in a productive special session to craft, debate and pass two July 2020 laws — protecting the health of November voters in the age of COVID-19 and strengthening police accountability.

For this second law, think of our State Representative in the 64th — Maria Horn. Commend Maria Horn for her energy, her leadership and, perhaps above all, for her listening and negotiating skills in helping bring An Act Concerning Police Accountability (HB 6004) to a vote and the governor's desk for his signature.

Many families, like ours, include police officers who risk their lives to serve us so ably. But no officers and no civilians were served by the Minneapolis policeman (with 18 previous

complaints on file) whose knee pressed on the neck for over 8 minutes killed George Floyd. So Connecticut's laws needed clearer procedures for removing and decertifying that small fraction of police officers with multiple and serious charges of improper conduct.

State Rep. Horn approaches police accountability as a human issue and not a political issue. Drawing on her background as a federal prosecutor and serving on the Judiciary Committee in Hartford, Maria was there throughout HB 6004. The bill's detail runs 71 pages causing her to argue forcibly and successfully on this Committee for a one-year examination of the law's impact on municipalities before it goes into effect. Both the 64th District and our state are well served by Maria Horn and the informed hard work she brings to the job.

William Bachrach
Kent

Support these Democrats for statewide office

Last week's (July 30) letter from Tom Morrison, Chair of the Salisbury RTC, backed local Republican candidates without mentioning the leader of this no-longer Grand Old Party: a telling omission. Current Republican elected officials at all levels have been almost mute on the egregious comments and actions of President Trump, but this enabling-through-inaction can not continue. Note: the co-Founder of the Federalist Society, a very conservative organization, called for his impeachment after Trump suggested that he would move the date of the Nov. election. (He can't, of course. Only Congress can, and they haven't in the 240 years of our nationhood.)

Fleckless Republican leadership at the top bears responsibility for the tragedy of lives affected or taken by COVID-19 and its continuing economic impact. Crises require real leadership and organized action on the federal and state level. Both have been missing except in Democrat-led states.

Inaction by Republicans occurs everywhere. In Congress, it is the Democrats who take positive actions to protect and enhance the lives of Americans. U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5) has been a low-key yet potent voice that is heard by her leadership in the fight to protect and support education, in particular, and other critically important issues. She is a strong, independent person who considers both the short and long term needs of her constituents.

State Senator Craig Miner (R-30) has had a kind of sinecure in

Falls Village needs rental housing

In response to the July 30 letter, "Mohawk Trail part of the proposed housing equation," it's worth reminding Ms. Wernitz that many Falls Villagers live closer to either the Mohawk Trail or the Appalachian Trail than the River Road Homes will be sited. It's one of the wonderful things about living in Falls Village!

It's an ill-considered choice to use the elitist phrase "on the wrong side of the tracks." The suggestion that people who will live in River Road Homes would somehow endanger the trail is offensive. Why would people earning modest incomes have any less right to live in beautiful natural surroundings? The train tracks go through the middle of our town. It is absurd to say that there is a right or wrong side.

The Falls Village Incentive Housing Zone (IHZ) meets all eligibility to receive state fund-

ing. Neither the IHZ nor River Road Homes prevents recreational activity on the Mohawk Trail as is falsely implied. Therefore, the inclusion on the 2013 Incentive Housing Zone map is irrelevant and unnecessary.

As happens far too often, a person with nothing better to do criticizes the research, efforts, even the capabilities of those actively working on creating solutions to complex socioeconomic issues. The FVHT Board of Directors is made up of local citizens well-respected in their fields of expertise who care deeply about environmental issues and have been working for years to solve the real problem of our lack of affordable, energy-efficient rental homes in Falls Village. Fortunately, the vast majority of Falls Villagers are in support of the River Road Homes project.

the state Legislature, but what has he actually accomplished? David Gronbach, who is running against Miner for the seat, has common sense policies on healthcare, taxes and the environment that will enhance lives in District 30, plus the resolve to turn them into reality.

