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# The Lakeville Journal

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THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024 \$3.00

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

## MIRA shutdown: Connecticut's solid waste crisis

By Jennifer Almquist

HARTFORD — When Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont signed House Bill (HB) 6664 on June 29, 2023, effectively closing the Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) Hartford facility, it was the end of an era.

Since 1988, the MIRA site had been used as a Waste-to-Energy (WTE) plant incinerating garbage from the region, including the Northwest Corner, and producing electricity at a rate of 400,000 megawatts per hour. One third of all Connecticut's trash was processed there.

The eighty-acre South Meadows site located on the shore of the Con-

necticut River just south of Hartford originally served 70 Connecticut towns.

At present there are no landfills in Connecticut and only five other incinerators (in Bristol, Preston, Plainfield, Bridgeport, and Lisbon). As a result, 860,000 tons of garbage is now being shipped three hours west to the Keystone Sanitary landfill in Dunmore, Pennsylvania, and taken by railroad to Tunnel Hill Reclamation Landfill in Lexington, Ohio.

According to Housatonic Regional Resources Recovery (HRRR) Executive Director Jennifer Hea-

See MIRA, Page A10

## Legislation restricts railroad herbicide use

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Both State Senator Stephen Harding (R-30) and State Representative Maria Horn (D-64) expressed satisfaction that a bill addressing the use of herbicides passed in the recently concluded session of the Connecticut General Assembly.

Interviewed by phone on May 19, Harding said the bill, which

requires railroads, including the Housatonic Railroad in the Northwest Corner, to comply with existing Massachusetts regulations on the use of herbicides to control vegetation along railroad tracks.

"I hope the folks who live along the railroad will start to see the results," said Harding.

Horn, interviewed May 20, con-

See HERBICIDE, Page A10



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

### Rainy remembrances

On-and-off showers did not damper Memorial Day observances around the Northwest Corner Monday, May 27. Salisbury's parade marched down Main Street during a dry spell between swells and showcased town veterans, marching bands, emergency responders and floats. More Memorial Day coverage on Page A8.

## Seventh grade civics project earns CCS state recognition

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas awarded Cornwall Consolidated School with the "Red, White and Blue" distinction thanks to student research on the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The designation recognizes one school each year for going above and beyond in civics education. The ADA project by the seventh-grade class was the highest scoring project of 2024 and earned CCS the award. Thomas visited the school May 20 to speak with the students and present a gold citation along with a check for \$1,000.

Thomas said the theme of the distinction is "connecting communities." She explained to the students that, even though they may be too young to vote, "you can still have a voice, you can still make change, you can still impact your community at any age."

Arienne Orozco, director of outreach and engagement at the Secretary of State's office, said "the competition was quite fierce this year, so the fact that we're here in West Cornwall is a great testament to the program that exists here."

"This has been such an exciting,



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

The seventh grade class at CCS stand with Secretary of State Stephanie Thomas and social studies teacher Will Vincent at a handicap parking space that was restenciled as part of the ADA research project.

wonderful moment for our school. I cannot be more proud every since day," said Principal Leanna Maguire to the student body. "You are changing the lives in our community and far, far beyond."

Seventh grade social studies teacher Will Vincent spoke highly of the students who worked on the project.

Later in the week, Vincent was named Connecticut's most passionate social studies teacher. He was nominated by the students and was selected from a pool of teachers across the state.

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway was pleased to see "the capital comes to Cornwall two different times in one week."



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Rev. Heidi Traux reflected on the Holy Trinity May 26.

## Trinity Lime Rock turns 150

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LIME ROCK — Trinity Episcopal Church celebrated its 150th anniversary in low-key fashion Sunday, May 26.

Geoff Brown provided some historical background.

The church was built by U.S.

Senator William Barnum, a resident of Lime Rock, and opened in 1874.

The Barnums took their horse-drawn carriage to St. John's Episcopal Church in Salisbury on Sundays. A popular post-service activity was a carriage race back to Lime Rock.

The senator enjoyed it, anyway. He almost always won.

See CHURCH, Page A10



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# Regional

## In The Journal this week

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### Online This Week

#### Sharon seeks housing grant

Sharon applied for a \$1 million grant for affordable housing. More at [www.lakevillejournal.com](http://www.lakevillejournal.com)

## 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.

#### Bear runs into Tahoe

On Monday, May 20, at approximately 5 p.m., Jeremy Combes, 47, of Middletown, was southbound on Route 63 in Canaan in a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe when a bear ran into the road and struck the Tacoma, which received damage to the right rear passenger door. No injuries were reported and no enforcement action was taken.

#### Ejected from moped

On Tuesday, May 21, at approximately 3:15 p.m., Mark Hazelton, 64, of Torrington, was northbound on Route 7 in Falls Village on a moped. A passenger, Rosemary Saliba, 54, listed as homeless in Torrington, adjusted her foot and put down the kickstand, which struck the ground, resulting in both riders being ejected from the moped. Saliba was transported to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital for an evaluation. Hazelton was issued a writ-

ten warning for operating a motorcycle without a motorcycle endorsement.

#### Auto-lawn mower crash

On Friday, May 24, at approximately 4:30 p.m., James Ritson, 69, of Norfolk, was stopped on the side of the road on Route 272 in Norfolk on his Cub Cadet XT1 lawn mower, dumping grass when he observed a 2021 Subaru WRX southbound. The Subaru was swerving and Ritson could hear tires squealing, and he proceeded back onto his lawn to get out of the southbound side of the road. A witness reported that the Subaru, driven by Jesse Bierce, 18, of Torrington, was traveling at a high rate of speed when it collided with the lawn mower. The Subaru was towed from the scene by Arnold's Garage. Bierce was issued a written warning for failure to maintain lane.

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

## Sharon Hospital forum June 12

SHARON — Nuvance Health's Sharon Hospital will host a community update that will stream live online on Wednesday, June 12, at 5 p.m.

Participants of the update, who can submit questions ahead of time by emailing [andrea.rynn@nuvancehealth.org](mailto:andrea.rynn@nuvancehealth.org), will hear from President

Christina McCulloch on the latest hospital development. Questions can also be mailed ahead of the community update to Sharon Hospital, Attn: Public Relations, 50 Hospital Hill Road, Sharon, CT, 06069.

To access the livestream on June 12 go to [www.nuvance-health.org/CTforums](http://www.nuvance-health.org/CTforums).



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

### Packed house for DOT info session

NorfolkHUB was filled with residents eager to learn about the multi-year roadwork on Route 44. Department of Transportation Chief Engineer Amy Hare presented details of the plan and answered all audience questions. Traffic will be reduced to one lane during work to construct a new retaining wall. The wall will be 42-feet at its highest and will take up to five years to complete. A major truck detour will add approximately 40 minutes of drive time for freight haulers. Full story on [www.lakevillejournal.com](http://www.lakevillejournal.com).

## Summer history talks

FALLS VILLAGE — On June 4 at 7 p.m., the Falls Village-Canaan Historical Society will host the first of the season 1st Tuesday at 7 Summer Talks.

Kicking off the line up of speakers will be Dave Jacobs who will speak on the New Haven Railroad Changes over the Years. The talk will feature more of the pictures

taken by the well known local railroad engineer Peter McLachlan.

The talks take place at The South Canaan Meetinghouse, 12 Route 63, Falls Village and are open to the public. There is no charge, however donations are appreciated. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call 860-824-5607.

## SWSA aims to rebuild 30-meter jump

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) has launched its capital campaign to rebuild the ski jumping complex's 30-meter hill and tower.

The intermediate or middle hill of the three-hill complex, which has served thousands of aspiring jumpers for over 75 years, needs replacement, and the landing hill requires updating to comply with modern-day jumping standards. The campaign looks to raise \$425,000 to construct a new tower, reconfigure the landing hills of both the 30 and neighboring 20-meter hills.

The project is intended to be completed before Jump-



PHOTO PROVIDED

A rendering of the proposed 30-meter ski jumping tower and landing hill at Satre Hill in Salisbury.

fest 2025. SWSA is planning a series of fundraising events in the coming months. Visit [jumpfest.org](http://jumpfest.org) for more information about the project or to donate to the campaign. SWSA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit.

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• Ocean State Job Lot

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**Date:** June 13, 2024  
**Time:** 3-6 pm  
**Place:** Riga Dining Room  
Noble's Campus

Questions and RSVP:  
Michele Burns  
[MBurns@churchhomes.org](mailto:MBurns@churchhomes.org)  
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# Our Towns

## Behind 'Save the Rail Trail'

By Riley Klein

SALISBURY — Roadside signs along Main Street that popped up this week suggesting that the Rail Trail needs saving have prompted questions and concerns among some residents and town officials.

The signs, posted by a newly formed Salisbury Village Improvement Coalition, a 501 (c)(4) whose members are not identified on its website, state the Rail Trail needs to be saved, but to date the plan is to preserve it.

The messaging has roots in concerns among some residents about the overall approach to plans for affordable housing on the Pope Property that abuts the Rail Trail. The affordable housing proposal for the Pope property has been a subject of concern among nearby residents for months.

In letters to the editor of The Lakeville Journal beginning in January, a group has been expressing concerns about threats to the Rail Trail, population density in town, and the "fundamental nature of Salisbury."

The mission of the new organization includes a goal to "Maintain the Rail Trail, intact and without any additional paving or designation for vehicular traffic, preserving its natural character as a central pedestrian and bike pathway."

The signs urging people to "Save the Rail Trail," combined with posts on social



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON  
**'Save the Rail Trail' signs in Salisbury.**

media, have suggested the Rail Trail will be paved and made into a two-lane road.

This suggestion originated from a misinterpretation of the Salisbury Village Planning Study completed by Colliers Engineering and Design in February 2024.

The study was presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission and provided recommendations for long-term planning to improve the Village center. The concepts proposed in the report are not plans, but suggestions to relevant boards and committees.

On page 16, the report states: "North of the Pope Property, the Rail Trail right-of-way appears wide enough to accommodate both two-way traffic and a pedestrian and bicycle pathway to the Rail Trail's northern terminus at Route 44."

Here Colliers references the potential to extend Railroad Street into the right of way of the Rail Trail and create a vehicular intersection with Main Street (explained on page 17 of the study).

The report goes on to state the Rail Trail "is an incredible open-air resource" that can improve pedestrian access

to the village center: "While there are opportunities to utilize portions of the Rail Trail for vehicular connections to neighboring properties, pedestrian and bicycle access should not only continue but be improved."

In item two of the study, Colliers presents additional recommendations for the Rail Trail that include vegetation management and repairs to uneven surfaces. To improve pedestrian safety, installing porous material on the trail that adheres to ADA accessibility standards was suggested.

The concept of paving the Rail Trail was mentioned by a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission at a meeting last month. P&Z Chair Michael Klemens has since stated, "That idea is not part of any conceptual plan developed by the Pope Land Design Committee (PLDC), nor was it suggested in the Collier's study" (see letter on Page A6)

First Selectman Curtis Rand verified Klemens statement, saying, "There is no plan to pave the Rail Trail." He went on, "There is no nefarious scheme to sell or develop it. It remains in town ownership as a valued resource."

On Thursday, June 6, the Pope Land Design Committee will host a site visit at the Pope property on Salmon Kill Road at 5 p.m. Following the visit at 6:30 p.m., a presentation of the concept design will be given at a public information forum in Town Hall. Residents can attend in person or on Zoom.

## Kent real estate sales in April

By Christine Bates

KENT — April was a lively month for Kent real estate with six recorded sales of single-family homes with three selling for more than a million dollars.

**12 Old Homestead Lane**  
A 4 bedroom/3.5 bath house on 6 acres sold by Beckett Holding LLC to Joshua E. Swift for \$1,165,000.

**21 Kane Mountain Road**  
A 2 bedroom/3 bath house on 10 acres sold by Michael A M Keehner to Peter Diaz and Jee Mee Kim for \$975,000.

**3 Studio Hill Road**  
A 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home sold by Benjamin Finkelstein and Lisa Lippman to Mark D and Laura Cowan for \$1,150,000.

**45 Upper Kent Hollow Road**  
A 3 bedroom/2 bath home sold by Phillip A and Ann E Russo to Monica Jean Malowney and Hugo Hivernat for \$725,000.

**84 Kent Hollow Road**  
A 3 bedroom/2 bath house sold by Walter G. Raynor to ZF SPVLLC for \$350,000.

**69 Upper Kent Hollow Road**  
A 4 bedroom/4 bath home on 16 acres sold by Martin P and Carla A Miner to John T Ettinger and Amy H Lifland for \$1,150,000.

**CORRECTION:** May 9 Sharon recorded April sales featured an incorrect photo of 287 Amenia Union Road. The photo was of 103 South Main which sold for \$1,125,000 in August of 2023. Many thanks and apologies to Linda Amerighi, Sharon Town Clerk, for bringing this to our attention.

Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

## Day of Service

Salisbury Rotary Club's Day of Service took place at Canaan Child Care Center May 18. Rotarians assembled new play equipment including a seesaw and mud kitchen. Parents helped spread mulch around the playground, which was donated by Scott Bottom (right) of Bottom Landscaping. Canaan Child Care Center Director Fran Chappell raked the mulch into place.



