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



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Attorney General William Tong visits with former State Rep. Roberta Willis of Salisbury before his talk on immigration at Trinity Lime Rock Church Thursday, March 6.

Attorney General Tong reflects on moral, economic impacts of immigration policy

By Ruth Epstein

LAKEVILLE — Attorney General William Tong knows first hand about the plight of immigrants.

He spoke to a standing-room-only crowd at Trinity Lime Rock Church March 6, which together with those on Zoom totaled 225. The event was hosted by Vecinos Seguros 2, a grassroots organization that works to make sure those without legal status know their rights.

Tong has been an outspoken critic of President Donald Trump's immigration policies and is part of a group of attorneys general around the country who are banding together to take legal action against his actions.

He stirred the audience with his

personal story. Growing up in West Hartford, where he remembered kids showing up at his school from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam after he was the first Asian student enrolled, he thought "they were refugees and I was the son of immigrants. I thought I was better than them. In fullness of time, I realized what we were all doing here. My parents and grandparents ran for their lives in China. I am nothing but the son of refugees. There was no daylight between those kids and the immigrants showing up today."

Tong related how his parents met while both were working in a restaurant in Hartford. One day, in the 1970s, a representative from the Immigration and Natu-

See TONG, Page A10

Appalachian Trail stamps include scene from Kent

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — The whole country now knows what residents of states along the Appalachian Trail have always known. The nearly 2,200-mile route that stretches from Springer Mountain, Georgia, to Katahdin, Maine, is said to offer peace, beauty and a respite from the stresses of modern-day life.

On Feb. 28, the U.S. Postal Service unveiled a pane of 15 forever stamps depicting images taken along the trail in each of the 14

states it traverses, plus one general scene, to commemorate its 100th anniversary.

The idea for the pathway was conceived in 1925 and built by private citizens. It was completed in 1937 and today is managed by the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, numerous state agencies and thousands of volunteers. According to its website, it is considered the world's longest hiking-only trail, crossing through scenic, wooded, pastoral, wild and culturally resonant land along the Appalachian Mountains.

The site chosen for the Con-

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Students exemplify 'Youth in Democracy' with year-long community projects

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY — This spring, the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station will host a bright, blue collection bin where residents can dispose of their empty, non-recyclable prescription pill bottles destined for developing nations where methods for distributing medications to those in need are primitive.

Meanwhile, in North Canaan, members of that town's volunteer fire department have been trained on how to utilize a newly donated high-tech drone that will aid firefighters not only during search and rescue missions but also when responding to structure fires.

The community projects were conceptualized and initiated by two Housatonic Valley Regional High School students and made possible through a region-wide initiative known as the Youth in Democracy Fellowship program, administered through the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation to promote youth involvement in local government.

Participants are selected based on their passion and commitment to active participation in community building to support their project.

Last fall the foundation partnered with the 21st Century Fund



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

HVRHS junior Alex Wilbur, left, and Brian Bartram, manager at the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station, checked out the blue bin that will be used starting this spring to collect empty prescription bottles as part of Wilbur's Youth in Democracy community project.

at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and Bard College in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. As a result, two HVRHS students, sophomore Daniel Moran and junior Alex Wilbur, have been working with a mentor from Bard and town officials on their respective year-long projects.

Moran developed and initiated the drone assistance program and training sessions for the North Canaan Fire Company and Wilbur is spearheading the pill bottle collection project at the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station.

Firefighters' new drone

Moran, who has been intrigued by drones from a very young age, initially contacted Brian Ohler, North Canaan's first selectman, and pitched the idea to supply the North Canaan Fire Company with a new drone and training to go along

See PROJECTS, Page A10

'Read Across America' comes to Salisbury

By Patrick L. Sullivan

LAKEVILLE — Kyla DeRisi parked herself on a chair in front of a group of expectant Kindergarten students at Salisbury Central School Tuesday morning, March 4.

She opened up a book, "Clark the Shark," by Bruce Hale, and held it so the children could see it.

"Have you read this before?" she asked. There was some discussion, and the consensus was "yes," but they were happy to hear it again.

DeRisi, the children's librarian at the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury, was one of 15 readers at Read Aloud Day at the elementary school.

This was part of a national program known as Read Across America Week, which generally takes place the first week in March.

The other scheduled readers were Alex Harney, Lou Bucceri, Curtis Rand, Janet Neary, Elyse Harney, Deb Orup, Jeanine Rose,



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Tuesday, March 4 was Read Aloud Day at Salisbury Central School. Kyla DeRisi read from "Clark the Shark."

Mary Cadman, Rita Delgado, Keith Marks, Lee Sohl — who was accompanied by a dog — Lauren Brown, Holly Liebrock and David Valcin.



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Online This Week

Wake surfing on Waramaug

Kent's Board of Selectmen reviewed a Lake Waramaug watersports study. More at 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.

Backing-up mishap

On March 3, Michael Mulhern, 59, of Torrington was reversing a GMC Savana G2500 out of a driveway on West Main Street in North Canaan when he collided with a parked Honda Accord. Both vehicles were able to be driven from the scene. The trooper who responded to the accident determined that Mulhern had not properly checked his mirrors upon backing, and issued him an infraction.

Pedestrian struck in Sharon

During heavy rainfall on the evening of March 5, Yanira Hernandez, 31, of Wingdale, New York, was turning onto West Main Street in Sharon when she struck pedestrian David Kurish, 77, of Sharon. Kurish was wearing dark clothing, and was attempting to cross where there was no crosswalk. Hernandez was turning onto the street from Route 41 and didn't see Kurish due to his

clothing and the conditions. A witness corroborated that he was difficult to see at the time. Kurish sustained minor injuries and was transported to Sharon Hospital for evaluation, while Hernandez' Nissan Titan was slightly damaged but able to be driven from the scene. Kurish was issued a warning for failure to yield right of way to vehicle when crossing not within a crosswalk.

Accident on Route 112

Souleman Toure, 24, of Lakeville was negotiating a curve on Route 112 in Salisbury when he lost control, leaving the roadway and striking the wire rope barrier on the bank. His Subaru Forester suffered disabling damage to the bumper, and had to be towed from the scene. Toure was uninjured and declined medical attention. He 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

Northwest Community Bank completes rebrand with new logo

By Jennifer Almquist

On Monday, March 10, 2025, all branches of Collinsville Bank and Litchfield Bancorp were given a new logo as part of a rebrand with Northwest Community Bank. The new logo will be used on the websites, branch signage and all bank materials.

On Dec. 2, 2020, Jorge L. Perez, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Banking, approved the merger of three historic area banks; Litchfield Bancorp, founded in 1850 as the Litchfield Savings Society; Collinsville Bank, founded as the Collinsville Savings Society in 1853; and Northwest Community Bank, originally founded as the Winsted Savings Bank in 1860.



PHOTO PROVIDED
Maura Malo

Maura Malo became CEO of Northwest Community Bank, based in Winsted on Sept. 1, 2023, following 30 years of senior level experience in banking. She is the first woman to head up the company since it was founded in 1860.



LOGO PROVIDED

CEO Malo explained the current decision to create the new brand:

"Our Northwest Community Bank logo is over 25 years old. In looking to refresh the brand, we took the opportunity to evaluate not only our brand, but also the brands of our two divisions — Litchfield Bancorp and Collinsville Bank. As a result, we are folding all three brands into one new corporate identity for our whole network. The time is right. As one unified brand, cus-

tomers will still experience the same services, branches and friendly staff they have come to know."