As for the state representative race: the NW Corner had been an out of sight, out of mind part of Connecticut in the state Legislature until Roberta Willis reversed that trend during her long and successful tenure as our representative. Maria Horn continues to ensure the voice of the NW Corner is heard in Hartford. Despite being in her freshman term, her expertise in law and finance was quickly recognized and she was appointed Co-Chair of the Appropriations Committee. She is also on key committees like Environment and the Joint Committee on Judiciary. She continues to listen to the voices and concerns of all her constituents through the myriad in-person and ZOOM meetings she has held in the last two years and her weekly legislative summations.

Her opponent refers to himself as a public servant but that does not necessarily translate to being effective as a representative in Hartford. Maria has proven that she has the time, energy and chops to make all our voices heard in the Legislature.

Barbara Maltby

Lakeville

Here are some facts:

As Habitat's Executive Director, Mr. Whelan, explained in his letter of July 23, the Mohawk Trail does cross Habitat for Humanity land, but not the 10-acre parcel that the FV Housing Trust Inc. will be purchasing, which is several hundred yards away.

Falls Village needs rental housing suitable for seniors, singles and families. However, our town does not have the municipal funds for development. The Falls Village Housing Trust is a solution.

The CT Department of Housing (DOH) only funds larger multi-family developments. River Road Homes is small by their standards.

Falls Village does not have a multi-acre block of land available in the town center.

The Falls Village Housing Trust responded to community

input and cut the size by 43% from the originally proposed project and moved it farther from River Road.

These homes will be maintained by a management company and will have landscaping upkeep. River Road Homes will be an attractive, well-cared-for development.

This development will house middle-income workers such as teachers, nurses, shop workers, restaurant staff and those working in various trades. Many local employers have told us their employees have difficulty finding suitable rentals.

For more information, please visit our website at: www.fallsvillagehousingtrust.org.

Felicia Brodzky Jones
Falls Village

Mary L. Trump's book: It's definitely a gotta-read

First off, anything I say here, Mary Trump has said better in her new book, "Too Much and Never Enough."

As I read the final chapter, I found myself thinking that no one will need to write the post-mortem book about Trump's impact on this country. His niece Mary has just done it. I'm here to say why others will also not be able to put her book down.

There are failed families, and then there are families, like Fred Trump's, who fail their nation. This one provides the kind of scrutiny that only a family member can provide, but with the benefit of hindsight and the help of a New York Times team that sorted through 19 boxes of financial records.

This is not a long book. Mary Trump succinctly chronicles the endless cycle of ego-feeding. Her

uncle is someone who "knows no one has ever loved him," but "if you aren't doing all you can to alleviate his suffering, then you should suffer, too."

She explains something I never understood: why Donald Trump publicly complains about how unfair everyone is to him. I always asked myself, "Why would he want to look helpless like that, when, on the other hand, he is constantly proclaiming himself to be so great?" Wouldn't he be embarrassed?

The behavior pattern is just another ploy (and the big "D" word, a Distraction) to give him pass after pass. He needs fake love yet strangely doesn't care if anyone really loves him. He has never had any friends. None. And he is incapable of realizing the difference between flattery and mockery.

Just think, hundreds of thou-

sands of lives lost just to impress an "audience of one: his long-dead father."

The book portrays original sin in the form of that monstrous father (Fred), a blind-eye mother (Mary senior), and a pathetic band of enablers who have brought our country to its "impending collapse." This is a family that none of us, even those who mistakenly think he cares about them, would ever want to spend time with.

Don't mistake Mary's story for pop psychology. It is brilliantly chronicled, not unlike a Norman Mailer foray into a family raised rotten. We are just lucky that this

family member survived to tell this fascinating, horrifying tale.

Finally, her saga left me incredulous that some of those same atoms of D.C. air captured by Donald Trump when inhaled by the likes of John Lewis could produce such a different outcome. Hopefully this is sufficient inspiration to pull us all halfway out of the swamp and give us a last gasp of sanity and direction.

There was only one Holocaust, but we need to find a different word to encapsulate this phenomenon ... so one like it never rears its ugly head again.