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# Our Towns

## Sharon solar project at crossroads

By Alexander Wilburn

SHARON — First Selectman Casey Flanagan attended a meeting held by the Board of Finance on Tuesday, May 21, to discuss an update on the ongoing project to install solar energy panels on property adjacent to Sharon Center School.

The project has come to a halt with Connecticut Green Bank determining that the school's current air-source heat pump is in danger of being damaged if the project

moves forward, as the system is not equipped to handle the peak load of the heat pumps.

Several options were considered on how to move forward, including getting the original engineer for the school to communicate with Connecticut Green Bank. The electricity could also be upgraded from 1,200 amps to 1,600 for an estimated sum of \$100,000, or a breaker could be added to the system for \$40,000.

There is the possibility of reducing the system size,

wherein the heat pumps would exclusively be used for air conditioning.

Another suggestion was reaching out to Emphase, a company specializing in energy management technology that offers solar energy for businesses that has a program titled the Connecticut Energy Storage Solutions Program.

Flanagan stated that this halt in development was "not

good" and did not leave him with "a great deal of confidence in the project."

Resident Anne Stettner attended the meeting to express her displeasure with how the solar project has progressed since the town initially voted in it favor, stating, "I understand we want to get away from fossil fuels, but not at the cost of a mistake that won't end up saving anyone any money."



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Zoe Fedorjzcenko examines a parasol, May 18.

## More than plants at Hunt's plant sale

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Zoe Fedorjzcenko tested out the parasols during a lull in the action at the David M. Hunt Library's Home-grown Plant Sale Saturday, May 18.

For a wonder, it wasn't raining, not that a paper parasol would have offered much protection.

She gave each brightly colored parasol a quick twirl before refolding and waiting for the next person with a question about bulbs

or heirloom tomatoes.

Elsewhere Gail Allyn and Ruth Giumarro assisted customers.

Lou Timolat chatted with a reporter until Carol Timolat hove into view carrying a box of plants.

Lou Timolat pointed out the excellent-looking odds and ends of hardware, plus a selection of rakes for sale at knockdown prices.

He said he had refrained from buying anything.

"Good," she replied. "I was afraid that stuff would wind up in our garage."

## Voters heard in Kent annual town meeting

By Alexander Wilburn

KENT — The Town of Kent held its annual town vote at Kent Town Hall on Friday, May 17, at 7 p.m. All resolutions were passed — although not all by unanimous vote — and much discussion was aimed at The Board of Education, as well as total expenses for the town recommended by the Board of Finance.

The approved budget by the Board of Finance marked a 7.52% increase in the town's bottom line of \$15,699,245.

The recent town-wide property assessment increased home values by about 30%. The Grand List grew considerably, which lowered the mill rate, but effectively increased taxes by more than 9%. To reduce the impact to taxpayers, Kent transferred \$500,000 from the Unassigned General Fund and set the mill rate at 15.59.

The Five-Year Capital Plan presented and recommended by the Board of Finance passed, but discussion erupted into several varied talking points upon voting

for the town's total expenses recommended by the Board of Finance for fiscal year July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

Passed was a project called "Hazardous Tree Removal or Trimming." Another improvement project will focus on Kent Town Hall's air conditioning, parking lot, and boiler which will be funded with \$41,425 to be reimbursed by State grant funding as authorized through the LoCIP Grant Program.

Several voters in attendance voiced disapproval of the Board of Education setting aside \$60,000 for an armed security guard at the school. Kent Board of Finance member Jason Wright said that since the town had voted against having a state trooper in Kent Center School, the Board of Education presented a cheaper alternative with \$60,000 for an armed security officer, noting that the expense was a small percentage of the BOE's annual budget. Still, some voters suggested that the expense of an officer had not been the core issue.



PHOTO PROVIDED

## Blue and Gold

Head intern Ellie Wolgemuth and art teacher Warren Prindle spoke at the opening ceremony for Housatonic Valley Regional High School's annual Blue and Gold art show. Artwork from more than 100 students is on display in the Kearcher-Monsell Gallery in the Library Media Center at HVRHS and will remain up through the end of the school year.

## Cornwall to replace culvert

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — A deteriorated culvert on Dibble Hill Road in West Cornwall will be replaced in June.

Damage to the pipe was sustained after heavy rainfall in 2023. The work is expected to take about a week to complete, during which time a road closure will be in effect.

At a May 21 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Frost Excavating Inc. was selected to complete the project. The total cost, including a portion of the work to be done

by the town highway department, will be about \$50,000.

"We have that money in the highway capital account," said First Selectman Gordon Ridgway, adding that there is a surplus as a result of low snowfall in the winter of 2024 and an understaffed highway department.

The culvert in question is on the eastern end of Dibble Hill Road, "on the 125 side," said Ridgway. "Luckily there are ways to get around." The project has been approved by Cornwall Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency.

## Sharon Baseball Camp signups

Sharon Baseball Camp will run from Monday, June 17 to Wednesday, June 19, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Veterans' Field.

James Smith will lead the staff in working with participants ages eight to 14 in-

cluding individual skill work through drills and activities.

Registration for Sharon Baseball Camp can be accessed online by going to [www.sharonct.myrec.com](http://www.sharonct.myrec.com) or by calling 860-364-1400. The registration fee is \$95.

## Pope Land Design Committee (PLDC)

The PLDC will hold a town forum on the Pope Property project on June 6. The forum will commence at 5:00pm at the Pope Property for a site walkthrough. At 6:30pm, the forum will move to the Town Hall for a site plan presentation by the project's consultants. At the Town Hall portion, there will be opportunity for Q&A, as well as a Zoom dial-in option. The Zoom link will be posted on the Town of Salisbury website.

We hope to see you there!

## LEGAL NOTICES

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF GLADYS SAGE JABLONSKI Late of Canaan (24-00216)**

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated May 16, 2024, 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:  
Joey Sage Jablonski  
84 Trescott Hill Rd.,  
Canaan, CT 06018  
Megan M. Foley  
Clerk  
05-30-24

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF BENJAMIN SANDERS Late of Falls Village (24-00190)**

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated May 14, 2024, 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:  
Abigail D. King  
c/o Matthew J Lefevre,  
Law Offices of Matthew

Lefevre, Esq PC, 38 Woodland Street, Harford, CT 06105

Beth L. McGuire  
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**BAUER FUND AND FOUNDATION COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Through grants to colleges, The Bauer Foundation provides indirect scholarship assistance for undergraduate college education to students residing in The Connecticut Regional School District One based on merit and need.

The Bauer Fund operates in the same manner. However, grants from the Fund are limited to students attending either Cornell or Wellesley. Students attending Cornell or Wellesley should apply to the Fund. All others should apply to the Foundation.

New and returning application forms for the 2024-2025 school year are available at: [www.bauerfundfoundation.org](http://www.bauerfundfoundation.org).

Completed and fully documented applications must be returned to The Bauer Foundation at PO Box 1784 Lakeville CT 06039-postmarked no later than June 20 2024. Scholarship awards will be announced by August 20 2024.

05-09-24  
05-16-24  
05-23-24  
05-30-24



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Noble Horizons tag sale was filled with finds.

## Tag sale scores at Noble

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Noble Horizons tag sale on Friday and Saturday, May 17 and 18, offered shoppers a wide range of items, not to mention rows and rows of books.

Nina Mathus, manning the cash box up front, said that while she welcomed a non-rainy day on Friday, she thought the clement weather might be providing stiff competition for the tag sale.

This did not deter a reporter, who spotted a sturdy web belt of the sort he uses for fishing purposes. It was tagged at \$3, which he rounded up to \$10 in the spirit of the occasion.

But recalling the disused weed whacker he already has, he maintained iron discipline and didn't even touch the specimen on display next to a set of fireplace tools and several indeterminate lengths of board which definitely might come in handy some day.

## A letter from Dr. William M. Kirber

This is to notify any of my patients who did not receive a letter that after more than 41 years, I am retiring from my ophthalmology practice as of 4/1/2024. Dr. Avinash Tantri will continue to see patients at our office at 31 Porter Street, Lakeville Connecticut. Connecticut Eye Consultants, P.C. also has offices located in Danbury, Prospect, Southbury, and New Milford. Should you wish to seek care elsewhere, please send a request for your records to: Connecticut Eye Consultants, PC 69 Sand Pit Road, Danbury, CT 06810-4005

Thank you for entrusting me with your care. My best regards,

William M. Kirber, MD

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OBITUARIES

Frances Anna Phillips

AMENIA — Frances Anna Phillips, 90, a longtime resident of Amenia, died on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Canaan.



From 1955 to 1972, Mrs. Phillips owned and operated the Edgewood Restaurant in Amenia with her husband George. A certified teacher of ceramics with the National Ceramic Manufacturers Association, she also owned and operated Ceramic Crafts in Amenia for 22 years retiring in 2001.

Born on Nov. 25, 1933, in Sharon, she was the daughter of the late Otto and Mabel (Somers) Sprossel. On Feb. 3, 1953, in Cornwall Bridge, she married George E. Phillips who survives in Canaan.

Mrs. Phillips is also survived by two daughters; Diane Phillips of Wakefield, Rhode Island and Debra Phillips of Pine Plains, New York; four grandchildren, David Fletcher and his wife, Amber, Peter Faggella and his wife, Megan, Daniel Faggella, and Shannon Fier-

ro and her husband, Frank, as well as four great grandchildren; Dominic and Leah Fletcher, Hannah Faggella and Charlotte Fierro.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by four brothers, Otto, William, Robert and Carl Sprossel and one sister, Gerda Binotto. She is survived by a sister, Shirley Adrian of Jacksonville, Florida and a brother, Thomas Sprossel of Homosassa, Florida, and many nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. Funeral services followed at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial took place at Amenia Island Cemetery, Amenia, NY. In lieu of flowers, Anne had requested that memorial contributions be made to the Dutchess County SPCA, 636 Violet Avenue, Hyde Park, NY 12538. To send the family an online condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.

Dolores Marie Leffingwell

NORTH CANAAN — Dolores Marie "Dodie" Leffingwell (nee Heath) passed away peacefully on Jan. 11, 2024, in New Haven, at the age of 70. She was born on April 7, 1953, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Dodie was known for her creativity, love, adventurous spirit, sarcasm, pride, stubbornness, hard work, and easy-going nature.

grandchildren: Jacob Giblyn and Elijah H. Leffingwell; great-grandchild: Jasper Giblyn; and siblings: Susan Heath and Mary-Theresa Stalker. Dodie was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Leffingwell, her parents, Ernest & Marie Heath, and her sister, Irene Heath.

Dodie was a dedicated machinist at Becton, Dickinson from 1980 to 2005. Outside of work, she found joy in solving puzzles, tending to her garden, horseback riding, and expressing herself through painting.

A private service will be held, while a Celebration of Life for Dodie will be held on June 8th at 1 p.m., at the North Canaan VFW, to which friends and extended family are welcome. Rather than floral tributes, donations are encouraged in Dodie's memory to your choice of Cancer or Dementia Research—a cause near to her heart.

She is survived by her children: Brian Heath, Stephanie Heath, Elijah J. Leffingwell, and Tiara Leffingwell;

May she rest in eternal peace.

Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com



PHOTO PROVIDED

Aspiring aviators can take 15-minute flights at Triumph Airfield with pilots Saturday, June 1.

Young Eagles aviation June 1

NORTH CANAAN — Triumph Airfield will offer flights to children aged 8 to 17 at the Young Eagles Rally on Saturday, June 1.

For more information or to register, visit www.EAA1097.org or call Billy Segalla at 860-248-0800.

The Young Eagles program is an initiative of the Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) to promote careers in flight to the next generation of pilots. This free event requires parental approval.

From 9 a.m. to noon, EAA Chapter 1097 will offer 15-minute flights with certified pilots. Soaring above the Berkshires, boys and girls will learn about how airplanes operate form the co-pilot chair.

Stephen Andrew Mitchell, Sr.

ANCRAM — Stephen Andrew Mitchell, Sr., 71, of Ancram, passed away on May 15, 2024, at Sharon Hospital in Sharon. Born Jan. 17, 1953, at Lynn Hospital in Lynn, Massachusetts, he was the son of the late Raymond C. and Jacqueline M. (Benware) Mitchell.



Stephen worked on the family farm for 25 years, he then went to work at Taconic DDSO in Wassaic, New York for 20 years before retiring.

Stephen loved hunting, fishing, family get-togethers, cookouts, bonfires and listening to music. He met Jennifer Gallagher when he was thirty-six years old. They were married on Sept. 21, 1985, and spent the next thirty-eight years together.

Stephen is survived by his wife, Jennifer Mitchell of Ancram; his son, Stephen Andrew Mitchell, Jr. and his wife Becky; his sister, Audrey Campbell and her husband Thomas; four grandchildren,

Jacqueline Mitchell, Kaitlyn Acklin, Justin Acklin and Jeffery Rodriguez; four brothers-in-law, John Gallagher, Glen Gallagher, Harry Gallagher and his wife Lori and Willy Gallagher and his fiancé Sandra Brown; three sisters-in-law, Penny Thornberry, Sue Gallagher,

Joyce Gallagher and her boyfriend Steve Proper and many nieces and nephews and cousins.