A letter sent on March 10, 2025, to all bank customers assured them that these changes to the logo and the brand will not impact the terms of their accounts wherever they do business — Collinsville Bank, Litchfield Bancorp, or Northwest Community Bank. Account numbers, usernames and passwords stay the same. Debit cards and checks remain active, customers can still use their existing checks, their direct deposits will continue to be processed, and their accounts will still be protected by the FDIC.

Aerial tree trimming underway

SALISBURY — Earlier this week, Eversource began using a low-flying helicopter to trim tree limbs from the sides of a power line corridor in the Northwest Corner.

The overhead trimming uses rotating blades and a helicopter. Work began above Cornwall, Goshen, Salisbury, Sharon and Torrington Monday, March 10 and is expected to continue through Saturday, March 15.

The clearance area around transmission lines is essential for protection of the electric system, which is why Eversource trims incompatible vegetation to prevent power outages or potential public safety issues.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Helicopters with sawblades began work along the power line corridor March 10.

Salisbury Family Services sends kids to camp

Salisbury Family Services, a local non-profit organization serving residents of the Town of Salisbury, will provide scholarships to summer camp for the children of qualifying families.

Assistance is given for resident and day camps, special needs, arts and sports camps. Contact Patrice McGrath at (860) 435-5187 to apply.

Sharon Hospital

Let's bring your joy into the world

Welcoming your baby into the world is one of life's most memorable moments. At Sharon Hospital, part of Nuvance Health, you have access to award-winning birthing care designed to ensure your family has an experience that is comfortable, safe and special. The doctors, nurses and certified lactation consultant provide personalized support in spacious, private suites, so you can focus on the moments that matter most.



Learn more



Our Towns

North Canaan selectmen act to fill vacant town clerk's office

By Ruth Epstein

NORTH CANAAN — Noting that Town Clerk Jean Jacquier has been absent for the last month, on March 3 the Board of Selectmen named Paul Mattingly — who serves as executive assistant to the selectmen — assistant town clerk until the next election.

Jacquier claims she is the target of antagonism and harassment at Town Hall, which is taking a toll on her health.

Controversy in the clerk's office has been ongoing since last year when First Selectman Brian Ohler filed a complaint with the state Attorney General's office accusing Jacquier of misconduct in carrying out the duties of the office.

Jacquier, who was elected in 2017, and served as assistant town clerk since 1993, denied most of the allegations and has filed suit against the Town of North Canaan to recoup \$15,000 in legal fees she's spent defending herself.

In October 2024, the Attorney General's office ruled it had found three violations, strongly suggesting some changes be made to Jacquier's existing practices but declined to take any further action.

Ohler accused her of, among other charges, not securing the vault in her office, improperly posting campaign material, untimely stamping and inappropriate shredding of documents.

Jacquier acknowledged she shouldn't have put up a candidate's solicitation in Town Hall.

Although the investigation found "improper security of the vault outside of the Town Clerk's hours of operation," Jacquier maintained she's never left her office unattended, explaining the probate judge's office also uses that vault and others had access to the office.

She also said Ohler signed off on her request to shred the papers. The Attorney General's office responded that the shredding had destruction dates and it would

take no stand on that issue.

Jeffrey Mirman, the lawyer representing Jacquier, said the response from the Attorney General's office showed it found no sufficient evidence to hold a trial to see about removing her from office, nor was she asked to be disciplined in any way.

In November, the town filed a motion to strike Jacquier's suit for legal fee reimbursement, claiming "the Defendant (North Canaan) owes no duty to indemnify and/or reimburse the Plaintiff (Jacquier) pursuant to 7-101a(b)."

On Jan. 28, Hon. Walter Menjivar at Torrington Superior Court granted the town's motion to strike.

Ohler said after that ruling, Jacquier stopped coming to work. He said she continued to receive her salary, "over \$6,000" in her absence.

Assistant Town Clerk Marilise Camardi has been filling in two days a week — she is limited in the hours she can serve — but was away the past week.

"This proposes significant problems for continuity of services," said Ohler.

Mattingly was sworn in and began fulfilling the responsibilities of the town clerk's office on March 4. The appointment was made under Connecticut General Statute 7-20, which enables the Board of Selectmen to install an assistant town clerk. Mattingly and Camardi will work together to fulfill the assistant town clerk's role, Ohler said.

This week Jacquier, who said she was an avid supporter of Ohler when he ran for office, disputed that she lost the case, saying the settlement request was entered too early. "It's not like I lost in court. It can be refiled." She said the judge urged the parties to come to an agreement. She also took exception to the figure Ohler put forth as the salary she received last month, saying it's much lower.

In February, Jacquier filed a motion to extend her case for legal fee reimbursement. The filing states, "The Plaintiff requires additional time

to amend the allegations of the complaint to conform with the Court's Order." On March 6, Judge Menjivar granted the extension.

Jacquier, shaken by the circumstances, explained the reason for her absence. She claims the atmosphere at Town Hall is toxic and that she has been unduly harassed by entrenched employees. She said she has been verbally abused for the past year. She added that it has been an honor to serve the people of North Canaan for the past 31 years.

In a letter dated March 3, Ohler wrote to Jacquier fol-

lowing up on an email he sent to her on Feb. 6 asking about her welfare. He said he hasn't heard from her and asked she contact him. He wrote, "Unless there is a substantial and lawful justification for your ongoing absence and for your refusal and/or failure to perform your office's statutory duties, please be advised that the town's Board of Selectmen reserves the right to vote on a motion to suspend your salary until you return to work."

An executive session of the Board of Selectmen was scheduled for March 11 to discuss Jacquier's salary.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Built in 1988, 16 Landmark Lane is a commercial building with 5,346 square feet of usable space sold for \$425,000 to Kent Housing Development Associates in January.

January real estate sales in Kent

By Christine Bates

In January Kent's Town Clerk recorded six transfers of property all under one million dollars including four single family homes ranging from \$200,000 to \$998,000. Kent's 12-month median home price stood at \$467,500 at the end of January.

Real estate listed for sale on Smart MLS as of March 6 included eight single family homes with seven asking over one million dollars. Four parcels of land remain for sale.

Transactions

148 Camps Flat Road in South Kent — 3 bedroom/3 bath home built in 1800 sold by Gregory and Judith Sheridan to John Merz and Tara Anderson for \$998,000.

389 Kent Cornwall Road — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home sold by Stanley W. and Jerri T. Draskiewicz to Stacey Ledovsky for \$475,000.

216 Bulls Bridge Road — 8-plus acres of vacant land sold by Betsey N. and Roland O. Levesque Jr. to Paula

Levesque for \$200,000.

16 Landmark Lane — commercial building with 5,346 square feet of usable space sold by Building 15 LLC to Kent Housing Development Associates LLC for \$425,000.

9 Segar Mountain Road — a small 2 bedroom/1 bath house on 0.3 acres sold by Jeffrey C. and Nicole Alessandra Mitchell to Mildred L. Olson and Andrew Donzella for \$325,000.

26 South Main — 3 bedroom/1 bath house built in 1879 sold by Caralee Rochovsky Trustee for Caralee Rochovanski Revocable Trust to 26 SMS LLC for \$290,000.