Molly Fitzmaurice
Sharon



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Church bells are ringing in Falls Village, too

It was good to read Elyse Harney's letter about the church bells ringing in Salisbury during this time of pandemic. As pastor of the Falls Village Congregational Church, I am glad to add our congregation to that roster of churches who have been ringing their bells as a sign of our trust in God and our commitment to express by our actions our care for our neighbors. We began ringing on March 31 and have continued ringing every day at 5 p.m.


Like the bells in many of the churches and other public buildings throughout the region, ours was cast by the Meneely Bell

Company of W. Troy. The Meneely Company made more than 65,000 bells from 1826 until it closed in 1952. The Falls Village bell was given by member Albert Dowd in 1896.

Our bells ringers have been Tracy Atwood, Bill Beebe, Terry Blass, Larry Bulson, Glen Chapel, Charlie Gumbert, Frank Hadsell, Dick Heinz, Dennis Jasmine, Ed and Suzan Kircher.


Let's keep those bells ringing as evidence of our hope during this challenging time.

Rich Reifsnnyder
Salisbury



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EDITORIAL

Transparency crucial on affordable housing

The continuing public discussion on affordable housing for the town of Falls Village has found a home on the Opinion page of this newspaper. We welcome that as a responsible way to carefully consider any issue and express one's opinions thoughtfully, given the need to plan what one is saying ahead of time and reread one's thoughts before they are committed to being published in the paper.

There is something about the irrevocable nature of printing one's thoughts on newsprint that makes one think hard about what needs to be said there. There's no taking it back once it has gone to press, unlike comments on Facebook or Twitter that can be removed if second thoughts are in order.

The Lakeville Journal has been a relentless proponent of increased affordable housing in our region, and will continue to be. The reasons for that are many, as has been so often related in this space, from being welcoming to young families that will keep our communities vibrant to offering reasonable homes for volunteers to providing places where older residents can downsize.

Another topic this newspaper comes down on the side of often is transparency, especially in government, whether it be state, local or federal. The two topics converge here, with the importance of openness being key in the planning for the proposed affordable housing in Falls Village.

If both sides are to eventually come together to assess the need and the solutions for increased housing in the area, and agree upon what the resolution should be, all those involved need to feel heard.

There are reasons why people are confused or defensive even if they say they support increased affordable housing in the area. The Falls Village Housing Trust needs to be open and upfront about its ongoing planning and should welcome public comments from those in town who care about what their community will look like in five or 10 years.

Now is the time for the housing trust to reveal all the planning and the options for outcomes. Once that happens, and all those whose lives will be affected by the construction of new housing can feel they understand everything that is on the table, it's much more likely new housing could become a reality.

With new people moving into the area to leave urban life behind during the threat of COVID-19, now is the perfect time for such plans to be implemented and new families and others to be welcomed into this small community. It would be to the benefit of the town and the region if something could come of the hard work put into the planning for affordable housing here by the housing trust. It is to be hoped that compromise can happen and additional viable and affordable housing can be made available in Falls Village.

Thanks to Sharon Playhouse

We want to express our deep gratitude to everyone at the Sharon Playhouse for their extraordinary generosity and assistance in hosting "Neighbors Helping Neighbors," our documentary film celebrating our volunteer first responders. While dealing with the challenge of their own summer schedule, they made time to help with the logistical and technical challenges of screening the film on two consecutive evenings.

Their careful planning and positive attitude made the events

not only possible but also celebratory. Honking horns testified to the enthusiastic response of the audience. Robert Levinstein, Alan Wager, Emily Soell, the Playhouse staff and many volunteers are also "neighbors helping neighbors" and exemplify the community spirit we all love. We can't thank them enough.

To see the film, go to www.vimeo.com/433676166.

Mary & Philip Oppenheimer and Anne Makepeace Salisbury

Whose idea was an IHZ in Falls Village?

On Sept. 23, 2020, the Falls Village Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z) will vote on a \$3.5 million housing development, "River Road Homes" encompassing five buildings with 16 housing units and 29 bedrooms to be built and managed by the Falls Village Housing Trust... in the woods two miles south of town.