A graveside funeral service and burial took place at Irondale Cemetery in Millerston, NY on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 1 p.m. Rev. Robert K. Wilson officiated. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ancram Fire Company, Ancram, NY 12502. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerston, NY 12546.

Daniel Gates

SHARON — Daniel Gates, beloved husband of Mary Gates and adored father to Andrew, Emily and Michael, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, May 24. A forty-five year resident of Sharon, Dan was an avid outdoorsman, a lover of nature, and a dedicated therapist, who believed in the enrichment of one's life and community through service to others.

Family Therapy and began his decades long work as a therapist. Therapy was one of his great passions, and he was deeply devoted to his work. In 1999, Dan and Mary founded the Sharon House Garden Project, converting part of their property to a small organic farm to provide fresh produce to local food banks. Along with his work, the outdoors, and gardening, Dan's greatest loves were his children, his farmhouse on Carse Brook, and his German Shepherd, Hector. There was no one and nothing that he loved more than his wife of fifty years, Mary, his "dearie," whom he truly adored.

Dan was born on August 9, 1948, in Bridgeport, the son of the late Harold and Teresa (Golden) Gates. He was a graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Trumbull, and Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. Dan began his career in special education after receiving a master's degree from Southern Connecticut State University. He went on to found Self Enrichment Experience (S.E.E.), an outdoor education and adventure program. Through S.E.E., Dan was able to share his love of the outdoors with hundreds of students, leading countless backpacking trips along the Appalachian Trail, canoe trips down the Housatonic, and rock climbing excursions at St. John's Ledges.

He is survived by his wife and three children, as well as his beloved younger sister, Judee Flaws, of Trumbull, along with many in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends, all of whom he loved greatly. He will be very deeply missed.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Retreat Center in West Cornwall, on Friday May 31 at 12 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon House Garden Project or the Chapel of All Saints West Cornwall, CT. The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

ROBERT F. WRIGHT

June 1, 2009

15 years, that's crazy. It seems like yesterday. We knew that it was coming, but it pained us anyway. 15 years, it seems so long. So long ago we said goodbye. But still it feels like yesterday we started asking why. We'll never have an answer, an answer to the why, so we just continue thinking of the memories and try to hold on to the good times, never let them go. We love you and we miss you more than anyone will ever know.

We love you Robert, We love you Dad

Your wife Ruth
Your daughters Bobbie-Jo and Ruthanne

Mildred Dawn Dujon

ANCRAM — Mildred Dawn Dujon, 83, a twenty-six year resident of Ancram, died Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Albany Medical Center in Albany, following a brief illness.



Dawn was a retired school bus driver for the Katonah-Lewisboro School District.

She and her late husband Harry Erickson were also the founders of Chickasaw Golden Retrievers, a kennel that was founded in 1958 and continues to operate today as Chickasaw Goldens. Dawn was also famously known for breeding the large, strong and docile Mastiff as well. Dawn retired from dog breeding about fifteen years ago.

Dawn is survived by three children; Harry Lief Erickson and his wife Bernadette of Brewster, New York, Erik Erickson of Copake, New York and Michelle Podbielski and her fiancé Richard "Rick" Pickering of Ancram; Eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her beloved son, Elliott Podbielski, her siblings, Century, Jr., Louette and Millicent and her former husbands, Harry Erickson and Edmond Podbielski.

Born Sept. 23, 1940, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late Century and Mildred (Bechtel) Milstead. She was predeceased by her husband Anthony Dujon.

There are no calling hours. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Dawn's memory, please visit, www.conklinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerston, NY 12545.

Worship Services
Week of June 2, 2023
Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.
Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.
St. John's Episcopal Church
Trinity Episcopal Church
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC
Fishes & Loaves Food Pantry, A Mission of Our Church
Congregation Beth David
The Lakeville United Methodist Church
The Sharon United Methodist Church
Falls Village Congregational Church
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
Canaan United Methodist Church
Promised Land Baptist Church
Millerton United Methodist Church
The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall
Sharon Congregational
All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church

RYAN FUNERAL HOME
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### EDITORIAL Memorial Day

Memorial Day traditionally marks the beginning of a new season even if summer officially is a few weeks off. Our streets become parade routes festooned with flags and marching bands. The busy lives we live don't always allow for time to stand on the roadside and patiently watch for the first sign of a fire truck coming down Main Street, or pause on the sidewalk to wait for the advancing sounds of a marching band.

We see young and old pass in procession. And we applaud and cheer. There is palpable excitement when the sirens wind up. We look around and nod with our neighbors. A wave and a hello leads to conversation, often small talk but the totality of this Memorial Day moment is the connective tissue we depend on as a community. We take time out to visit.

Families and neighbors and friends come together. Children race around the lawn. Dogs pull on their leashes. Mothers and fathers push strollers. An older generation totes folding chairs and settles in before the speeches start.

By the time the ceremonies conclude, and we exchange friendly parting words with our neighbors and friends, we have once again been reminded of the solemn nature of what we all just witnessed. Americans have been recognizing our fallen soldiers since the years following the Civil War. In 1868, a group of Union veterans calling themselves the Grand Army of the Republic established Decoration Day, a time to place flowers on the graves of war dead. May 30 was chosen as a ideal day for the observance because flowers would likely be in bloom all across America.

This year our reporters witnessed Memorial Day celebrations in towns throughout the Northwest Corner. (Please see our coverage on Page A8.)

While Memorial Day has become synonymous with the advent of a welcome season of summer vacation from schools, graduations and time to enjoy the outdoors and plan a family vacation, as a nation we also bookend this time with a day to soberly reflect and remember those who went before — who gave their lives in service to our country. We especially appreciate the words of Jonathan Jalongo, a Millbrook native who served two tours in Afghanistan, who delivered heartfelt remarks on Monday, May 27. "Many people always wonder how you honor those who make the ultimate sacrifice," he said. "And I always say, be somebody worth that sacrifice."



### Ode to a legend

Twenty plus years ago we moved to this exquisite corner of Connecticut and quickly learned about a hometown veterinarian named Dr. Harvey Hayden.

Shortly thereafter, our beloved family cat, Aphrodite, became terminally ill. I couldn't stand the thought of losing her much less the thought of bringing her outside the home to have her humanely euthanized. I was told, to my surprise, Dr. Hayden made house calls. After not one but two "false alarms" wherein I thought Aphrodite's time had come — only to have her rally in between the time of my phone call to Dr. Hayden and his arrival at our front door — he casually said "okay then, just call me back when kitty is ready."

By the third call he just as easily said "Right-o, I'll be there in a few minutes." This time there was no rallying on Aphrodite's part. I held her tenderly in my arms as Dr. Hayden ever so gently and expertly sent her over the Rainbow Bridge. It wasn't until several minutes later through my aching sobs that I realized Dr. Hayden had quietly slipped out the front door without taking the personal check I had clearly left for him on the coffee table next to us.

Later, after burying our precious Aphrodite in my wildflower garden, I called Dr. Hayden to let him know he forgot to take the check and he only responded by saying, "You just take care of yourself. Bye for now." Again, I burst into tears...

Additionally, before, during, and after the decade

I volunteered my wildlife rehabilitation services to the Sharon Audubon Center and brought countless creatures to Dr. Hayden for examination, treatment, and the occasional humane euthanasia, he never once would allow financial compensation for his services. Among the creatures great and small were hawks, eagles, owls, and even a massive 40-pound snapping turtle whom we nicknamed Big Momma!

During one of these visits he and his late wife Myrtle took turns finishing each other's sentences telling the story about someone's feisty pet monkey they treated who snuck out of the basement clinic and swung from branch to branch down Route 4 with the monkey's owner, Dr. Hayden, and Myrtle all giving chase! When they finally convinced the pet monkey to come back, Myrtle was late for fiddle practice and relayed the unbelievable story of why she was late only to have one of her Country Spice band members ask if she had been drinking?!

There will never be another like Dr. Harvey Hayden. His brilliance, compassion, generosity, hysterical dry wit, and humble nature will live on in the hearts of all — bipeds, quadrupeds, hoofed, fluffy toe-beaned, taloned, terrestrial, airborne — who were fortunate enough to have been touched by this true gentleman. To you and for you, we offer our most sincere gratitude. Sweet dreams our friend, sweet dreams.

Johanna C. Walton  
Sharon



The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday. You may email letters to publisher@lakeville-journal.com.

Please provide phone number for confirmation and town of residence.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### 'Planning' by Committee

Several weeks ago, a Planning and Zoning Commission member raised the concept of paving the Rail Trail for vehicular use from Library Street to Salmon Kill Road. That idea is not part of any conceptual plan developed by the Pope Land Design Committee (PLDC), nor was it suggested in the Collier's study. I have been asked quite pointedly why I failed to immediately reprimand that member for his suggestion.

As Chair, I will not censure any member for their ideas. I only intervene on the rare occasion when a member takes us into territory that could create legal problems for the Town.

The continued flow of misinformation and corresponding levels of anxiety in the community, especially within the neighborhoods surrounding the Pope Property, is alarming and completely avoidable. To understand these problems means looking beyond the individual concepts and considering following:

Why was the PLDC established by the Board of Selectmen (BOS) composed of only two groups, housing and recreation? Why does the BOS encourage "planning" by ad hoc committees answerable to the BOS, instead of those elected and appointed by the community to conduct these functions? The PLDC was established without representation/participation from the Planning and Zoning Commission which has the statutory authority to oversee planning in the Town. In addition, the Historic District Commission, Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission, and the Conservation Commission all should have had seats at the table. The Land Use Department should have been included, much in the way the Recreation Department was represented by its director.

Apparently the PLDC created concepts based upon a foundation of preconceived ideas concerning both the types of uses and the capacity of the site. Thus far, the PLDC has limited their scope of inquiry only to the site itself, without fully understanding the overall planning context and connections, as well as impacts, to off-site neighborhoods and beyond. They "planned" without knowledge of traffic impacts (i.e., traffic studies) and limits to infrastructural capacity (utilities).

Finally, ceding by lot line adjustment a portion of the site fronting on Salmon Kill Road to the Recreation Department is a mistake. Until a comprehensive plan is developed for the entire site, it is foolhardy to preclude the possibility of different layouts by removing a portion of the property from consideration

in the planning process. Given these deficiencies it is not surprising that abutters and the community as a whole have legitimate concerns and fears. Remember these are concepts, not plans. To get to the next level will involve multiple steps by the PZC, including an 8-24 review and an engaged, structured public process. The most recent example of this was the Transfer Station. When plans were finally presented to the PZC and appropriate consultations with State agencies were initiated, the Transfer Station was relocated and redesigned, followed by a robust public process that spanned four nights of public hearings.

Michael W. Klemens  
Lakeville  
*The author is Chair of the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission, but these viewpoints are in his capacity as a private citizen.*

#### A leader for troubled times

Many issues are tearing the fabric of America: high inflation, attacks on our police, unsecured borders, high gas prices, rampant crime, and attacks on America's allies overseas. George Logan, candidate for U.S. Congress in our district, has staked out common sense positions reflecting American values on all of these issues and will be a reliable voice on our behalf. And he is confronting the most divisive of issues today — antisemitism.

The war against Israel's existence has given rise to the worst period of antisemitism in my lifetime. On American campuses, in the streets of American cities, and even in the halls of Congress, hatred for Israel and Jews is becoming more commonplace and, in some circles, accepted. I believe that our elected officials have a duty to speak out against this scourge, and to take meaningful action.

George Logan has spoken out at several local events against those espousing violence against the Jewish community, and those calling for the destruction of the State of Israel — the only true democracy in the Middle East and a staunch ally of the United States. And

his position is not new. As a Connecticut State Senator, he worked with the Jewish Federation of Greater New Haven and the Anti-Defamation League of Connecticut. He co-sponsored Senate Bill 452 which mandates the teaching of Holocaust awareness in Connecticut schools, an essential tool to counter those who would deny that 6 million Jews were murdered by Nazis during World War II. He understands the risks posed by the largest state sponsor of terrorism, Iran, gaining nuclear weapons and has pledged to support Congressional action pressuring Iran's economy and military until their nuclear program and regional aggression is ended.

George Logan's opponent in this race, Jahana Hayes, seems to have trouble taking a firm stand. She has made some general statements against antisemitism and violence but has not attended a single event in our community to support the victims of that hate. In fact, she voted with the far-left "Squad" against House Resolution 927 that "condemns the rise of antisemitism on university campuses and the testimony of universi-

ty presidents in the House Committee on Education and the Workforce" and in November she voted against a military aid package to Israel. On April 5, she signed a letter with Squad members demanding that the U.S. stop selling weapons to Israel. Her actions do not support the American Jewish community or Israel, which is fighting a multi-front war against enemies pledged to eradicate

Israel and Jews. Our community deserves a Congressman who will work to provide common sense solutions to our country's most pressing problems and who will take an unambiguous, principled stand against antisemitism, terrorism and Jew hatred. That person is George Logan.