**Town of Kent real estate transfers recorded as sold between Jan. 1 and Jan. 31, 2025, provided by the Kent Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.*

'Urinetown' opens at HVRHS March 13

FALLS VILLAGE — The Housatonic Musical Theatre Society production of "Urinetown" is this week, with performances Thursday March 13, and Friday, March 14, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 15 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

The 2001 satirical musical by Mark Hollman and Greg Kotis is directed and produced by Christiane Olson, with Tom Krupa as musical director and producer, choreography by Amber Cameron, and Micah Conway as assistant production manager.

Student project aims to memorialize Cornwall's first Black female landowner

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — The story of Naomi Cain Freeman will continue to be told for generations to come thanks to the work of Cornwall Consolidated School's seventh grade girls.

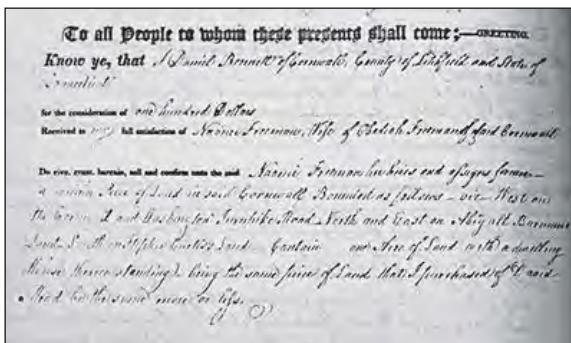
Four of the students, Skylar Brown, Izabella Coppola, Halley Villa and Willa Lesch, attended the Board of Selectmen meeting March 4 with a request to rename a section of Great Hollow Road in honor of the historic figure. This suggestion was inspired by research into significant women in Cornwall's history.

According to Cornwall Historical Society records, Naomi was born in 1794 and was adopted by General John Sedgwick and his wife Abigail, of Cornwall, in 1801. This act protected her from slavery, which was still legal in Connecticut at the time.

Sedgwick included Naomi in his will and she received a dowry after his death in 1820.

Naomi later married Obadiah "Obed" Freeman, a man who had been enslaved in Cornwall. She purchased an

Right, Naomi Freeman's deed for "one acre of land with a dwelling House thereon," Aug. 27, 1828. Below, four Cornwall students, Skylar Brown, Izabella Coppola, Halley Villa and Willa Lesch, shared their goal with Selectmen Jen Markow, Gordon Ridgway and Rocco Botto at the regular meeting March 4.



COURTESY OF THE TOWN OF CORNWALL



PHOTO BY JANE HALL

acre of land in Cornwall, becoming the town's first Black woman to own land, and the two settled on Great Hollow Road in 1828.

Nearly 200 years later, the road itself may commemorate her legacy.

The selectmen were receptive to the students' suggestion and agreed to help establish a memorial street name.

"We could name a section on an honorary basis in view of this extraordinary effort and extraordinary story," said First Selectman Gordon Ridgway. "I commend the seventh graders."

The students hope to achieve their goal within the month of March. An update is expected at the next selectmen's meeting Tuesday, March 18.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Northwest Corner's newest Eagle Scout

Wesley Allyn, above, of North Canaan, is the latest scout from Troop 22 to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. Allyn passed his Scout Board of Review on Dec. 26 and his Court of Honor was held at VFW Couch Pipa Post 6851 on Feb. 23. Last year Allyn designed and built a storage shed for the North Canaan Recreation Commission. This shed will be used to store equipment at Sam Eddy Field behind North Canaan Elementary School. Allyn is the son of Brian and Tracy Allyn.

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'Muster Day' planning underway for America's 250th birthday

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — U.S.A.'s quarter-millennial birthday will take place in 2026.

Cornwall's party preparations began March 4 during the Board of Selectmen's meeting with a presentation by Warren Stevens, local military reenactor.

"Muster Day," as Stevens called it, would bring a living history experience to Cornwall with period-appropriate militia demonstrations.

"Transform the village green into 1776 for a day," said Stevens.

Stevens described a brigade of approximately 50 soldiers in uniform preparing to march off to fight in the Revolutionary War.

Muskets, swords, tents, knapsacks and lace coats were mentioned.

"Basic amenities are

wood, water and hay," said Stevens. "If they're doing some cooking ... you want to allot a quarter of a cord of hardwood for the weekend."

Stevens explained it is not called a battle demonstration: "the warm, fuzzy word for insurance purposes is 'tactical weapons demonstration.'"

He said there are several reputable units in the area representing Revolutionary-era militias. They regularly work together when schedules align.

He added that a "snappy title" may attract more participants, such as "Cornwall 1776: The Gathering Storm."

The selectmen thanked Stevens for his suggestions and said the next step would be to form a committee to plan the event.

No date was put forth for the 2026 sestercentennial celebration.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

The town green in Cornwall Village may be transported back in time to celebrate the nation's 250th birthday next year.

Salisbury selectmen send budget proposal to finance board

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Board of Finance meets Thursday night, March 13, to get initial budget proposals from the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education.

At the regular selectmen's meeting Monday, March 3, the board and Comptroller Joe Cleaveland discussed the first draft of the 2025-'26 municipal budget.

The draft budget proposal has a bottom line of \$9,205,120, which represents an increase of \$585,530, or 6.7%.

Rand and Cleaveland stressed that the proposal only details expenses and does not include revenue.

"The goal continues to be to keep the mill rate steady."

On Wednesday, March 5 the Board of Education voted to send a budget proposal to the finance board.

For Salisbury Central School, the total proposed is \$6,901,041, an increase of \$365,102, or 5.59%.

The Region One assess-

ment is currently \$4,794,310, an increase of \$386,297, or 8.76%.

Total proposed education spending for Salisbury for 2025-'26 is \$11,695,351, an increase of \$751,399 — 6.87%.

Both boards will present these budget proposals to the finance board in detail on March 13.

Creative juices flow at Hunt Library for young artists' workshop

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Young artists descended on the David M. Hunt Library Saturday morning, March 8, for an art-making workshop inspired by the work of Eric Carle.

Running the show was Breetel Graves of Canaan Art Space, a mobile children's art education organization out of North Canaan.

Graves said the group just got started in January.

The materials were ready for the young artists. They included a lot of paper — paper to serve as a canvas, paper cut-outs in the shapes of animals and pre-painted paper in bold colors. Plus glue, scissors and books by Carle for reference.

The Sher brothers, Eli and Noah, were the first to arrive for the session that started at 10:30 a.m., because their mother Meg Sher is the Hunt Library's librarian.

Boiling sap to syrup at Jacobs family's farm

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Maple syrup production was in full swing Monday morning, March 10, at the Jacobs family operation on Undermountain Road in Falls Village.

At 9 a.m. Denny Jacobs and Bill Beebe were hard at it. Jacobs said the goal for the day was to boil down 200 gallons of maple sap to just before the point where it's maple syrup.

The last part of the process is done in a much smaller unit.

Asked about the ratio of sap to syrup, usually given

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — With more kindergartners coming in than eighth graders going out, the student body of Cornwall Consolidated School could grow by more than 11% next year.

As many as 17 new kindergarten students may enroll in CCS in 2025-'26, while just seven eighth graders are due to graduate in the spring. This would increase the total population of the school from 86 to 96 next year.

The Board of Education and Principal Leanne Maguire presented a spending



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Cornwall expects a large kindergarten class next year.

proposal in line with this growth to the Board of Fi-

nance March 6.

In total, CCS expenses are up to \$3,026,820, an increase of \$282,318 or 10.29% compared to the 2024-'25 budget.

Personnel costs are responsible for \$137,468 of the hike, which includes hiring a new paraeducator for the kindergarten class and pay raises for nine teachers who reached payment milestones.