Yes, money to build the project will come from state and other grants, and theoretically, rental income should cover operations going forward. So why should Falls Village taxpayers care?

Property taxes will help support River Road. Have our town's leaders considered the impact of the proposed development on our property taxes?

More students in the Housatonic Valley Regional High School will raise the mill rate that determines our property taxes. Our first selectman, Henry Todd, explained the recent hike in the Falls Village mill rate (to 25.7, or more than twice Salisbury's): "... our percentage of the students enrolled at the high school has increased 73% over the past two years. Since our percentage of students has increased so dramatically, so has our percentage of the total budget from the high school. Our costs for Region One, due solely to this percentage change, are up \$531,000 over

the last two years."

FVHT purports that the River Road Homes will pay property taxes, but other affordable housing projects in the Northwest Corner appear to be exempt from such taxes — and still struggle to get by. Kent Affordable Housing sought another grant of up \$1.2 million because the project it built 20 years ago needs repairs that rental income doesn't cover.

Nor has the FVHT offered any projections of income and expenses for River Road Homes. It has not estimated its project's impact on town services such as education, fire, ambulance, and the transfer station. P&Z officials have said it is not their job to consider such additional burdens on the town budget when voting on this very big project. Just what is their job?

In 2013, P&Z designated the property on River Road as an Incentive Housing Zone (IHZ) without notifying homeowners in the area of its plans, as is required by regulation. An IHZ expands residential density, allowing construction of, say, eight homes where once only one home could go, and its objective is to enhance utilization of transportation hubs or existing or planned infrastructure centers. On River Road, Falls Village, really? An IHZ is never to interfere with parks or recre-



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Harvest time! Hewat Community Garden in Salisbury

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

For affordable housing, take more care

Let's get something straight. We in Falls Village are NOT AGAINST affordable housing. We've said it 'til we're blue in the face. We are FOR IN-Town housing where people want to live. Some call those housing developments where people are concentrated together, far from towns, "Splat" housing. That's what Falls Village Housing Trust (FVHT), enabled by salaried professional grant writers at the "quasi-government" NW Hills Council of Government (NHCOG) (who have done most of the "heavy-lifting" and directed FVHT to housing consultants, architects and engineers) has proposed to get built. The planned \$3.5 million, 29 bedroom "Splat" will multiply our neighborhood population times four, ruin a pristine hillside through which the Mohawk Trail runs and raise our already sky-high (25.7) mill rate.

The FVHT is six people, two of whom reside in Salisbury (mill rate 11.6). Habitat for Humanity NWCT is selling the Lime Rock Station property to the FVHT. The President of Habitat (seller) is the Vice President the FVHT

(buyer). Conflict of Interest? Additionally, FVHT has provided no information on revenue and costs of running and maintaining this development. Due to COVID unemployment, many tenants in Kent affordable housing can't pay their rent, forcing the Town to "pass the hat" and hold bake sales. We sincerely sympathize. What would happen to this development if FVHT were unable to financially manage and maintain it? Would the town end up owning and running it, like Sharon has had to? Is that a responsibility the town and citizens are willing to accept?

Here's another twist. In 2013, unbeknownst to the townspeople of Falls Village, the FV P+Z radically (and we say, illegally) re-zoned The Lime Rock Station property as an "Incentive Housing Zone", with zero notifications, making it eligible for large state development grants. Incentive Housing Zones are intended for large cities, not the second smallest town in this state, Falls Village. The FV P+Z has shown us zero signed documents proving compliance or that the IHZ

was ever actually established by Connecticut state regulations. We are still awaiting proof, now nearly one year later. Because of those facts, 21 neighbors and residents protested by letter at the inaudible P+Z Zoom Meeting of Thursday July 23 that: 1) the IHZ is illegal; 2) the Public Hearing NOT be scheduled; 3) FVHT's Special Permit be denied. Read and ignored. The hearing was scheduled anyway, despite our pleas. Sept. 23.