Alan Friedman  
Salisbury

#### THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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## Viewpoint

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

## 100 years ago – May 1924

LIME ROCK – Mr. and Mrs. Lyon entertained relatives from Bridgeport Sunday.

H.S. Kelsey of Salisbury has a new Reo Speed Wagon.

The two children of Paul Parsons have been suffering with whooping cough the past four weeks but are now better.

A brush fire at the Hotchkiss School grounds last Friday morning communicated to the roof of the school ice house and necessitated the service of Lakeville Hose Co. The blaze was quite stubborn and resisted the efforts of the firemen but was finally extinguished before serious damage resulted.

Leander Whiteman has returned from Waterbury and is now shaving, trimming and bobbing hair at Thurston's barber shop.

Wonder what the sun looks like. Long time since we saw very much of old Sol.

Next week the Journal will install a model 14 linotype to replace our present typesetting machine which has given long and faithful service, but which is now about at the end of its working life. The new machine is the last word to date in typesetting machinery, and while we feel somewhat sentimental in bidding the old machine good-bye, we welcome the new member as a great addition to our equipment. If your Journal reaches you somewhat late please bear with us as our working arrangements must, of necessity, be more or less disturbed during the installation of the new machine for a short time.

## 50 years ago – May 1974

Fire completely destroyed a pickup truck owned by the Lakeville Service Station Tuesday night when George Jones, co-owner of the Shell station, discovered the bed of the truck on fire while driving north on Route 41 in Sheffield, Mass. Mr. Jones was

moving furniture and personal items belonging to his daughter, Bonnie Guidi, from Lakeville to Egremont, Mass. The truck caught fire shortly after 8:30 p.m. approximately four miles north of the Connecticut state line. Mr. Jones estimated the dollar loss at close to \$2,000.

The 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert R. Hemmerly of Lakeville will be celebrated Tuesday, June 25, with a party from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Town Grove. Because the Hemmerlys have spent the past 47 years in service to the town, the public is invited to help celebrate the occasion.

Josephine Vaill of Warren is the last fire spotter in Connecticut. There were originally 19 fire towers until the state realized that a spotter plane could fly over the hilly countryside and cities in one hour precluding the need for spotters. Mrs. Vaill's busiest period extends from March 15 to June 1. When she wakes in the morning, she tunes in to radio station WTIC to learn the fire danger for that day. If it is high, she drives the 17 miles from Warren to Mohawk Mountain, in the state park in Cornwall, climbs the American Telephone and Telegraph tower on top of which the state built an observation room, and begins her duties.

In the herd of Howard Wentworth and Sons of Canaan Valley Farm, East Canaan, an eight-year-old registered Ayrshire cow named Bentley Beth has completed an official milk production record of 16,580 pounds.

The new IGA Foodliner at Kent Green is scheduled to open for business today. The supermarket, managed by Charles Davis, is the most recent addition to Gordon and Jack Casey's new commercial development on Main Street.

## 25 years ago – May 1999

Kindergartners will be spending a little more time

away from home next year. That's because the Salisbury Board of Education approved an extended day for all its young students at a May 24 meeting.

SHARON – If one thing is known about Gail Mirabile, it is that she will be missed. Mrs. Mirabile, the wife of Dr. Charles S. Mirabile Jr., died May 20 at Hartford Hospital. She was perhaps best known for her work at the Hotchkiss Library. She began working at the library in 1980 and was head librarian at the time of her death.

Tom Brokaw, a part-time resident, author and anchor of the NBC Nightly News, will talk about his book "The Greatest Generation" Saturday at 3 p.m. at the United Church of Christ on Bolton Hill Road. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Cornwall Library.

Rubber duckies and furry squirrels don't necessarily mix. Cornwall First Selectman Gordon Ridgway was late to last Thursday's meeting of the Board of Finance because of a menagerie in his bathroom. It seems a squirrel, who came in through an open window, hid among his children's rubber ducks. When the kids got into the tub to take a bath, the squirrel started splashing around, causing quite a commotion. Mr. Ridgway said the youngsters thought it was fun for a while. He eventually got the situation under control and the live creature was removed.

Davis IGA on Kent Green will celebrate its 25 years of business in town with an in-store celebration June 13 from 1 to 5 p.m. The event will feature special promotions, refreshments and give-aways.

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

## Shift in marijuana policy: Implications for state

The Drug Enforcement Agency's (DEA) recent decision to reschedule marijuana (cannabis) after 50 years as a Schedule I drug to a Schedule III signifies a new era where the federal government now recognizes the plant's medical benefits. This change, prompted by President Biden's directive for a review of marijuana's scheduling, is a result of relentless advocacy by patients, physicians, scientists, and policymakers. For Connecticut, this shift could refine the medical and legal landscape for cannabis, benefiting the state in multiple significant ways.

The reclassification of cannabis to Schedule III acknowledges its medical utility and relatively low potential for abuse. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have outlined the plant's efficacy in treating certain medical conditions, reinforcing its legitimacy in the medical community. This recognition is crucial for advancing research and acceptance of cannabis as a legitimate treatment option, which could greatly benefit Connecticut's medical professionals and patients alike.

Under Schedule III, FDA-approved cannabis drugs can be prescribed by physicians and dispensed

by DEA-registered entities. However, this does not alter the status of state-run dispensaries or the sale of whole-plant marijuana products, which remain federally illegal unless FDA-approved. It is important for Connecticut residents to understand that while the state may have its cannabis programs, these are not automatically compliant with federal law under the new scheduling.

The federal government, through the policies enacted across various administrations, has shown a trend towards non-enforcement against compliant state marijuana businesses. This is likely to continue, reducing the risk of federal intervention in states like Connecticut that have established marijuana programs. Furthermore, appropriations legislation by Congress currently prevents the Justice Department from using funds to interfere with state medical marijuana programs, although this does not extend to adult-use programs.

The rescheduling is poised to relieve Connecticut's cannabis businesses from the burdens of Section 280E of the Internal Revenue Code, which prohibits deductions of ordinary business expenses. This change could save these businesses significant amounts in taxes, enabling

reinvestment and potentially leading to higher wages and job creation within the state. However, Schedule III does not resolve the banking difficulties faced by the cannabis industry, although it may lead to some improvements in how banks interact with cannabis businesses.

While the move to Schedule III is a step forward, it does not equate to full legalization or address the comprehensive legislative changes needed to rectify the racial injustices of past drug policies. Connecticut can use this opportunity to bolster its own cannabis reforms and set a precedent for responsible and inclusive policies. The state can also play a vital role in shaping future national discussions on cannabis, leveraging the new scheduling status to advocate for more comprehensive federal reforms.

As Connecticut embraces these changes, it must remain proactive in refining its cannabis regulations and continue to support the medical community and the patients it serves. This historic shift not only opens new medical and economic doors, but also challenges the state to lead in shaping a sensible, equitable future for cannabis policy.

Sarah A. Chase

Kent

## From Kyiv to Connecticut

January, 2022. My new year celebration in Ukraine was accompanied by cheerful optimism for the upcoming year. After being wrongly diagnosed with lupus, this time marked the end of 12 months of everlasting hospital visits, biopsies, and analysis. Looking ahead, I hoped to spend the coming year with my family and friends, as the need for my isolation had passed.

But then, on Feb. 24, 2022, the world turned upside down. With explosions outside my home in Kyiv, all I could wish for was the isolation and silent safety I once knew in those hospital rooms.

My family fled Kyiv to one of the small neighboring towns – Borodyanka. The town was surrounded by the occupiers the following day. We soon learned that the explosions signified safety: they meant that there was still a fight to be had.

Under the shells of Borodyanka, I continued working on my application to Ukraine Global Scholars (UGS), a program designed to help Ukrainian youth through their application process to top boarding schools and colleges in the U.S. Within a few days, the Russian military hit the only grocery store, power plants, and internet tower in the area. Running low on food and water, our only source of information became the radio, which translated stories of the terrors from the neighboring regions.

Two weeks later we were evacuated from the city. The neighboring family knew of the situations in the nearby towns, which were temporarily controlled by the Ukrainian army. With them, we placed white sheets on the car and drove through forests and a few villages to get to the Polish border. I submitted my UGS application in a big multi-family room of a refugee center in Warsaw, Poland.

My UGS acceptance notification was followed by a six-month application process to U.S. boarding schools. On March 10, 2023, the results came out: acceptance from Hotchkiss. I was overwhelmed with joy. Neither my parents nor I had ever traveled abroad before the full-scale war broke out. Following my acceptance, my mom and I returned back home to Kyiv. With the visa application, preparations, and occasional explosions, the summer went by quickly.

The next thing I knew, I was on my way to the United States (my first time traveling alone). A bus, two trains, two flights, and one car drive later, I arrived in Lakeville. As I came to Hotchkiss for the fall semester, I was struck by the drastic differences in the educational system. Six chosen classes substituted eighteen fixed classes I took in Ukraine. The focus shifted from memorizing material to learning how to discuss, interpret, and analyze data. The analysis and interpretation of the readings and assignments became the priority. On the other hand, after-school activities became as important, if not more important, than academics. From community service to athletics and research projects, I was spinning in choices.

For the first two months, I struggled to adapt to the new



PHOTO PROVIDED

Ira Buch in Gdansk, Poland, after the war broke out in Ukraine in 2022.

## STUDENT NOTEBOOK

IRA BUCH

expectations in and outside of the classroom. It was difficult to construct effective essays according to the new methods, and grasping math topics from a new perspective became a challenge. At my Ukrainian school, we covered parts of precalculus and calculus, never fully finishing either of them. At Hotchkiss, I was placed into a calculus class where the themes were based on concepts I had never fully studied. I struggled to keep up with my classmates, every one of whom seemed to

have complete control over their activities and goals. At that time, I was lucky to have been met with support and feedback from my teachers, improving my understanding of the expectations and

requirements. With their support, the B on my essay transformed into an A, and math concepts became easier to grasp. The confusion with the U.S. measurement system, however, persisted. I still interpret Fahrenheit and miles connotations based on the context.

During the winter break, I had an opportunity to travel to Germany with some of my classmates. The trip was one of the best experiences of the year: we practiced German, drove the U-Bahn, and visited Christmas markets, museums, and shows.

After the trip, I was able to go home and spend the New Year with my family. The trip back was accompanied by the Russian New

Year's Eve bombing and, as a result, a missed bus in Poland. One bus turned into three to get to Berlin's airport. Back home, the snowy landscape was reminiscent of the Lakeville weather. The howl of the wind, however, was replaced by the howl of Russian shaheds, drones and missiles, explosions instead of the celebratory fireworks, and commemoration of those killed by the Russian invasion instead of the celebration of the past year.

February, 2024. Two years after the beginning of the full-scale war and ten years after the initial Russian invasion. With the enormous support of the school and the local community, Oleh, my friend from UGS, and a Hotchkiss classmate, and I launched a fundraising campaign and a photo exhibition at the school. The exhibition featured photos taken by my family and friends, as well as other families. Here, Oleh and I got an opportunity to share our stories. I was struck by the outpouring of support we received and the community's awareness of the situation in my home country.

As time marched on, Lakeville slowly transitioned into the spring season. Since coming to Hotchkiss, spring has become my favorite part of the year. The classrooms and hallways are no longer stressful, but familiar. I started feeling at home on campus and during class discussions and assignments.

In the blink of an eye, Lakeville's transition between winter and spring was complete with flowers, sun rays on the windows, and a pleasant rise in temperature. A two-year whirlwind culminates with peace.

*Ira Buch is a junior at The Hotchkiss School. She will be returning to Ukraine this summer before coming back to Hotchkiss for senior year.*

## Realtor® at Large

Hopefully many of our land owners and Land Trusts will delay mowing their fields until at least July 15th this summer. The reason is to allow the grassland birds to nest in the fields and the fledglings to fly off before the fields are cut. There has been a significant reduction in grassland birds with due to loss of habitat and early mowing. To know which birds are affected, please see: [www.vagraslandbirds.org/birds/](http://www.vagraslandbirds.org/birds/). Best practices include delayed mowing, leaving a 30 foot buffer on the edge of fields and using a flushing bar on the tractor which allows birds time to escape. For more details on the best practices to help preserve the populations of grasslands birds, please visit: [www.vagraslandbirds.org/best-management-practices/](http://www.vagraslandbirds.org/best-management-practices/).



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# Memorial Day

## Remembering veterans in Salisbury

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Memorial Day parade kicked off promptly at 10 a.m. under a gray and ominous sky.

It rained steadily from about 9:10 a.m. until ten minutes before the parade started.

As the band started playing and flashing lights and the occasional whoop of a siren began on Main Street by Town Hall and the Scoville Memorial Library, down at the intersection of Main Street and Undermountain Road, emergency personnel issued last-second parade avoidance directions to unwary motorists, one of whom disregarded the directions and got well and truly stuck.

The parade included the Salisbury Band, Salisbury



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Salisbury Winter Sports Association's (SWSA) float rolls down Main Street on a damp Monday, May 27.