The staff expense increase also covers more hours for the food service manager, up from three hours per day to six hours per day, to begin offering breakfast.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Canaan Art Space collaborated with Hunt Library for an art workshop March 8.

Both boys picked a bird shape to work with.

More children and parents trickled in, and by 11 a.m. the place was buzzing as a dozen children busied themselves as Graves moved around, offering a suggestion here, cleaning up a bit of errant glue there.

Graves said the emphasis of the program is not so much the finished product, but getting the youngsters involved in the hands-on, creative process.

For more info visit www.canaanartspace.org.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Denny Jacobs and Bill Beebe keep a watchful eye on the boiling process that reduces sap to syrup.

at 40:1, Jacobs said "Everybody thinks it's 40:1, but it depends. I think it's probably more like 50:1, and we had one batch that was more like 80:1."

Region One board proposes 4.5% budget increase

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Region One Board of Education voted unanimously on Monday, March 3, to send a \$18 million 2025-'26 budget proposal to a public hearing.

The Region One budget has three main parts: Housatonic Valley Regional High School; Pupil Services — which includes Special Education; and the Regional Schools Services Center — RSSC, aka the Central Office.

The bottom line is \$18,485,210, a 4.49% increase of \$794,882.

For the high school, the

total is \$9,135,577, an increase of \$146,586.

For Pupil Services, the total is \$7,522,557, an increase of \$539,128, or 7.72%.

For the Central Office, the total is \$1,827,075, and increase of \$109,167.

The public hearing is Thursday, April 10, 6:30 p.m. online and in-person at HVRHS.

The six Region One towns — Cornwall, Canaan/Falls Village, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon — vote on the budget proposal in a referendum Tuesday, May 6, with voting at town halls from noon to 8 p.m.

Cornwall education spending plan reflects large incoming class next year

"We are currently the only school in Region One that does not offer a breakfast program," said Principal Maguire.

Insurance benefits make up \$75,776 of the increased spending in 2025-'26, mostly due to rate hikes and one additional staff member taking benefits.

Supply costs increased by \$21,337, which includes electricity, oil, maintenance, classroom and office supplies and a new line for graduation expenses that were previously unbudgeted.

At the regional level next year, Cornwall's assessment is down compared to 2024-'25. Maguire reported the Region One total for Cornwall was set at \$2,004,274 in 2025-'26, a reduction of \$15,507 or -0.77%.

Combined education spending in 2025-'26 will grow to \$5,031,094, a rise of \$266,811 or 5.6% compared to last year.

The Board of Finance will review education and municipal spending plans at its next regular meeting Thursday, March 20 at 7 p.m.

Sharon Audubon to host policy discussion March 20

SHARON — Sharon Audubon Center, located at 325 Cornwall Bridge Road (Route 4) in Sharon will be hosting a discussion on the science behind the pesticide neonicotinoids — what they are and how they affect our pollinators, including their effect on birds on Thursday, March 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Special guests include Louise Washer, President of the Norwalk River Watershed Association and Joan Seguin of the Connecticut Coalition for Pesticide Reform. Audubon Connecticut's Director of Policy, Robert LaFrance, will discuss the current state of legislation and action individuals can take to reduce the presence of these chemicals in our backyard and beyond.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to pass, although refreshments will be provided. Small bites are preferred. Visit www.sharon.audubon.org for info.



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RURAL HEALTH CRISIS In the Northwest Corner



The Northwest Corner of Connecticut can be described as a "healthcare desert." There are not enough primary care providers to meet the demand, and the lack of adequate access to health care can make these towns less attractive for residents. A panel of local experts will address what can be done to make the Northwest Corner a better and healthier place to live.

Panelists

Nancy Heaton (moderator), CEO of Foundation for Community Health
Joanne Borduas, CEO of Community Health and Wellness Center
Meghan Kenny, Director of SVNA Home Assistance and Litchfield County Home Assistance
Maria Horn, Connecticut State Representative

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025 • 7:30 P.M.

Housatonic Valley Regional High School
Falls Village, CT

Admission is free. Please register online.

Berkshire Taconic
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

This event is co-sponsored by
Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation

Find us on

www.salisburyforum.org

OBITUARIES

Grace Golden

SHARON — Grace Golden, 78, of Sharon, passed away peacefully March 5, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Born Aug. 29, 1946, in Brooklyn, New York, she was the daughter of the late Ethel Jennings, adoptive daughter of the late Floyd Jennings. She attended Webutuck Central School and received her GED later in life.

She spent years working in the health care industry and many manufacturing jobs in the area. Grace ultimately dedicated her life to being a loving and devoted mother and grandmother, tirelessly nurturing and caring for her family with selflessness and unconditional love.

She is predeceased by her mother, a son, George Golden, adoptive father, brothers Richie and Jimmy Jennings, her first granddaughter, Karlene, and her first and only love, Karl B. Golden Sr.

Grace is survived by her beautiful children; Karl Golden Jr. and wife Marla of Torrington, Alton E. Golden of Sharon, Patricia Zinke and

husband, Kevin, of Canaan, Evelyn Tatro and husband Paul of Canaan, and Eric L. Golden and wife Melissa of Sharon; her brothers and sisters, Tony Wellentine, Jeffrey Jennings, Tracey Jennings and Carol Miller; and her grandchildren, Victoria, Lauren, Parker,

Alyssa, Alanna, Eric (Little Man), Marissa, and Emma and great grandson Colton, and a large, loving extended family and many friends.

Calling hours were held from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, at the Kenny Funeral Home, 41 Main St., Sharon, CT 06069. The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 10, at Saint Mary's Catholic Church, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville, CT 06039. A private burial will be held at the Salisbury Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon Ambulance and Fire Department, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, CT 06069.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Robert L. Harpp Jr.

PINE PLAINS — Robert L. Harpp Jr., 57, passed away unexpectedly on March 1, 2025 in Great Barrington. He was born on Feb. 10, 1968, in Sharon, Connecticut, the son of the late Robert L. Harpp Sr. and Judy (Shook) Harpp.

Bobby graduated from Pine Plains Central School in 1986, where he excelled at baseball. After graduation he went to Columbia Greene Community College, where he studied criminal justice.

He loved all sports, but his passion was baseball. He was instrumental in sharing his love for the sport by coaching baseball in Pine Plains since he was a teenager. He was also an avid New York Yankees fan.

In 1992, he joined the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department where he would become a detective, arson investigator, and hostage negotiator. After his time in law enforcement, he served as Pine Plains Court Clerk. Most recently he worked as the Director of Security for Calyx in Great Barrington, a job that he enjoyed and made many friends and connections throughout the community.

He was truly a people person with a unique ability to build friendships wherever

he went, often leaving a lasting impression by giving everyone a special nickname.

Above all else, Bobby was most proud of his children and their accomplishments. He played an essential role in their success, instilling in them the same determination, creativity, and dedication that defined his own life.

Bobby is survived by his devoted children; Abigail J. Harpp and Nolan Thomas Harpp; and his loving mother Judy Harpp. He is also survived by his sister Lenora Carr, her husband Jeff, and nephew Austin. He was predeceased by his father Robert L. Harpp Sr. and his brother Thomas J. Harpp.

A celebration of Bobby's life will be held on March 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Pine Plains Lions Club Pavilion.

For directions or to leave a message of condolence for the Harpp family, please visit www.peckandpeck.net.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made in Bobby's memory. Please make donations payable to Judy Harpp, PO Box 149, Pine Plains, NY 12567, with the understanding that the funds will be directed to the Pine Plains Recreation Department.