I write to voice the concerns of many Falls Village citizens who advocate for an appropriate solution to our town's "needs" for housing. One that will serve future residents so they become part of our town fabric. We're small: we need a different, creative solution. Not the cookie cutter "Splat." FVHT, in lockstep with the FV P+Z and NHCOG, are trying to solve a so-called "problem" by dropping a massive A-Bomb on our tiny neighborhood. There are too many questions, still unanswered. Lawyer up? No, thanks. Answer questions! Present documents!

Colter Rule and neighbors Falls Village

Be kind to one another

I am a former resident of Lakeville, and I celebrated 86 years of life on July 16. I consider myself part of history, the history of a Black woman's experience that cannot be debated.

Humility, treat people with kindness.

Rest in peace, John Lewis. We will overcome.

Dolores (Branche) James-Johnson Ocala, Fla.

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

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Mission Statement

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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More letters previous page.

An analogy of Christian fishing to keep in mind

As we all know, to be a true Christian you must keep the Lord always in a daily routine. So a Christian man uses his free will to decide when and where he is going fishing. Then on the way fishing, he believes there are fish waiting to be caught. He gets there. He has faith he will get a bite, as he casts his line into the water.

He hopes it's a big one, when he finally catches a fish. He is thankful, all in all it's the sense of accomplishment and that God provides you with a fish. Do believe that the Lord provides your needs, before you ask.

Michael Parmalee

North Canaan

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Concerns about river visitors and the fishing

By Patrick L. Sullivan

AMESVILLE — The weekend of Aug. 1 and 2 was quieter along the Housatonic River, as rainy weather on Sunday, Aug. 2, kept most picnickers and day-trippers away.

On Saturday, the Great Falls area in Salisbury/Amesville and Falls Village was quieter than it has been, perhaps in part due to the appearance of new signs announcing “no parking” and the possibility of being towed.

Amesville residents still reported upwards of a dozen cars parked on Housatonic River Road north of Sugar Hill Road.

Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand said he received complaints about parking, garbage and people using the woods as a bathroom.

Rand expressed, not for the first time, his frustration with the First Light Power Company.

“We would like to meet with First Light and come up with a plan. I don’t want to wait until fall.”

Rand added that “no parking” signs were added last week and more are going up this week.

On the Falls Village side, things were pretty quiet. First Selectman Henry Todd said he drove around Saturday afternoon and saw a few cars parked, but nothing like the previous three weekends.

“It seems like things are calming down,” he said.

Harold MacMillan at Housatonic River Outfitters in Cornwall Bridge said his fishing guides observed several picnickers along the river Saturday, including a large crowd at the Cellar Hole pull-off on Route 7 in Sharon, which has become very popular.

He said he has observed people setting up pop-up tents and lawn chairs in — not next to — the river.

He also has noted people fishing in violation of regulations and actually trying to net heat-stressed trout from the thermal refuge areas, which are off-limits to fishing from June 15 to Sept. 15.

Of the overall increase in river usage, he said, “I’ve never seen anything like it.”

He said he had sympathy for people trying to escape the hot weather and, after finding other options in the state closed, making their way to the Housatonic.

But he wasn’t happy about the garbage being left behind.

Lindsay Larson, Conservation Projects Manager at the Housatonic Valley Association (HVA), said in a phone interview that groups of interns have been out on the river on weekends doing outreach and distributing large garbage bags.

She said that the River Information and Outreach program (RIO) program was created in 2018 to respond to the increased

use of access sites along the river that are essentially unmanaged or lightly supervised.

This year, as many sites south of the Salisbury-to-Cornwall area have been closed, RIO’s focus has been from the Great Falls south to Cornwall Bridge. This stretch includes the popular Trout Management Area, which in turn contains a fly-fishing only section.

The interns also collect information on where people are coming from and what activities they pursue at the river.

And they pick up garbage, as does a second group of HVA interns, whose primary focus is on conservation work.

Asked if the interns get any pushback from the visitors, Larson said that people are generally cooperative.

“We want to keep the river clean and safe,” she said.

Larson added that during the fall and winter, HVA, the Housatonic River Commission, state and municipal officials and interested parties (anglers, recreational boaters, private landowners, etc.) will get together to develop a regional approach to river usage and safety.