Central School band (as one unit), the Redhawks hockey team, the Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association, the Rotary Club, the Lakeville Hose

Company, the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service, the Hotchkiss Veterans Club, Housatonic Child Care Center and Salisbury's veterans,

most in uniform.

At the cemetery, Rev. John Nelson of the Salisbury Congregational Church gave the invocation. Kennadi Mitchell, an eighth-grade student at Salisbury Central School, recited the Gettysburg Address, and David Bayersdorfer read the "Roll of Honored Dead."

There was a rifle salute, with Chris Williams warning the crowd about the noise and urging caution with dogs and small children.

This was followed by "Taps and Echo." Lloyd Wallingford led the crowd in "God Bless America."

Rev. Heidi Truax of Trinity Episcopal Church led the prayer, which was Psalm 23. The band played the National Anthem. Nelson delivered the benediction.



PHOTO BY COLIN BAZZANO

March through Norfolk

## North Canaan's Doughboy restored

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — Delaying the parade paid off in North Canaan as the sun made an appearance to shine down on a day of observances.

Veterans, emergency service volunteers, local businesses, students, and athletes marched through town, departing from Town Hall and walking to the Doughboy statue on Route 44.

The statue was the site of a remembrance ceremony and the unveiling of the recently restored monument.

Master mason Karl Munson worked to carefully clean and repair the statue over the spring. Names of missing veterans were added.

World War II veteran Louis A. Cecchinato Sr.'s name was added, fulfilling a long-standing wish of the family.

First Selectman Brian Ohler dedicated this Memorial Day "to remembering those brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country."



PHOTO PROVIDED

The Doughboy memorial monument spent the spring of 2024 being restored by master mason Karl Munson. The completed statue was unveiled at the end of the parade on Memorial Day.

## Solemn ceremonies in Cornwall

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — A morning of thoughtful remembrances went on despite the rain in Cornwall on Memorial Day.

The day began with ceremonies at North Cornwall Cemetery and the covered bridge in West Cornwall. The scheduled parade was replaced with an indoor gathering at Cornwall Consolidated School.

Veteran and Master of Ceremonies Dave Cadwell spoke on the significance of the day in Cornwall. He thanked the veterans seated behind him for their service and spoke fondly of three more who were notably not seated on the stage.

Cornwall veterans John Franklin Green, Robert Andrew Parker, and Jerry Doolittle died last year, but their sacrifices and dedication to their community was remembered.

"These three men traveled the world in their productive lifetimes, but all three would return to their



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Tim Naylor presents the VFW Citizenship Award to Katherine Washburn, May 27.

homes that they loved here in Cornwall," said Cadwell.

The annual VFW Citizenship Award, presented by Berkshire VFW Post 9243, was given to Katherine Washburn, who has placed approximately 15,000 flags at veteran graves over the last 35

years. Melody Matsudaira closed the ceremony at CCS with a flawless rendition of "Taps" played on trumpet.

The carnival that typically follows Cornwall's Memorial Day parade was canceled due to weather.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Veterans salute the fallen in Kent.

## Kent salutes the fallen

By Lans Christensen

KENT — The threat of rain had canceled the Memorial Day Parade in Kent, so an Honoring Ceremony at the Community House was scheduled as the remembrance event.

Uniformed veterans, a scout troop, and caring citizens attended the 9:30 a.m. ceremony.

Father John Klots opened with prayers, followed by laying of the

wreaths, and the Gettysburg Address.

First Selectman Marty Lindenmayer, a veteran himself, read names of all Kent deceased veterans of Kent who had died serving their country. "Taps" and a closing prayer ended the ceremony. Father Klots prayed, "Hear our prayers on this day, and all days."

With the rain tapering, a picnic at the Kent Land Trust Fields followed at 11 a.m.



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Selectmen Chris Kinsella, Judy Jacobs, and Dave Barger held the flag instead of raising it, as the ceremony moved inside due to rain.

## Sharon shows gratitude on Memorial Day

By Matthew Kreta

SHARON — The Sharon Memorial Day service was held inside Sharon Center School's gymnasium this year due to inclement weather. Although the parade was canceled, Bob Loucks led the ceremony along with Brian Kenny, who served as chaplain.

The service began with a prayer led by Kenny, followed by performances by the Sharon Center School choir and band respectively, under the direction of Ryan McNulty.

During the ceremony, Loucks shared many emo-

tional stories, writings and personal anecdotes from Sharon veterans spanning hundreds of years. Beginning with writings from the civil war all the way to World War II and Korea, the stories of Sharon veterans captivated those in attendance, leaving few dry eyes.

The ceremony continued with songs performed by Alison Holstgrubbe, the granddaughter of one of the veterans mentioned in Loucks' recounting.

The service ended with "Taps," a firing squad and a collective singing of "God Bless America."



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

The Sharon Center School band perform at the 2024 Memorial Day ceremony.

## Falls Village honors town volunteers

By Alexander Wilburn

FALLS VILLAGE — Due to rain, the Falls Village Memorial Day celebration on Monday, May 27, was moved inside to the Senior Center on Main Street, and sans the Kellogg School marching band parade, the ceremonial placing of the wreaths, or the raising of the flag, it was a relatively small affair as an effect of the poor weather.

Led by First Selectman David Barger and Selectmen

Chris Kinsella and Judy Jacobs, the observance recognized several town residents and organizations.

It was a notable anniversary for Falls Village's Volunteer Fire Department, which was acknowledged as having served the small town for 100 years since its formation in 1924.

William Beebe was honored with the annual Volunteer of the Year award, and couple Terry and Kay Blass were honored with the Community Service Award.



# Sports

## Housatonic lax places second in league tourney

By Riley Klein

WATERTOWN — St. Paul Catholic High School defeated Housatonic Valley Regional High School 13-12 in the riveting Western Connecticut Lacrosse Conference championship game Tuesday, May 21.

The lead changed hands every quarter and the game came down to the wire. HVRHS had a scoring chance with less than 30 seconds to play, but St. Paul held strong and claimed the title.

This anticipated showdown between the top two WCLC teams featured a total of 10 all-conference players. St. Paul had six: Emily Walker, Jocelyn Kennedy, Vanessa Longo, Jaylie Hernandez, Corinne Mola, and Samantha Sein. HVRHS had four: Lou Haemmerle, Marissa Zinke, Sophie Nason, and Lola Clayton (injured for title game).

Played on neutral ground at John J. Mills Complex in Watertown, conditions were toasty at game time, about 83 degrees with high humidity



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Above, HVRHS's Marissa Zinke, Lola Clayton, Lou Haemmerle and Sophie Nason were named all-conference players. Left, the team poses with the runner-up trophy, May 21. Below, the Mountaineer defense contained St. Paul's high-scoring offense and the title match came down to the wire.

and no shade. Ice packs were in high demand for players seeking relief from the heat during timeouts.

The score see-sawed throughout the game with neither team leading by more than two points at any time.

HVRHS led 4-3 at the end of the first quarter, but St. Paul was on top 9-8 at the half. The Mountaineers then reclaimed the lead, up 12-11 going into the final quarter.

Both teams were running

on fumes by the fourth. St. Paul scored early to tie it up at 12. The Falcons scored again with seven minutes to play and proceeded to stall and drain the clock.

With 30 seconds remaining Lou Haemmerle forced a turnover and sprinted the length of the field. The Mountaineers charged with time ticking away. Haemmerle sent a pass to the inside, which got broken up before reaching its target.

A last-ditch shovel shot was blocked by St. Paul goalie Samantha Sein and the final buzzer blared. St. Paul won 13-12.

St. Paul was led in scoring by star midfielder Emily Walker with seven goals and two assists. Walker, due to graduate next month, scored more than 300 goals in her high school career. Vanessa Longo scored three, Jocelyn Kennedy scored two, and Gigi Arroyo scored one for St. Paul.

Marissa Zinke scored four times for HVRHS. Lou Haemmerle scored three times with three assists. Tessa Dekker and Isaly Sheil scored twice, Chloe Hill scored once. Sophie Nason had at least eight saves (according to the tally of a Lakeville Journal reporter).



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Brody Ohler hit a solo home run May 25.

## Pirates win in Torrington

By Riley Klein

TORRINGTON — The Steve Blass Northwest Corner Pirates little league team defeated Torrington Blue 10-2 Saturday, May 25.

The Majors League matchup featured players aged 10 to 12 for the mid-season game at Colangelo Sports Complex in Torrington. The Pirates, whose roster is composed of players from the six Region One towns and Norfolk, remain undefeated at 6-0 this season.

Pirates Coach Tom Downey said the emphasis for players this year has been primarily on pitching and defense. Against Torrington Blue, the defensive mindset of the team was evident, and the offense was clicking too.

The top of the order for the Pirates got things started early. Brody Ohler, Gus Tripler and Sam Hahn all reached home to give their team a 3-0 lead. Grayson Brooks started the game on the mound for the Pirates. Whitlow Cheney and Will Nichols kept things rolling in the second by adding two more runs for the Pirates. Thomas Nichols reached home in the third to make the lead 6-0.

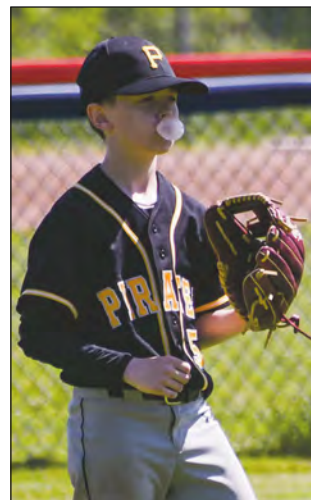
Brooks was subbed for Sam Hahn at pitcher in the fourth inning.

Cheney and Nichols each scored again in the top of the fifth inning. Torrington responded with two runs in the bottom to bring the score to 8-2.

Ohler stepped up and launched a solo home run in the top of the seventh. Brooks reached home before the inning was out and the score was 10-2 going into the



Grayson Brooks pitched.



Will Nichols, center field.



Kieran Bryant, Sam Hahn and Jackson Goodwin.

final stretch.

Ohler took the mound in the seventh and closed out the game with three strikeouts.

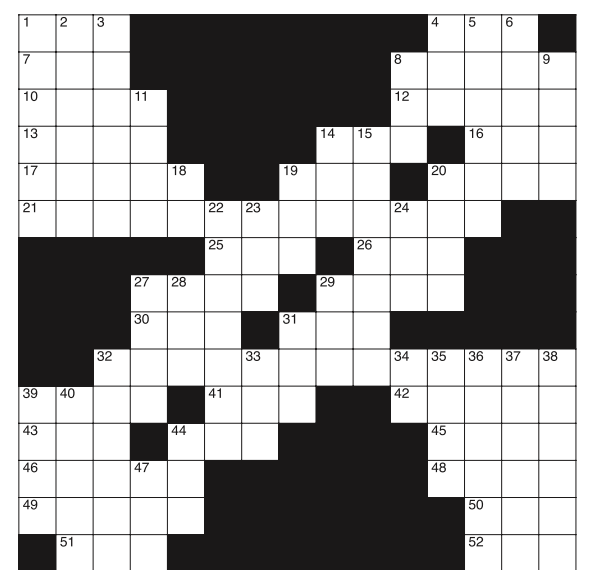
Next up for the Pirates will be a three-game home

series at Steve Blass Field. They take on Thomaston P&C Repair May 28 at 5:45 p.m., Tri-Town Braves May 31 at 5:45 p.m., and Torrington Maroon June 1 at 12:30 p.m.

## Brain Teasers

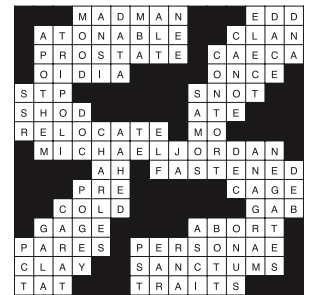
### CLUES ACROSS

- Fashion accessory
- Engine additive
- Small, faint constellation
- Gives a job
- Self-righteous person
- Caucasian language
- Surinam toad
- Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
- Former French coin
- Levels the score
- What stage performers do
- Egyptian Sun god
- Localities
- Spherical body
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Perfect
- It's on many people's heads
- Boxing's GOAT
- Photo
- Popular HBO show
- Popular music awards show
- Pouch
- Lake in Botswana
- Unruly group
- One-fourth
- Very eager
- Edward \_\_, author and writer
- Flying insect
- Dragged forcibly
- Thus far
- Not just "play"
- Commercials

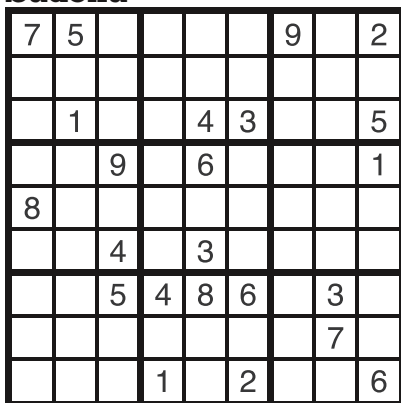


- Type of vessel (abbr.)
- Accept and handle
- Sacrifice hit
- One who buys and sells securities simultaneously
- Month
- Most thin
- Naturally occurring material
- Luke's mentor \_\_ - Wan
- Postmodernist Austrian "House"
- Aquatic salamander
- Baseball stat
- Beginning military rank
- Talk rapidly and unintelligibly
- Paddle
- Caregiver (abbr.)
- Old Irish alphabet
- Japanese city
- In a way, acted
- Things to see
- Nursemaid
- Type of tooth
- To be demonstrated
- Defunct European group

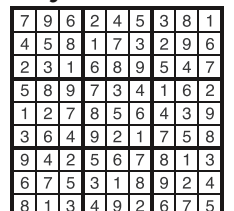
### May 23 Solution



### Sudoku



### May 23 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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**MIRA**

Continued from Page A1

ton-Jones, Connecticut residents produce 3.5 million tons of municipal solid waste annually, yet the state only has capacity for 2.7 million tons. Heaton-Jones said it takes 125,000 trucks to move our 3.5 million tons of waste to existing facilities and 29,000 more trucks to move the rest out-of-state.