Barbara Benedict Bartram

SHARON — Barbara Benedict Bartram, 95, of Sharon, died March 3, 2025, at home.

She was born in Sharon on April 30, 1929, the daughter of Maynard and Nina (Juckett) Bartram, and was a lifelong resident. She was employed by Southern New England Telephone Company for 34 years, in Sharon until dial service began in 1953, then in Canaan and Torrington.

Barbara was a former historian, deacon, and clerk of Sharon Congregational Church, and a member since 1939. She was a Past Master of Taghannuck Grange; Past Matron of Rose Chapter #14, Order of the Eastern Star, and a former O.E.S. grand officer and grand representative; member of Sharon Historical Society, Telephone Pioneers, and Backyard Bee-

keepers.

She is survived by her nieces; Carey Meltzer (Harland) and Amy Bartram; nephew Peter Bartram; Jon Noyes, husband of her late niece Sarah; many great- and great-great nephews and nieces; cousins John Bartram (Anne), Laura Bartram, and Carolyn Bushey, and extended family. She was predeceased by her brother Maynard Bartram, his wife Jeannette, and niece Sarah Noyes.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 3, at 11 a.m. at Sharon Congregational Church. Private interment.

Memorial donations may be made to Sharon Congregational Church, PO Box 6, Sharon, CT 06069.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Send obituaries to editor@lakevillejournal.com

OUR TOWNS

POCD Implementation Committee soon to be formed in Salisbury

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — The Planning and Zoning Commission discussed the formation of a Plan of Conservation and Development Implementation Committee at its March 3 regular meeting which would facilitate the enacting of town strategies in line with the long-term blueprint.

The POCD is a state-mandated policy guide that directs and informs the growth of Connecticut towns. Municipalities are required to update these plans every decade; Salisbury's most recent version was completed and effected in December 2024.

The new Implementation Committee would be a cross-departmental effort to ensure that the suggestions and guidelines laid out in the plan are actively pursued.

"I'd like us to look back in 2034 ... and say boy we got a lot of things done," said Planning & Zoning Chair Michael Klemens.

P&Z discussed the composition of the proposed committee, suggesting a small, town staff-based core team consisting of the land use administrator and a primary representative from Planning and Zoning. The Committee would call upon "liaisons" from other town commissions and interest groups for specific projects pertaining to the focus of that group.

Natalia Smirnova of the Salisbury Pathways Committee was present at the meeting, and expressed her enthusiasm to be one such representative. Members of other commissions would inform the Implementation Committee on projects relating to other focus areas, such as affordable housing or conservation.

"This is the only way we are going to effectively move this POCD forward," said



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Salisbury Town Hall on Main Street.

Klemens of the proposed collaborative approach to the new committee. "There's going to be a lot of good cross-pollination here."

Private art studio

P&Z addressed the transition of a storage building at 9 Sharon Road — adjacent to the restaurant Fern — into an art studio for sculptor Rina Banerjee. As the proposal was for a private studio space and not a public gallery, commissioners agreed that the new use would be low-impact and "benign," though there was some discussion over how to codify the change within Salisbury's zoning regulations.

P&Z alternate Danella Schiffer noted that its new classification as a "workspace" might change parking requirements on the special permit that had been allocated to the site.

Land Use Administrator Abby Conroy shared

Schiffer's concern and advised the commission to consider amending the site plan under item 803.5 in the town's zoning regulations, which allows modifications to special permits that do "not materially alter the Special Permit as determined by the commission."

Teepoo Riaz, who manages the property, asked why such a step was necessary given the low profile of the proposal and the fact that there are over 19 parking spaces on the premises.

Klemens responded that the commission must proceed by the book, needing to "go the extra mile" to "memorialize every decision."

Ultimately, Commissioner Alan Cockerline motioned to accept the modification of the use of the structure from storage to workspace, which carried unanimously.

"Much ado about nothing," said Klemens.

Salisbury Band rehearsal starts March 24

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Band is beginning its 97th season of spirited music-making with Monday night rehearsals 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Scoville Library in Salisbury.

The first rehearsal will be on Monday, March 24. Conductor Brian Viets is in his fifth year directing the Band. He is an experienced composer and arranger and also directs the Harmonious Brass Choir in Simsbury.

"The Salisbury Band is looking forward to another great summer of concerts, and we are always looking for new members."

The Band has provided music to audiences in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut and the tri-state area since 1928.

Players of all wind, brass, and percussion instruments are welcome. There are some instruments available to lend to members.

Anyone interested in playing in the Salisbury Band may contact Brian Viets at (860) 307-2101 or Lee Collins at (860) 435-0051.

RYAN FUNERAL HOME

255 MAIN STREET • LAKEVILLE, CT 06039

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YOUR NEWS

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Worship Services

Week of March 16, 2025

<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>	<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, April 13 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. During Lent, Presanctified Liturgy Wednesdays at 6:30 PM and Akathist to the Virgin Mary Fridays at 6:30 PM Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>
<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>	<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-5138</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	

Conservation & affordable housing: Great partners

Forests, farmland, wildlife areas, and hiking trails are defining features of Connecticut's Northwest Corner. Our region's conserved land charms life-long residents and newcomers alike, and plays a central role in our economic vitality and quality of life.

This natural beauty is an essential part of what makes our region desirable, but it comes at a cost: the region's popularity, combined with a lack of housing supply, is making it impossible for many people to stay here as they age, or to move here for work or family. The median sales price of homes in Salisbury in 2024 was \$912,500, in Falls Village it was \$640,000, and in Cornwall it was \$1,120,000. As a result, the charming natural beauty at the heart of the region has become inaccessible to many.

Recently, conservation experts from the Litchfield Hills Greenprint Collaborative were discussing the importance of forested wildlife habitat at a local, undeveloped property. Someone pointed out the town was considering developing affordable homes on the same property, due to its ample road frontage. What followed was an "aha" moment. "Why can't we do both?" they asked.

This epiphany spurred the creation of the Northwest Connecticut Affordable Housing and Conservation Collaboration, a joint effort of the Greenprint Collaborative — a collective partnership working in 28 northwest Connecticut towns to conserve open space, farmland, forest, and drinking water through strategic, collaborative action — and the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity (LCCHO), an initiative addressing housing affordability by providing technical assistance, capacity building, data, and tools to towns and nonprofit housing organizations.

Together with the Housatonic Valley Association, which works to protect the environmental health of the entire river valley, the collaboration brings conservation and affordable housing advocates together to identify points of alignment, and provide communities with strategies, tools, and relationships to help them support local affordable housing efforts and conservation efforts.

Conservation land trusts acquire and manage protected land for the purposes of wildlife conservation, recreation, natural resource conservation, farmland preservation, and many other community benefits. Affordable housing trusts acquire land to build homes dedicated to households earning less than the area's median income. Both of these efforts determine the permanent use of land for public benefit purposes. While a "zero sum" attitude might see them as opposed, groups in Connecticut's Northwest Corner

GUEST COLUMN
CONNIE MANES & JOCELYN AYER

have instead chosen to join forces to strengthen both of their efforts.

The Affordable Housing and Conservation Collaboration includes more than 60 individuals and approximately 40 organizations, including the communities of Cornwall, Falls Village, Goshen, Kent, Norfolk, Salisbury, Sharon, Warren, and organizations including Habitat for Humanity Northwest Connecticut, Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy, and the Northwest Hills Council of Governments.