VOTING

Continued from Page A1

July 23, with the final vote taken on Friday at 9:30 a.m.

In the days leading up to the vote, Horn convened a two-part Town Hall event, assembling town clerks and registrars of voters in her district who wanted to know what to tell voters.

Participating in the online events were town clerks Linda Amerighi (Sharon), Carol Anderson (Torrington) and Darlene Brady (Kent) and Registrars of Voters Karin Gerstel (Salisbury) and Jayne Ridgway (Cornwall).

In brief, town clerks are in charge of the voting process and can advise voters on all aspects of that process, whether in-person voting or absentee. Registrars of voters maintain the current voter registration lists and assume responsibility for the logistics of election day.

Horn emphasized that voters may still vote in-person for the primary on Aug. 11 and for the Nov. 3 election if they prefer. Absentee voting due to the pandemic is just another option.

“Many people want to vote in person and they can, and they will be safe,” Horn assured.

For those opting to vote by mail but who don’t want to mail in their completed ballot, there are also ballot drop-off boxes at each town hall. The boxes are emptied regularly by the town clerk, the only person allowed access to the box.

Voters who are uncertain about whether they are registered to vote can determine that by going to the secretary of the state’s website (www.portal.ct.gov/SOTS/Election-Services/Voter-Information/Voting-Eligibility) or by calling their town clerk.

HOSPITAL

Continued from Page A1

Hirko said.

“She keeps the lights on and everything running, she helps with staffing and organizes a lot of the clinical activities. We work very well as a team to address problems together. My job really is to be there to run interference and offer support so Christina and the hospital staff can get their jobs done.”

Hirko will continue to be a presence at Sharon, he said. The amount of time he spends at each of the two hospitals will change depending on what’s going on.

Part of a system

Hirko stressed that Sharon Hospital is in a good position to care for community residents now because it’s part of the larger Health Quest/Nuvance system. A big part of his job at Sharon, he said, has been helping it integrate with the other facilities in the system, which he will now do at Putnam as well.

According to the Nuvance website, Putnam is the only hospital in Putnam County in New York. It is a “164-bed, acute care hospital offering medical, surgical, psychiatric and 24/7

emergency services.”

Sharon is one of several hospitals in Litchfield County. The Nuvance website says it has “78 general hospital beds and provides a full range of services including: bariatric surgery, cardiology, cardiopulmonary, emergency care, imaging, intensive care, neurosciences, orthopedics, pain management, stroke care, surgical, women’s services and wound care.”

Especially during the early

days of COVID-19, Hirko said, it was clear that it helped Sharon to be part of the Nuvance System, which has seven hospitals in New York State and Connecticut.

“During the crisis,” he noted, “we got nimble at moving staff from hospital to hospital. We want to keep that going on.”

He also noted the benefits of the different hospitals all working together, “instead of competing for patients. We’ve

all been working together and integrating together.”

Sharon is getting stronger

Hirko feels confident that Sharon Hospital is strong enough now to share its president with another facility in another state.

He cited McCulloch’s competence and willingness to step up to a larger role. He also noted that the community has been coming back to the hospital, following the shutdown in the early days of COVID-19.

“Over the past six weeks, as of July 31, Sharon Hospital is about 10% above projections for this period. The hospital is very busy now.”

COVID-19 of course continues to keep the hospital from functioning normally. There are special protocols to check whether emergency and other patients have the virus. Anyone who needs a procedure done and does have the coronavirus is treated at the end of the day, and then the rooms they were in have to be deep cleaned. It’s a lot of organizing and a lot of planning.

Hirko is confident he and McCulloch and the hospital staff can handle it. And he promised to keep himself healthy in the meantime, as the stresses on his shoulders increase.

“I’m still young,” he said. “I take good care of myself and try to work out every day.”

TORNADO

Continued from Page A1

A little before 6 p.m., Chris Sarah were closing up the market buildings when they noticed the weather starting to pick up around them. Chris Coon said the wind continued to build, sending shingles, lawn chairs and debris whipping through the air.