MIRA was replaced by MIRA Dissolution Authority (MDA), which has been tasked with shutting down the facility, selling the operable heavy equipment, selling scrap metal, and cleaning up the site. MDA is obligated by Public Act 23-170 to "continue to operate the authority's transfer stations until acceptable alternatives, operated by entities other than the authority, become available, as determined by the Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection."

U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal revealed his concern and grasp of the looming crisis. "The closure of the MIRA facility in Hartford has brought more attention to a longstanding issue facing Connecticut, its towns and residents – how to better address our solid waste crisis. State and local governments, along with environmental advocates, have been discussing various initiatives including increased recycling, food waste diversion and reducing municipal solid waste. Initiatives such as establishing anaerobic digesters to process food waste have already received federal funding with my support. I will continue to collaborate with state and local officials, advocates and businesses to provide federal support for their initiatives."

The story of the MIRA facility began on December 19, 1921, when the Hartford Electric Light Company (HELCO) fired up the South Meadows Station. The \$5 million facility was "seen as a marvel of efficiency," according to the Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRRA). Equipped with coal conveyors and automatic stokers, the plant burned 250 tons of coal daily. In 1928, the first commercial mercury cycle generating units in the world opened at the South Meadows Station. Despite its

thermodynamic efficiency, once mercury's health risks were known it was discontinued.

The South Meadows Station was converted to petroleum fuels by the 1940s and, in 1978, the "Mid-Connecticut Project" was proposed as a \$150 million garbage-burning plant to resolve the region's solid waste disposal problems. Four dual turbine Pratt & Whitney backup generators provided emergency power to the switch yards in the event the main boilers went offline, like during the Northeast Blackout of 1965. For every 800,000 tons of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), 16,000 tons of ferrous metal was recovered for recycling. The Regional Recycling Center (RRC) also received 80,000 tons per year of cardboard, paper, newspaper, plastic, and soda cans.

In 2001, the site was purchased by the CRRRA, which required prior environmental recontamination be remediated. There were 45 areas of concern identified through thousands of soil samples taken.

The South Meadows site went through 12 years of active remediation work at a cost of \$28 million, including removal of 60,000 tons of impacted soil, pumping and treatment of ground water, installation of engineered controls, imposition of deed restrictions and environmental land use restrictions. Eversource, which has an easement for its massive transformers on site, uncovered some deep pocket of theretofore unknown historical contamination, which halted the remediation process.

In 2020 MIRA asked the state for \$330 million to restore the South Meadows but they were turned down by Katie Dykes, Commissioner of DEEP, who chastised MIRA for presenting a "false choice, and a bad deal for taxpayers across the state, Hartford residents, and the environment. I expect more from MIRA as a public sector trash authority. Today, I asked that the MIRA board deliver to the state a real plan, fully exploring all the options. MIRA was envisioned to be a partner for the



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

**Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority (MIRA) trash-burning, Waste to Energy (WTE) plant in Hartford's South Meadows was closed in 2022. The site first opened as a power plant on December 19, 1921 when the Hartford Electric Light Company fired up the South Meadows Station.**

state in implementing sound policy on waste, recycling, and the environment."

Governor Lamont was also not a fan of the MIRA remediation proposal. He said, "I cannot support sending hundreds of millions of state taxpayer or electric ratepayer dollars to MIRA to attempt to keep a failing decades-old facility running, right here in Hartford where it impacts our vulnerable residents. A permanent trash export operation is also a nonstarter.

It's time for new ideas."

Tom Kirk, President of MIRA at that time, expressed his disappointment. "Regrettably, the operations plan portends planning for a regressive initiative to commence large scale transport to and landfilling at distant out-of-state landfills. MIRA is disappointed in the collective failure of Connecticut's policymakers to mobilize to prevent this environmental and public service tragedy."

At a meeting Tuesday, May

14, the MDA Board, which is headed by Lamont appointee Bert Hunter, Chief Investment Officer of Connecticut Green Bank, voted to retain the \$56 million remaining in their coffers to use towards remediation of the site, which is essentially a brownfield.

MDA approved a \$629,500 contract with Weston and Sampson Engineers to conduct the South Meadows Redevelopment Considerations Study, to determine the environmental impacts of future use and identify hazards such as lead in the thermal systems, pipes, insulation, paint, flange gaskets, valve packing, pipe dope, and plaster surfacing materials. In the current location, there are mercury vapor light tubes, high pressure sodium lamps, and mercury switches. The coal ash pond may contain heavy metals, including arsenic, mercury, cadmium, chromium, lead, nickel, and selenium.

The existing level of toxins may delay tearing down the massive brick, cement, and steel structures. It will be difficult to dispose of the toxic rubble. Despite the site contamination, a turtle was sunning on a rock in the pond,

grey herons posed, eagles were nesting in nearby trees, and a coyote ran through the empty plant.

The cost to perform this work is estimated and funded at \$3.3 million. All MSW delivered to the plant was processed into refuse-derived fuel (RDF) and combusted to produce electricity. The last load of MSW was delivered to the plant on July 11, 2022; the last boiler was shut down on July 19, 2022, and all the RDF was consumed.

The dissolution of MIRA has had a significant impact on the Northwest Corner. The Northwest Hills Council of Governments (COG) has until June 30, 2027, to come up with a Municipal Service Agreement (MSA) to either secure alternative waste management services or transition to a regional waste authority like the MIRA Torrington transfer station.

MDA has agreed to keep the tipping fee (a fee paid by those who dispose of waste in a landfill, based on the weight of the disposed waste) at \$131 per ton until 2027. After that, the towns are on their own to find a place to send their trash.



**HERBICIDE**

Continued from Page A1

curred but sounded some cautionary notes.

She said the governor has not yet signed the bill, although she expects that to happen.

There are questions of federal vs. state authority that need to be settled.

And "there are still some challenges to enforcement"

The change that means the most to trackside communities is that railroads must submit more detailed yearly management plans than in the past, and those plans are subject to a 45-day public comment period.

Both legislators were asked about significant bills that passed in the "short session."

Harding said he was pleased that funding for school construction in Sherman made it through the session.

He also cited the action taken against the use of PFAs (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), or "forever chemicals." Harding noted that several states have taken similar action to ban or severely restrict the use of PFAs, which have multiple industrial and manufacturing uses.

"PFAs are showing up in wells," Harding said. "This is the first step in doing something about it."

Harding was also happy to report that the legislature now requires that when a police dog is injured or killed in the line of duty, the funds

for replacing the dog now go to individual police department, not to the state.

And legislation passed that allows police more leeway in shutting down illegal street racing events.

Asked about his new role as Senate minority leader, Harding said at first the job was "overwhelming"

"But once I got into a routine, with a good team, it worked."

By the end of the session, "it was fun and rewarding."

Horn said among the items that made it through the session is a bill that allows municipalities to create a "homestead exemption." This allows towns to give homeowners a property tax break of between five and 35%, in perpetuity if the town wants.

Towns can also purchase and deploy "noise cameras," devices that measure decibels and take photos or video of offending vehicles. Horn said to use this a town must have a noise ordinance and purchase the equipment. Violators can get warnings and fines.

Also of interest to towns is legislation that Horn said "brings clarity" to towns sharing purchased services with each other or through their regional council of governments, and legislation that adds funding for finding alternative facilities for municipal solid waste disposal and organic waste diversion programs.

**CHURCH**

Continued from Page A1

His wife, not so much. After a particularly muddy race back, in which Barnum did not win, Mrs. Barnum said something along the lines of, "Wouldn't it be nice if we had an Episcopal church in Lime Rock?"

Barnum took the hint. Brown said the church building (not the subsequent additions) was built before there was an official parish.

The first priest at the church was Father Milledge Walker, a Canadian. Brown said Walker's appointment represented the third try to find someone for the post.

"Possibly because of the guy running things," i.e. Barnum.

The May 26 service stressed the concept of the Holy Trinity. Rev. Heidi Truax's sermon featured children from the Sunday School drawing their ideas of what the Trinity looks like and means on paper and easels set up in front.

Truax said she got the idea from the "chalk talks" delivered by the late Rev. Aaron Manderbach, a retired priest who lived in the Northwest Corner and served as interim priest whenever one of the Episcopal parishes in the area had a vacancy.

Truax said the chalk talks,

in which Manderbach would talk a bit, draw on the blackboard, talk some more, and so on until he made his point both orally and visually, were a huge hit with everyone, even her own squirmy youngsters.

She attempted to replicate the chalk talks for her own sermons, with disappointing results.

"It would help if I could draw."

For the May 26 service, she hit on the idea of having the Sunday School students handle the art while she delivered the sermon.

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• FRENCH JAMS	• TUNA IN OLIVE OIL
• TAPENADE	• TOMATO PASTE
• ARTICHOKE PASTE	• DRIED FIGS
• COCKTAIL ONIONS	• MARCONA ALMONDS
• BALSAMIC VINEGAR	• DRIED CHERRIES
• SUN DRIED PEPPERS	• RASPBERRIES IN ARMAGNAC
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• CALABRIAN CHILI PEPPERS	• NOUGAT
• SLICED CHAMPIGNON MUSHROOMS	• DURANTE'S HOMEMADE PASTA
• CAPERS IN SEA SALT	

# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

LIFESTYLE: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

## Rising demand for home elevators

Ray and Eve Pech were in their late 30's when they built their dream house 40 years ago on the side of a mountain overlooking Ski Sundown.

The modest, 2,000-square-foot, vertically-designed home offered privacy, ample space for their young family, stunning scenery — and stairs galore.

"It's on three levels because it's on the side of a hill," said Ray Pech, a retired lawyer who serves on the Northwestern Connecticut Transit District board of directors. "We fell in love with the tremendous views."

As for the stairs, he said, "We really didn't think a lot about it. The thought never occurred to us that the day would come when we wouldn't be able to go up stairs forever."

The Pechs are among the growing number of Baby Boomers who aren't planning to sell because they like their homes and have decided to age in place.

During a 2020 expansion project, they retrofitted their home with an elevator so that in their Golden Years they could safely enjoy all levels of their home, and also make it easier for visiting friends with mobility problems and wheelchair bound relatives to visit without climbing stairs.

"We thought, 'how do we make this house so that we can stay here?' and that was the logical choice, even though we didn't need it physically yet," Pech explained. "But I guess it's there when we need it."

Elevators are no longer just a luxury. Connecticut is home to 823,529 people aged 60 or older, representing 23% of the state's population, according to a Healthy Aging Data Report. For many seniors, assisted living is out of reach due to rising costs and health concerns, particularly post-pandemic. Caregiving, too, can be costly for those on limited incomes.

A challenging housing market is discouraging senior homeowners from selling their homes, so many aging Baby Boomers are choosing to stay put. But with age comes the inevitable potential for decline in mobility. Home elevators, and to a lesser degree, stair lifts, are solutions to this growing problem,



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Ray and Eve Pech inside their Sevaria home elevator, which was recently installed as part of a larger renovation project.

according to industry experts.

Elevator Service Company, Inc., (ESCO) based in Torrington, currently has licenses to install lifts and elevators in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island, and installs more than 100 residential elevators annually, according to company officials.

"For the Northwest Connecticut area, towns that are most abundant in our installations would be closer to the New York border, as the square footage of private homes are larger and more frequented to owners who live there year around," said Managing Director Mat Montgomery.

Over the past five years, Montgomery said he has noticed a change in the attitude that elevators are reserved for the wealthy. "Today, the elevator is a mainstay in the design of the home as building outward for most is challenging with limits in land."

And while the market continues to grow, he said, the manufacturing for the type of equipment offered by ESCO is growing, too, "bringing down costs which allow

us to put these units in every type of home, regardless of wealth."

The cost to install a residential elevator varies according to layout of the home, the number of levels served and the elevator style, said the ESCO official.

"Our customers all have different needs and wants for their elevator, so the price range will vary with equipment and product offerings." Generally speaking, he said, a two-story home prepped for an elevator shaft requiring two closets stacked on top of each other, "will spend about \$45,000 on a new elevator for this shaftway. This is much cheaper than the price of some newer cars, making an elevator a low barrier to entry to having the to move around your home freely and safely for decades."

That estimate does not include construction costs to house the unit.