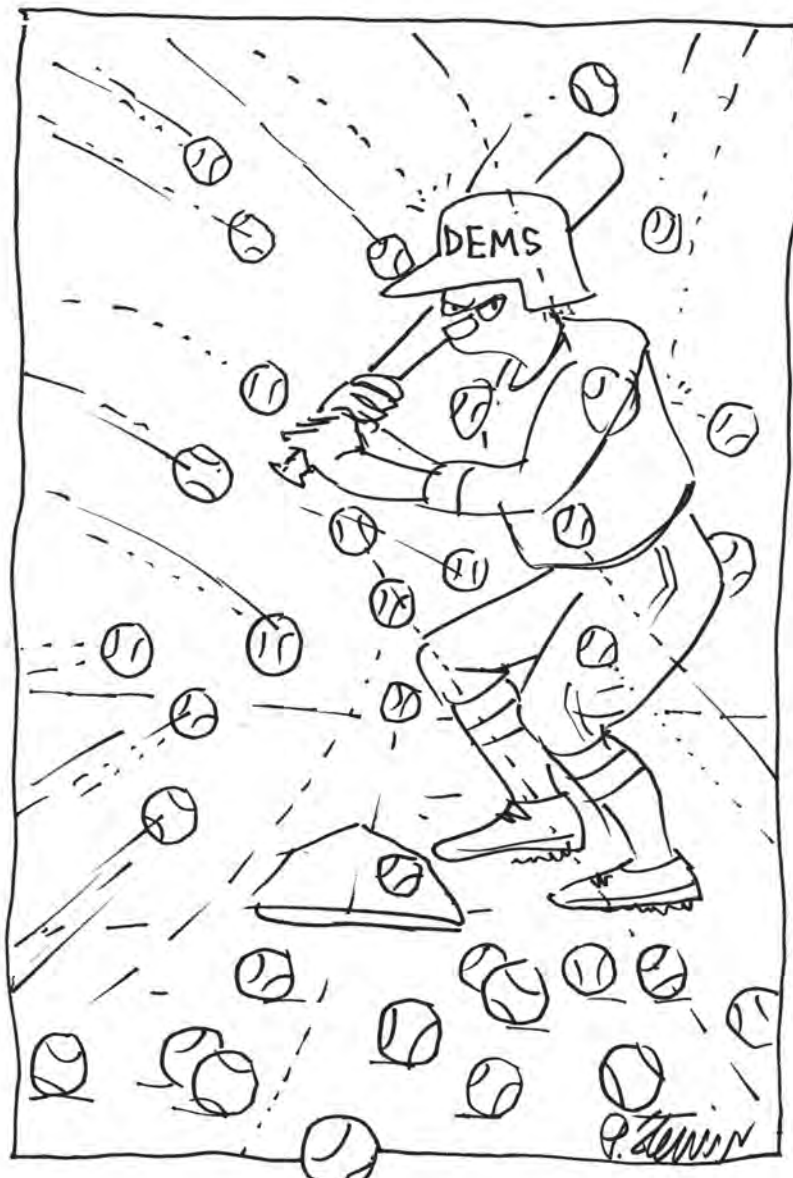
With support from Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Foundation for Community Health, and the Housing Collective, these participants met regularly throughout 2024 to discuss shared challenges, develop a list of actionable strategies, and hold breakout sessions to identify specific opportunities for collaboration in their own towns. With the help of a new purpose-built online mapping tool, participants can now see opportunities for conservation, opportunities for affordable housing, and where they overlap. Participants also developed a short video showing what collaboration looks like.

Similar initiatives are underway in the Hudson Valley, Massachusetts and nationally. There are also examples where affordable housing and conservation have come together right here in our backyards: Litchfield Housing Trust's Gagarin Place affordable homeownership development includes eight net-zero homes and nine acres of preserved open space; at Foundation for Norfolk Living's Haystack Woods, half the land will remain conserved land while the other half will host 10 affordable, net-zero homes; and at Dresser Woods in Salisbury, half the site will remain conserved land while on the other half, 20 new affordable rental homes will be built.

Participants in this project will continue to meet and build relationships throughout 2025, pursuing specific opportunities identified during their working sessions, and raising community awareness about their efforts. New communities and organizations who would like to get involved are encouraged to contact HVA and/or LCCHO.

The Northwest Corner can be green, open, and affordable—if we work together.

Connie Manes is Housatonic Valley Association's Greenprint Director. Jocelyn Ayer is Director of Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chris Murphy: Poster boy for what's wrong with Democrats

Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) is all over Facebook these days, asking for donations so that he can lead us to a better world.

Mr. Murphy is making his big push to the forefront of the national Democratic party as he apparently gears up

to run for president in 2028.

In his Facebook fundraising and fearmongering pitch, Murphy screams like a good Democrat that we're in a "constitutional crisis." He says Donald Trump is trying to "shut down democracy" so that his "billionaire friends

can steal from us."

What? Again? This is the same failed playbook the Democrats have been using for 10 years. Don't the Dems ever learn? One of Murphy's own colleagues, Sen. John Fetterman (D-Penn.), summed it up best after his party's truculent performance at Trump's address to a joint session of Congress. Fetterman said the Democrats are like car alarms that go off and no one pays any attention to them.

But screaming that the end is nigh is all the Democrats have. Endless claims of existential threats to democracy, to the Constitution, to the planet, to humanity, to government bureaucracy, to the Democrat agenda, ad nauseam.

Ever since the Dems got shellacked in November, they have assumed that all they need to do is a better job of putting out their fearmongering message. But messaging is not their main problem, although it is a problem.

Their main problem is their actual agendas and policies. As long as the Democrats keep pushing their transgender insanity, their woke insanity, their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. each Monday. You may email letters to publisher@lakevillejournal.com. Please limit letters to 500 words. Include town and phone number. Letters are subject to condensation.

What environmentalists think about RFK Jr.

Dear EarthTalk: How do environmentalists feel about RFK Jr.'s oversight of health in the Trump administration, given his background as an environmental activist lawyer?

When Time named Robert F. Kennedy Jr. one of its early 2000s "Heroes for the Planet," the outspoken lawyer was a clear choice for the honor, having gained fame during his fight to protect New York City's water supply. He advocated for "the environment [as] the most important, the most fundamental, civil-rights issue," according to a 2004 interview. Many of Kennedy's views can be summarized in the June 18, 2007, issue of Rolling Stone in which he demanded investment into renewable energy sources, blamed America for its "reckless consumption of oil and coal," and emphasized the need to slow global warming.

Almost twenty years later, as RFK Jr. takes the reins as America's top health official, the same magazine has quoted former friends, colleagues, and family members calling the former "hero" a "conspiracist" with "dangerous views." The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a leading environmental non-profit, used the term "one-man misinformation superspreader" to describe its former Senior Attorney, a statement corroborated by former allies who have stated that Kennedy is not an environmentalist, but a "science denier" and a "conspiracy theorist."

Even before his endorsement of President Trump, environmentalists had begun to turn against Kennedy. Liz Barratt-Brown, a senior adviser for NRDC and Kennedy's former co-

EARTHTALK
Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss

worker, told the New York Times that he had begun drifting away from the environmental movement in the early 2000s when he started spreading unproven theories regarding vaccinations, such as linking vaccines to autism without evidence.