While the two took cover to stay safe, Coon said it was over almost as soon as it started. He estimated that the tornado passed in less than a minute.

While no one was harmed, the severity of the wind caused significant damage to the market and the farm. It was the most damage the property has ever been hit with, estimated Coon, whose wife has worked with her brother since the farm’s inception more than 30 years ago. The Coons purchased the farm from founder Charlie Paley in 2019.

Along with the greenhouses, a large metal windmill lay toppled over in front of the market and a pile of mangled metal carts sat in back.

The roofs of the store and main greenhouse will need some light maintenance, Coon estimated.

Despite the damages, the Coons decided to open Paley’s Farm Market at 8 a.m. on Monday, just like they always do.

The word spread quickly on social media about the tornado

and its impact on Sunday night. Coon said there has been an overwhelming amount of support, with many people contacting him and his wife and asking what they can do to help.

“We live in the greatest place on Earth, no question about it,” said Coon of what the community outreach means to him. “I’ve always thought this was a pretty special area. We’ve always tried to do anything we can to help in the community. When you see some of the stuff that happens in other areas of the country and world, it makes you realize how lucky you are to be here.”

To learn how the tornado hit other Northwest Corner towns, and for more photos, turn to Page A6.



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RESCUE

Continued from Page A1

years, not only because visitors take risks by swimming in the fast-moving section of the river but also because they leave large amounts of trash. The town has closed off the area with barriers many times in recent years. On Monday afternoon, the visitors had removed the barriers but then put them back in place behind them.

Hock said this is the second water rescue this summer for the Kent EMTs. The first was about a month ago, he said, farther south along the Housatonic River near Gaylordsville and New Milford. Two people drowned.

New Milford has been sufficiently worried about the dangers posed by the river that it has erected concrete barriers all along the shore.

Hock said he can’t recall the last time a water rescued was needed for a local resident; most of the swimmers taking risks in the river are from out of town. He was not sure where Monday’s visitors were from but he believes they were not local.

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TAG SALES

Please be sure to wear masks and observe social distancing.

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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!

SALISBURY

SALISBURY MOVING SALE: Large variety household items priced to sell including, E. Braun Quilts & Shams, 1 yr. old Massage Recliner, furniture, 2 yr. old riding lawn mower. Something for Everyone. 70 Lincoln City Rd. Salisbury, Saturday, Aug. 8, and Sunday, Aug. 9, from 9 am to 3 pm. Rain or Shine. Masks and Social Distancing Required. No early birds, please.

LIME ROCK

MOVING SALE: Items from a vintage carriage house in Limerock: Antique oak furniture (dining table, chairs, mirrors), Ralph Lauren wicker couch and chair. Armoire and other accessories from Bali. 10 Forge Lane, Limerock, CT. Saturday, Aug. 8, and Sunday, Aug. 9, from 9 am to 3 pm. Rain or Shine. Masks required.

WEST CORNWALL

MOVING SALE: Items too numerous to list. Household goods, glassware, utensils, games, power, garden and hand tools, woodworking tools, furniture, electronics and more. Aug. 8 & 9, 9AM to 4PM. 145 Cornwall Hollow Rd., West Cornwall. Masks Please!

HELP WANTED

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CARPENTER NEEDED: for busy construction company. Please call Roger at 860-309-6656 or office 860-824-2426.

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MATURE, RESPONSIBLE BABYSITTER NEEDED: for after school hours (approx. 3-5:30 ish) 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 sasharudenstine@gmail.com.

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NIGHT CUSTODIAN: Lee H. Kellogg School in Falls Village seeks p/night custodian. Online applications only. Details and application at www.region1schools.org.

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ORGANIC DAIRY FARM: in Canaan, CT looking for person to milk cows and/or operate equipment. Email riverbrookorganics@yahoo.com

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REAL ESTATE

national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. All residential property advertised in the State of Connecticut General Statutes 46a-64c which prohibit the making, printing or publishing or causing to be made, printed or published any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, physical or mental disability or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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