Ray Pech said when he and his wife crunched the numbers, their elevator cost them the equivalent of about three years of rent in a "reasonably nice" senior living complex.

"For us it made sense financially" to stay put, said Pech. "We built the

house and decided to redesign the house again in 2020, and the elevator was the instigation of it." They enlarged their living and dining areas to make up for lost space on the third level where the elevator shaft took up one of the bedrooms.

For the Pechs, the idea was to make the elevator look as if it had always been in the house. It appears as an ordinary door off the living room. Ray Pech opened the door, then slid aside a safety gate leading to a well-lit, wood-paneled box elevator with a weight capacity of 1,000 lbs. and ample space for a wheelchair and another adult.

Once inside, he secured the gate, and with a push of a button, the elevator, which operates via a pulley chain, smoothly and quietly ascended to the upper level at a barely noticeable speed of 40 feet per minute.

Beyond function, elevators can also be aesthetically attractive in a home.

"We do need to hang some art in there," Eve Pech said to her husband as the elevator door opened on its return to the main level.



PHOTO BY ANNE DAILY

Benjamin Hochman and Friends opened the 2023 Music Mountain summer series at Gordon Hall

MUSIC: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

## Summer series triumphs at Music Mountain

Music Mountain in Falls Village is set to begin its 95th season on June 2.

The summer will open with a benefit concert and reception featuring pianist Benjamin Hochman and Friends from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Espina Ruiz, the festival promises a season rich with transformative musical experiences.

Oskar Espina Ruiz, who has been Artistic Director of Music Mountain since 2016, brings a wealth of experience and passion to the festival. He divides his time between performing, teaching clarinet at the School of the Arts in North Carolina during the winter and residing at Music Mountain in the summer.

"It's very convenient," said Espina Ruiz. "I mean, it's such a peaceful place."

Espina Ruiz's first full season was in 2017 when he took over from Music Mountain's founder, Jacques Gordon. Gordon was also the concertmaster at the Chicago Symphony from 1921 to 1930 and the founding first violinist of the Gor-

don String Quartet.

"I had been curating concerts for over ten years at Treetops Chamber Music Society in Stamford, which put me in touch with many groups that play at Music Mountain," Espina Ruiz recalled. "When the opening came up at Music Mountain, I applied. Despite being a clarinetist, my extensive experience organizing festivals made me a good fit."

His diverse background allows Espina Ruiz to play many roles as director including performing, teaching, writing grants, organizing and more. "It's all connected," he explained.

"I love playing more than anything else, but I also love teaching, and organizing is something I've done all my life. So, it kind of comes naturally."

The 95th season's theme, "From Struggle to Triumph," is a testament to the transformative power of music and in particular, music performed live at this venue.

Espina Ruiz noted, "The place itself is quite transformative. It was built to emulate the

Continued on page B3

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# Eco-type, species, nativar: Nuances of native plants

The plant sale that I wrote about in my last column, a joint effort of Lindera Nursery and Tiny Meadow Farm, was fantastic. I came home with pots of rattlesnake master, *Eryngium yuccifolium*, which I planted in the meadow with the hope that their tall glaucous leaves and round balls of white flower will punctuate the otherwise mostly grassy green expanse. For a shady spot left by transplanting a witch hazel, several pots of Jacob's ladder, *Polemonium reptans* echo the tones of the violet and bluebells nearby.

I added two plants to the river path beds: *Echinacea pallida* — a restrained looking echinacea with thin pale pink petals that drape downward, and obedient plant, *Physostegia virginiana*, whose whitish-pink upward-growing flowers are reminiscent of snapdragons or lobe-



lia. These should fill in alongside the existing penstemon, mountain mint and the low growing, shocking-pink *Silene caroliniana* that is flowering right now.

Not only are all the new acquisitions native, most of the plants are also local eco-types; the seed from which the plants were grown was from plants grown locally. The thinking is that insects and birds are accustomed to the particular tastes, smells, shapes and colors of local plants and so, from the perspective of habitat preservation, they will have the best opportunity to succeed. Even humans, who are the most adaptable species, can relate to this notion: one person's award-win-



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

ning three-alarm chili is another person's digestive nightmare.

On the other end of the native plant spectrum are the cultivars. These are versions of na-

tive plants, selected and bred because they have an appealing aesthetic or disease resistance that differs from the original species. Some cultivars are strains of native plants found in nature and are grown from seeds from these plants, others, mainly woody plants, are created by cloning using plant cuttings.

Also called nativars, they are most often what you will find in nurseries and garden centers when looking for native plants. A cultivar, native or not, will always have its specific name in quo-

tation marks; this is the best clue to identify it as a cultivar. Producers are allowed to trademark cultivars of plants, such as 'Balmy™ Purple' Bee Balm which is one of the many nativars bred and sold under the American Meadows brand.

I succumbed to this mild-mannered marketing about ten years ago, well before I really paid attention to native plants, when purchasing a redbud nativar that has deep purple leaves, rather than the green leaves of the species. Even if the nursery had carried the species, I

would have selected this one; I was seduced by its name, 'Forest Pansy', as well as the charming color and shape of its leaf.

What I did not know at the time, and wish I had, is that nativars with purple or red leaves are far less interesting as a food source to caterpillars than are the original green leaves of the straight species. The chlorophyll of the green leaves is replaced by anthocyanins, flavonoids that, while healthy, are 'feeding deterrents' according to Doug Tallamy who did the research with Mt. Cuba, a botanic garden and research center focused on native plants. Mt. Cuba's research team looks at native species and their cultivars, assessing them over many years and then rates them for considerations including growth habits, hardiness and habitat benefits.

I spoke with Melissa Starkey, Ph.D., from Mt. Cuba who agreed that "there seems to be a lot of misinformation floating around that cultivars are 'bad' though in our research sometimes they are the winner for pollinators."

What do we need to take into account when making a decision about a nativar, so that we end up with a plant that, in

Continued on page B4



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Richard Benfield at the Hunt Library on Thursday, May 16.

## GARDENING: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

# Globetrotting and garden hopping

On Thursday, May 16, The David M. Hunt Library hosted "Around the World in 80 Gardens" with Professor Richard Benfield, a virtual tour of gardens around the world highlighting Benfield's interests in biogeography, particularly the area of garden tourism.

Benfield is the former Chair and Professor of Geography at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain where he taught courses in human geography, plants, predators and parks, Russia, the European Union and many of the courses in the department's tourism track. His current research interests include tourism as a conservation tool through the great botanic gardens of the world.

With great humor and enthusiasm, Benfield

took attendees through the three acres of gardens in the Singapore airport which light up delightfully for the night time traveler. The tour continued through the arid gardens of Australia, the tropical gardens of the Seychelles, a quick trip through the Canary Islands, through the beautiful English gardens of his home country, and many of the unique and different gardens in the United States and Canada.

With connections to most of the gardens' curators and stewards worldwide, Benfield has been able to capture unique images of public spaces without the usual throng of crowds.

"I'm a garden junkie," laughed Benfield. "I can't get enough of botanic gardens!"

Having traveled to

*"I'm a garden junkie," laughed Benfield. "I can't get enough of botanic gardens!"*

125 countries, Benfield's book "Garden Tourism," and its latest edition: "New Directions (post Covid) in Garden Tourism," is an essential tool for those involved in the development and operation of gardens as a visitor attraction. Written in Benfield's engaging style, it's also captivating for any garden lover.

Benfield distributed packets of seeds as gifts for the attendees who, inspired by his talk, filed out of the library into a rainy spring evening, ready to plant seeds in their own growing gardens.

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# COMPASS

ART: LEILA HAWKEN

## Remembering Frank Stella, artist and farmer

A profound commitment to the notion of rural life and farm ownership centered Frank Stella in the Smithfield Valley in Amenia, New York. His artistic talents, spanning 60 years, brought renown first as a pioneer minimalist and later as an abstract painter and sculptor, earning him numerous awards. His decades at his Amenia farm allowed him to pursue the breeding and racing of his horses.

In 2009 Stella was one of ten recipients of the National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama, awarded in a White House ceremony.

Stella's rural Smithfield Valley community and The Smithfield Church mourned news of his death that had occurred on Saturday, May 4, at his home in Manhattan. He was 87, just short of his 88th birthday. The following day, on Sunday, the little congregation gave thanks to God for all in Frank Stella that was good, kind, and faithful, imbuing him with an extraordinary imagination that poured into his art, his deep sense of color, and his unique gifts brought through paint to canvas.

When in residence at his Smithfield horse farm, Delahanty Stock Farm, neighbor to The Smithfield Church, Stella and his wife, Harriet,

would happily attend concerts or suppers, enjoying conversations with the locals. The Smithfield Valley Association events were also likely to attract their attendance and relaxed participation.

Noticing that Stella was in the audience for a solo organ concert being performed by Kent Tritle, organist of the New York Philharmonic, Director of the New York Oratorio Society, and organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Rev. Douglas Grandgeorge, pastor of the church, seized the opportunity to introduce the two to each other. As the pastor reached for superlatives in praise of both giants in the arts, Stella interrupted with his own self-introduction. "Here, I am a farmer," Stella said simply.

Stella's local friendships were long and significant. During an interview on Wednesday, May 15, Nan Cassidy spoke of her own decades of association with Stella, firm admiration, and Stella's enduring friendship with her mother, Ethel Doshna, until her death at 104.

"He was always kind, always made Ethel feel special, always bringing a present to remember her birthdays, Cassidy recalled.

"He was just the sweetest person," Cassidy said. "He always made



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN FRANCIS

Misty stillness on an October morning in Smithfield found Frank Stella observing a few of his horses. The image was captured by Stella's visiting friend, Martin Francis.

people feel special."

They met in the 1970s, nearly 50 years back, when Cassidy and her husband, Jim Cassidy, were managing the farm that at that time was owned by a partnership. Frank Stella went on to buy out the other partners, and the farm became Delahanty Stock Farm.

"He was a wonderful person, so kind. He just loved coming to the farm," Cassidy said.

A favorite story that has endured describes the Cassidys' first encounter with Stella. In the early years, Nan and Jim Cassidy were living at the farm and Nan was

busy inside making dinner while Jim and Ethel's husband, Mike, were outside waiting for someone who was coming to see about painting the barn. A young man arrived, clothing and shoes splattered with paint.

"The painter is here," Mike called in to the kitchen, but it wasn't the barn painter, it was Frank Stella, owner of the farm and a different kind of painter.

"On one occasion, we met at one of the Amenia restaurants and Frank gave Ethel a gift of a tiny titanium sculpture that he had fashioned, Nan Cassidy recalled. It wasn't clear to Ethel how

the little piece should stand. "Think of it as a puzzle; you can put it together any way you want," he told Ethel.

"What you see is what you see." Frank Stella said in 1966 of his art. The directness of the saying has lasted.

In remembrance of two of his paintings that had hung in corporate offices at the World Trade Center, but been lost on 9/11, Stella installed a stainless steel sculpture at 7 World Trade Center Plaza in 2021, a piece titled "Jasper's Split Star." The sculpture was inspired by his own 1962 painting titled "Jasper's Dilem-

ma," a tribute to Sharon, Conn. artist Jasper Johns.

He nurtured the passion for thoroughbred racing and breeding of horses, a passion pursued at his Smithfield farm. He enjoyed the excitement of turf racing and had earned stature in the racing world as a breeder of winning New York-thoroughbred horses.

Stella's horses raced at notable tracks including Belmont, Arlington, and Saratoga. Stella's preference was turf racing and he always put the welfare of the horse first, according to the New York Thoroughbred Breeders' Association.

## ...music mountain

Continued from page B1

inside of a violin, and it's a very beautiful campus. It's at the top of a mountain so it's quite an experience just to drive here. Then you come inside this theatre that looks exactly as it did 95 years ago. Many people come in with headaches and problems and leave feeling renewed because they went through this trip that the music brought them through." He added, "They are ready to take on life as they come out of Music Mountain."

Opening night on June 2 promises a spectacular start with pianist Benjamin Hochman, violinist Ben Bowman, and cellist Joel Noyes from the Met Opera Orchestra. The trio will perform Beethoven's Piano Trio in C Minor, Rebecca Clarke's Piano Trio, and Schubert's Piano Trio in E Flat Major. The concert will also feature the presentation of Music Mountain's Lifetime Achievement Award to former board president Ann McKinney and will be followed by a free reception on the Great Lawn.

"I very much wanted

to make sure that every program included what we call 'a discovery piece.' It's very contemporary, but it's also a way we are looking back because Jacques Gordon, the founder, did that from the very beginning; to include music by living composers or lesser-known composers. So, the idea of the discovery piece goes all the way back to the beginning, although back then the living composers might have been Ravel and Turina which are considered classics now," he laughed.

The festival also

## At The Movies

includes a robust jazz program.

"Jazz is very interesting," said Espina Ruiz. "It's similar to chamber music in that it's a small group, they are listening to one another and having a conversation very much like in a Beethoven string quartet."