Around the same time that RFK Jr. became invested in the anti-vaccine movement, he opposed the construction of the Cape Wind Project, an offshore wind farm in Nantucket Sound that would have provided roughly 75 percent of the electricity used by Cape Cod, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard. Kennedy's position began as an instance of the "not in my backyard" mentality, as he owned a home nearby, and has grown in recent years to staunchly oppose all offshore wind.

While offshore wind farms have several disadvantages, they are also a promising source of clean energy; thus, Kennedy's opposition sparked disdain from climate activists like Bill McKibben who claim "he could have used his name and platform" to promote renewable energy.

Once a "hero for the planet," many environmentalists now echo Dan Reicher, a former peer and colleague of RFK Jr. and a Stanford University senior energy researcher: "Stay very far away from today's RFK Jr. if you're interested in environmental protection."

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk.

insanity, they will continue to lose. As long as they keep shouting against false fascist demons and for false woke gods, they will lose. As long as they divide us with identity politics, they will lose. The country has had enough.

Murphy, however, is one of the left's old-school types. He doesn't know how to do anything but fearmonger. He is fully embedded in the Democrat's dying agenda and in the notion that screaming louder about Armageddon at the hands of Donald Trump and the MAGA hordes is the key to victory.

Well, if Chris Murphy is the best the Democrats have to offer, then JD Vance or Pam Bondi will be elected president in 2028, and even more Democrats will cross party lines to join the Republicans.

That will really make Sen. Murphy and the Democrats scream.

The Democrats should forget "messaging." The only way they can fix their morass is to take all the insanity out of their platform.

But then they'd be Republicans.

Mark Godburn
Norfolk

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Viewpoint

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago —
March 1900

SHARON — Miss Edna St. John left this week for Chapinville, where she will fulfill the duties of stenographer in Joseph J. Morehouse's office in that place.

Mr. Edward Middlebrook of Sharon had the misfortune to lose a horse on Thursday last. The animal took fright near Mr. Robert Harris' and kicking himself loose from the wagon ran until he came to the foot-bridge in front of the blacksmith shop, and thus becoming tangled up, broke a leg. This of course necessitated the shooting of the animal.

Mr. Chas. Beeman met with an accident on Tuesday. Jumping from a scaffold he struck a rusty wire spike which passed nearly through his foot, causing a very serious, if not dangerous wound.

A.F. Roberts is advertising a special in tea and coffee this week.

John O'Hara, who resides in the north part of the town was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Martin Monday for illegally selling cider. He appeared before Justice Hicks at Salisbury on Monday and was fined \$10 and costs amounting to about \$200.

The measles seem to prevail pretty generally throughout this and neighboring towns.

During the high water last week the gas main was bent and sprung where it passes through Burton brook, creating a leakage of the gas. The pipe was soon repaired by Messrs. Miller and Hoyt. It has been raised in the form of an arch over the brook and is fastened to the stone work of the bridge.

Last Thursday "Lon" Rowe had a narrow escape from drowning. He was fishing through the ice on Long Pond; he fell through; lost his fish ice tools and fishing tackle. John Thorpe was near by and rescued him. "Lon" now appreciates the sentiment of the old nursery rhyme "Ding Dong Bell, Pussy's in the Well," while John can answer to the character "Big Tom Stout."

100 years ago —
March 1925

Arthur Benson, 28 years old, of Lime Rock, died at the Sharon Hospital at about 5:30 o'clock Thursday night of last week as a result of injuries suffered when the blade of a buzz saw, on which he and his brother-in-law, Joseph Spoth, were cutting logs in the woods on their farm, was broken off, and imbedded itself in his leg, laying it open from the thigh to the knee. Benson was taken to the hospital immediately, but loss of blood and shock were fatal. He leaves a wife, Eda Spoth Benson. His father-in-law, Dr. Joseph Spoth, is serving a five-year sentence in the state prison at Wethersfield for manslaughter.

The life of a country squire in the town of Salisbury is just one animal after another according to Representative J. Mortimer Bell of Salisbury who succeeded in giving the legislative judiciary committee the impression that when one had routed out the red squirrels nesting in the beds, it was time to hurry outside and chase cows out

of the garden. Mr. Bell is a member of the committee and did not appear before it, but did considerable to enliven a hearing on the humane society bills by his questions and comments.

Blue birds and robins are here; the boys are spinning tops and playing marbles, the sap is running and by these signs we know that spring is just around the corner.

Joseph Stanton has resigned his position at Levery's Pharmacy and the vacancy is now filled by his brother Thomas, and the vacancy at Benjamin's store left by Thomas is now filled by his brother James.

More rents are needed in Lakeville, but there are at present no indications of new building construction. Several new houses could be used and it is regrettable that present high costs act as an obstacle to new construction.

If you observe a restless spirit shown by the average housewife you don't need to be unduly alarmed — just remember it's housecleaning time and the good wife will promptly recover after the house has been properly gone over, and don't kick if you do have to take your meals off the shelf for a time.

50 years ago —
March 1975

Housatonic Valley Regional High School teachers were reported in a "state of shock" late Wednesday afternoon after learning of an order to eliminate teaching positions for the 1975-76 school year. "We found out at 3:20 today," Faculty Association President Robert Gutzman told The Lakeville Journal shortly after that hour. Principal Edward M. Kirby gave teachers the bad news at a hastily called faculty meeting. Kirby told his staff that the HVRHS Board of Education, in executive session Tuesday night, directed that 4.4 teaching positions be eliminated. It also directed further study of pupil-teacher ratios in Vocational Agriculture. The board's vote was unanimous. No permanent staff members have yet been notified they will lose their jobs. The HVRHS staff now numbers about 48 full-time members.

Bargains and lower prices may have arrived, but there's no such thing as 99-cent-a-quart scotch. Patrons by the scores learned to their regret this last week when they thronged the Millerton Super in response to a misprint in an advertisement in The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News. It was all a mistake as the price as listed was "less than \$8.99." The Journal and News apologize for the inconvenience to patrons and to Millerton Super, while noting by way of

Status Report

The Hotchkiss School's boys and girls squash teams made school history when each team earned second place at the 2025 National High School Division I Squash Championships in Philadelphia Feb. 23.

consolation that the episode demonstrated how many people read the ads.

25 years ago —
March 2000

Sharon Hospital employees will learn next week if their jobs are among those slated for elimination. According to Ken Roberts, director of community relations at the hospital, another round of layoffs is scheduled to help in the cost-saving operations that are needed to keep the facility financially viable.

FALLS VILLAGE — A pile of debris in an abandoned railroad car off Sand Road was ignited Monday afternoon, creating a blaze that burned an acre of nearby swamp land. The incident has been reported to state police and to Fire Marshal Stanley MacMillan. No property was damaged by the fire and there were no injuries.

CANAAN — A spark from a sap house chimney was blamed for igniting a wood pile on Tobey Hill Road early Monday morning. The fire was discovered by property owners Winter and Judy Mead, whose home is across the road from the sap shed. They had been busy boiling sap until about 11 p.m. the night before. Firefighters and ambulance crews were dispatched to the scene about 3:45 a.m. Mrs. Mead estimated 12 cords of wood were destroyed but said the business remains in good shape for the season. "We have plenty of wood left and plenty more that we can cut. We'll be fine. We were very lucky that the sap shed did not catch on fire," she said. The Meads typically produce 600 gallons of maple syrup per season, she said.

The Republican budget problem

For the past several weeks, House Republicans had been studying and debating proposals for the upcoming federal budget which is being taken up by both houses of Congress this month. The House Budget committee created a fifty page document showing potential cuts to the budget with estimated savings and costs for possible new additions.