While Espina Ruiz is not a jazz player, he enjoys improvisation and works with knowledgeable board members to curate the jazz pro-

grams. This year, the jazz concerts will continue to delight audiences on Saturday evenings at 7 p.m., while Sunday afternoon chamber music concerts offer a chance to enjoy music outdoors with a picnic on the lawn.

Espina Ruiz shared that intermission is also a big part of the Music Mountain experience. "People come out and talk to friends and enjoy

an ice cream or a glass of wine. Others come early or stay afterwards and have a picnic. It's just wonderful."

With a capacity of 265, Gordon Hall remains the heart of Music Mountain, providing exceptional acoustics in a historic setting. As Music Mountain looks to the future, ongoing renovations and grant funding aim to restore the historic

houses on the campus and revive residential education programs. For now, the Music Mountain continues to nurture both adult and younger musicians, ensuring that the tradition of teaching and performing remains vibrant.

As Oskar Espina Ruiz reflected, "Music sends you on a trip at every concert, and you come out transformed."

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## TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. To submit calendar items, email editor@lakevillejournal.com

### MAY 30

#### Book Discussion with Project SAGE: Demon Copperhead, by Barbara Kingsolver

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org  
On Thursday, May 30, 5:30 to 7 p.m., join the staff of Project SAGE for a book-club-style discussion of Demon Copperhead, by Barbara Kingsolver. This 2023 Pulitzer Prize winner and NY Times best-seller transports Dickens's David Copperfield to current-day rural American, weaving a story of poverty, opioid addiction, and fierce perseverance through the voice an indomitable, engaging main character. To register, visit www.scovillelibrary.org.

### MAY 31

#### Big Talk

The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.  
Venture out of the default small-talk zone with strangers and friends, guided by a facilitator. Equally satisfying for extroverts and introverts, this program provides the opportunity for meaningful connection. Suggested donation of \$10. Non-alcoholic drinks provided. Ages 18+. Space is limited; advanced registration required: www.thecenteronmain.org/events

### JUNE 1

#### Plant and Rummage Sale

Sharon Grange Hall, Sharon, Conn.  
Taghannuck Grange #100 in Sharon will host its annual plant and rummage sale on Saturday, June 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sharon Grange Hall. The sale will feature plants, flowers, and vegetables, as well as crystalware, books, kitchen items, and more. For more information about the sale call Debbie Hanlon at 845-418-9755.

#### Sharon Playhouse Spotlight Gala

Sharon Playhouse, Sharon, Conn.  
Spotlight Gala is back with a fresh twist this year! To Bobbie, With Love, directed by Sarah Combs, choreographed by Amy van Norstrand, with special appearances by Kate Baldwin, two-time Tony Award Nominee: starring in The Prom at Sharon Playhouse this season! Danny Drewes, a Sharon Playhouse favorite, starring in Rock of Ages & The Prom this season! Julia Murney, Drama Desk Award Nominee & Broadway favorite, directing You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown at Sharon Playhouse this season! Tickets and info: www.sharonplayhouse.org/spotlight-gala

#### Twelve Moons Coffee House

The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.  
Twelve Moons Coffee House builds community through live music, poetry readings and storytelling on the 1st Saturday of each month. Doors open at 6 p.m. with

open mic performances beginning at 6:30 p.m. Featured Professional Artists play from 8 to 9 p.m. Guests are welcome to bring their own dinner and beverage or enjoy the venue's light refreshments. Saturday, June 1 will feature the Lied-To's —Susan Levine and Doug Kwartler, award-winning singer-songwriters who perform a thought provoking, gritty blend of original folk, rock and country songs.

#### Town of Copake's Inaugural Pickleball Tournament

Copake Memorial Park, Copake, N.Y.  
Copake Picklemania: 32 teams playing at 3 skill levels from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Spectators are welcome, bring your own seating. Medals and prizes will be awarded to the top three teams in each division. All games will be played on the new court surfaces at Copake Memorial Park. Aloha Tacos food truck will be selling food from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 1 (rain date Sunday June 2). https://www.copakepicklemania.org/

#### Hike Cornwall

Furnace Brook Preserve, Cornwall, Conn.  
CT Trail Days Weekend, June 1 at 10 a.m., hike the Furnace Brook loop with Terry Burke, Bart Jones and Katherine Freygang. There will be two options: a shorter hike through the Preserve with loop back thru town and longer hike to Echo Rock and then back thru town. We will highlight bird habitats and discuss wetland water conservation. Park at the Foote Field parking lot, 65 Furnace Brook Road in Cornwall.

### JUNE 2

#### Davis IGA 50th Anniversary Party

Kent Community House, 93 N. Main St., Kent, Conn.  
The entire Kent community is invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of Davis IGA, Kent's beloved grocery store, on Sunday, June 2, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kent Community House, on 93 N. Main St.

#### The 2024 4-H A-Fair To Remember

Wilcox Memorial Park, Rt. 199, Stanfordville, N.Y.  
A 4-H Fair will be held on June 2, 2024 at Wilcox Memorial Park in Stanfordville, N.Y. from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### JUNE 5

#### Snakes in the Catskills: A Primer

Lovejoy Auditorium, Cary Institute, Millbrook, N.Y.  
On Wednesday, June 5 at 7 p.m. there will be a lecture on snakes featuring John Vanek, a zoologist with the New York Natural Heritage Program. Offered in partnership with the Catskill Science Collaborative. Register for live stream viewing at www.eventbrite.com/e/snakes-in-the-catskills-a-primer-virtual-tickets-903762837977 or for in-person seating at our Lovejoy Auditorium in Millbrook, N.Y. at www.eventbrite.com/e/snakes-in-the-catskills-a-primer-in-person-tickets-905111501867

### JUNE 6

#### Why Op-Eds Matter and How to Write One: John Coston in Conversation with Laura van Straaten

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org  
On Thursday, June 6, 5:30 to 7 p.m., learn all about newspaper opinion pieces at this evening with John Coston, Editor in Chief of the Lakeville Journal, and Laura van Straaten, a seasoned journalist and a mentor-editor for the Op-Ed Project. Learn about the importance, power, and practice of writing opinion articles. Ask questions, try out your ideas with the experts, and sign up for an op-ed writing workshop. To register, visit www.scovillelibrary.org.

### JUNE 7

#### Banned Book Club

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org  
On Friday, June 7 at 4 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library and the Falls Village Equity Project will host a Banned Book Club. This month we will be discussing the book "Last Night at the Telegraph Club" by Malinda Lo. Copies of the book are available at the library. This group is open to anyone high school aged and older.

### JUNE 8

#### Spongy Moths: An Interpretive Walk

Cary Institute, Millbrook, N.Y.  
Have you noticed the boom in spongy moth caterpillars? Are you interested in learning what's going on from an ecological perspective? Join Cary Institute's Clive Jones and Mike Fargione

for an interpretive spongy moth walk on the grounds of our Millbrook, NY campus on Saturday, June 8 at 10 a.m. Registration required at www.eventbrite.com/e/spongy-moths-an-interpretive-walk-tickets-901506479147

### JUNE 9

#### Blessing of the Bikes

All Saints of America Orthodox Church, 313 Twin Lakes Rd. Salisbury, Conn.  
The annual Blessing of Bikes will be held on June 9 at All Saints of America Orthodox Church at 12:30 p.m. Anyone who has a motorcycle or bicycle is welcome. The church is located at 313 Twin Lakes Rd. Salisbury, CT. Refreshments will be provided. For more information call 860-435-9632.

### JUNE 15

#### Art Exhibition

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org  
Opening with a reception on Saturday, June 15, 5 to 7 p.m., David M. Hunt Library (Falls Village, CT) will host an exhibition of abstract paintings by Robert Cronin, Serious Paintings, on display through July 12.

### ONGOING

#### Imperiled Species in Our Community

Academy Building, 24 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.  
A new exhibit, "Imperiled Species in Our Community," is now on view at the Academy Building, 24 Main St., Salisbury. Sponsored by the Salisbury Association Land Trust, the exhibit includes photos of these species. Learn about their preferred habitats, the roles they play in our environment, and what we can do to help them.

### INCIPIENCE

The Souterrain Gallery of The Wish House, 413 Sharon Goshen Tpk, West Cornwall, Conn.  
The Souterrain Gallery will be hosting Joseph Clarke's exhibit titled INCIPIENCE. The exhibit will be running through July 31. Open Thursday to Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Joseph Clarke is a Connecticut based artist living in Litchfield County and working from his Kent studio.

## ...ungardener

Continued from page B2

addition to being pleasing to us, is helpful to caterpillars, bees, other insects and birds? Apart from avoiding red and purple cultivars of green-leaved native species, Melissa advises that we be aware of natives cultivated to have double or triple rows of petals. These plants, while more decorative forms of the original species, are far less attractive to pollinators. Some cultivars, such as mophead hydrangea, have mostly sterile flowers and therefore are of little use to bees and other pollinators. Lacecap hydrangea, such as Mt. Cuba's highly rated 'Haas Halo', is a haven for pollinators.

To compensate for the three Ninebark 'Coppertina' shrubs I had planted 8 years ago, Robin Zitter, the horti-

culturalist who helped me create the river path, wisely advised that I plant a few straight species alongside these deep coppery red-toned natives. Robin sourced one plant and the others came from Earth Tones, a wonderful source for native plants in Woodbury.

Our sources for native plants have improved over the last few years and seeing examples of the beautiful native flowers, shrubs and trees has encouraged many to seek them out. We can aim for the local ecotype of a species when available to us and strive to plant native species first and natives second.

Dee Salomon "ungardens" in Litchfield County.



PHOTO BY TOM BROWN

### Race day at Lime Rock Park

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# Our Towns

## Sharon Connect Task Force celebrates

By Alexander Wilburn

SHARON — The volunteer-led Sharon Connect Task Force completed a long-term project in conjunction with the efforts of Comcast Xfinity to ensure that 270 previously unserved homes and businesses in Sharon now have access to high-speed internet service. On Friday, May 17, Sharon Connect hosted a town-wide celebration, inviting Sharon residents to Veterans' Field to mark the accomplishment.

"This has been a long process for all of you involved, the Sharon Connect Task Force, Comcast, and all the people who didn't have fast, reliable internet before now," said Sharon First Selectman Casey Flanagan. "You were without the internet for decades. Thank you for sticking with us and figuring a way



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

**Sharon First Selectman Casey Flanagan congratulated the task force's success at Veterans' Field.**

through. The Sharon Connect Task Force is a group of volunteers who have dedicated many, many hours of

their lives to help in the community."

Sharon Connect Task Force Co-Chair Jill Drew

also spoke at the celebration, remarking on how far the project has come since it was first conceived. "I am really happy that this project is complete. I don't think I've ever known so much about construction, utility poles, conduits... It was a real learning opportunity for me. Sharon was forgotten about when it came to high-speed internet."

She continued, "Comcast stepped up. I think [Sharon Connect Task Force Co-Chair] Meghan Flanagan and I were both very suspicious, you know, not very trusting at first. But working with Matt Skane and Liz Calabrese, our two project managers, not only have they been a pleasure to work with, but they have shielded us from a lot of craziness of a big multi-billion dollar corporation."

## Sharon Ridge rent rises

By Alexander Wilburn

SHARON — At a meeting held at Town Hall on Tuesday, May 21, The Sharon Housing Authority voted to raise the monthly rent in Sharon Ridge affordable housing by 4% per month per unit starting Monday, July 1.

The discussion with tenants present at the meeting turned to the lack of reserve funds, with Chairman Brent Colley noting that it would not be advisable at this time to spend money devoted purely to landscaping projects for the apartments when there were potentially costly factors that could arise in the future, like air conditioning repairs.

He is hopeful the

Housing Authority will receive funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) that may bridge the gap between tenant desires and practical spending — especially as the Housing Authority does not wish to continue raising rents. It was noted that Sharon has benefited from environmental efforts and trash clean-up thanks to the work of both the Parks and Recreation department and student volunteers from the nearby private schools.

A motion was also moved to waive the late fees for one family in the Sharon Ridge apartments with a young child who is currently undergoing intensive healthcare procedures.

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#### SHARON, CT

**GRANGE PLANT & RUMMAGE SALE:** June 1, 9AM to 3PM & Sunday June 2, 10AM to 3PM at 7 Dunbar Road, Sharon CT 06069. Off Route #4 between Sharon and Cornwall Bridge. Signage will be out. Flowers and vegetables including Heirloom varieties, ready to plant selling for \$2.00. Rummage includes clothing, crystalware, lamps, books, kitchen items, small appliances, bakeware, cast iron, pizza stones, candles and holders, bell collection, tools, toys, electronics, books, LP albums and much more. All priced to sell. Call Debbie with questions 845-418-9755.

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**OPEN POSITIONS TOWN OF AMENIA:** The Town of Amenia is seeking applications for the paid 20 hour/week position of Deputy Building Inspector 1. Starting salary \$28.00 per hour or \$29,120 per year. Letter of Interest and Resume may be submitted via email to [dmklingner@ameniany.gov](mailto:dmklingner@ameniany.gov) or via mail to Town Clerk, Dawn Marie Klingner, 4988 Route 22 Amenia NY 12501. Application Deadline: Noon, June 6, 2024.

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### REAL ESTATE

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