The major cost items were for interest on the national debt, defense, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Oh, and also the permanent extension of the giant 2017 tax cut. The budget committee's hope was that the hundreds of smaller cuts minus the additions like not taxing tips or overtime pay would reach a target number that would not increase the National Debt more than a number to be agreed on by a majority of the members of the House and subsequently the Senate, currently two trillion dollars.

But strangely, none of the Republican leaders seemed ready to speak about the other major element in the budget that, by silent acceptance was to be left alone: the massive tax cuts that were set to expire at the end of the year and President Trump and all the rest of the leadership insisted be renewed.

The tax reductions were in two sections. The corporate tax had been reduced in 2017 as a permanent reduction from 35% to 21%. But Trump demanded that it be further reduced this year to 15% at a major additional

The classroom: Young witnesses to America's undoing

I have taught U.S. history for the past decade and over these years have never felt that I was both teaching and living history so much as I have over the past two months.

As I and my students experience the executive orders crippling the work of the U.S. Agency for International Development, freezing refugee migration to our shores, the President's telegraphing of submission to Russia, and the suggestion of a cultural genocide in Palestine, I posited the above question to my students in 10th grade U.S. History and Literature.

I did so with genuine curiosity of the teenage generation's thought on what America is, what it should be and what it could be. As one approaching middle age, am I too entrenched in decades of American hegemony and an idealized version of the United States as a potential force for good, or at least a balancing force against real danger around the world to understand the radical shifts of the moment? Or am I just old enough to be rightfully worried about the promised foreign agenda?

Prior to the students moving about to discuss, create mind-maps and word clouds, we reviewed the content we had studied up until that point which included the first contact of European settlers with indigenous people, the forced migration of Africans through the Middle Passage, the hopes of founders such as William Penn to create settlements where immigrants of all religions were welcome, and the first moments of rebellion against the British crown by the patriots in Massachusetts. Students had also had the opportunity, on the occasion of the inauguration of a new president, to read the first in-

CT MIRROR/
VIEWPOINT
JENNIFER DILLON

augural address by President Lincoln, as well as President Kennedy's address. They also watched the address given by President Trump in the Rotunda of the Capitol.

This is all to say they were not coming to this question from an uneducated place. Further, the students that sit around the table in my classroom hail from all corners of Connecticut, countless states within our country and many nations abroad.

As I walked around the classroom and the hallways where they had situated themselves, I acted as a silent observer to the conversation. I was immediately struck by some of the points they were making. These young learners shared thoughts that included, "should be an escape for freedom," "spreading ideas of equality," "a military and technological leader" and "biggest economy-helping those with less develop."

They asked high level questions of each other to come to these conclusions and were thoughtful about the supposed dichotomy of helping domestically versus helping abroad.

It was clear from the conversation that these 15- and 16-year-old students, from all around the world, understand what this administration does not; a positive presence on the world stage doesn't make us weaker, it makes us stronger.

I taught some of these same students last year when we investigated WWI and WWII. They understand that isolationism didn't work

then, and it won't work now in an even more globalized world.

A nation that keeps its promise to Afghans who worked alongside our men and women in uniform, a nation that provides low cost, but lifesaving aid to children in developing countries, a nation that assists in demining farm land of weapons that were left behind by our wars of the 70s, a nation that stands up to dictators and autocrats and a nation that supports the oppressed and marginalized at home and abroad is a safer nation, a better nation and a greater nation.

As my students so correctly identified, America's role in the world is a beacon of hope; this is what makes America great!

Let us as the adults in our community stand up to enact what these young people know to be true. While it is undoubtedly healthy to re-examine funding commitments and alliances from time to time, let us not break down all good will on the global stage.

As my students read Kennedy's inaugural address they noted his appeal to a new generation. Though his speech from 64 years ago spoke to a time when even their parents were not born, they resonated with his words, most especially, "...a new generation of Americans.... unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed..."

This new generation is witnessing an undoing, and they are committed to standing against it.

Jennifer Dillon of Ashford has been an educator at independent schools for the past 10 years.

OCCASIONAL
OBSERVER
MAC GORDON

cost. The proposal by the Finance Committee to extend the personal income tax and other miscellaneous additional tax cuts was estimated by the Budget Committee at \$4.2 trillion! Where would they possibly find items in the budget to offset these enormous expenditures?

Proceeding on a totally different track but in certain respects toward the same goal was Elon Musk's "Department of Government Efficiency," a not really legal entity created by Trump and run by Musk, to fire a large number of employees at most federal agencies. There is no record yet of how many civil servants have been dismissed and no record of plans for future terminations. Trump and his supporters have been trying to sell these acts as a necessary trimming of the federal budget. But as various observers have pointed out, government salaries make up less than 6% of the Federal budget.

The most obvious place to find places to cut the budget would be in Social Security or health care. Yet recently Musk's "DOGE" operation has reduced the already understaffed Social Security Administration workforce by 12% and Trump insists it be further cut to 50%.

Both Medicare and Med-

icaid are extremely popular; Medicaid exists primarily for the elderly and poorer part of the population serving over 70 million people. But now the House bill is calling for massive cuts in Medicaid. Almost everyone receiving Social Security feels they are already getting less than they deserve; any further cuts will make untold millions of people very angry.

Foolishly, the DOGE committee cut the budget for the long underfunded IRS where a significant increase in additional inspectors to audit high income taxpayers would yield several times the expense of hiring and training in previously uncollected taxes. The Republicans have arranged it so that the Senate vote on the budget bill will be a Special Reconciliation bill requiring only a majority to pass with no opportunity

for a filibuster which would require a sixty vote majority to become law. Indications are that Senate Democrats will all vote against the bill if the tax cut section stays as planned. With a current 53 to 47 vote majority, the Republicans can still win the vote if no more than 3 of their party defect.

The income tax reduction that the Republicans insist on extending is heavily weighted in favor of the highest earners. As U.S. Senator Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) said recently: "If you're in the top 1%, your average tax cut is about \$70,000. Why do people making \$600,000 a year need \$70,000 while only a hundred bucks goes to everybody else?"

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville.



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A sure sign of spring is the opening of the vernal pools here in the NW Corner. Vernal pools are temporary sanctuaries for amphibians to breed that are safe from predators like fish. They last only for a short time in the spring and usually dry up in the summer months. The first in are the Eastern Newts, Jefferson salamanders and Wood frogs. The Wood frogs are of particular interest as their strategy to survive the winter is to simply freeze solid. So they actually resurrect each spring, a true miracle in nature. Vernal pools are protected Inland Waters here in Connecticut and for more information please visit: www.vernalpools.me



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ADVERTISEMENT

Northwest CT faces 'considerable change,' report says

Continued from Page A1

In a report, an update from a '2017 Community Crossroads' study, the foundation paints a picture of a region that faces a declining and aging population, dropping school enrollment and skyrocketing home prices that continue to outstrip moderate family incomes.

The 2025 outlook confirms that trends identified seven years ago have borne out — and are even more pronounced. NCCF, a charity located in Torrington that supports nonprofits and provides grant assistance and student scholarship opportunities, said that the goal of the community update is to help municipal planners and policymakers.

The report found that the region's population will continue to drop. Besides the decline, overall the 20 towns in the Northwest Corner will be populated by more seniors and fewer pre-school and school-aged children, which translates into a continued decline in public school enrollment.

Student enrollment drop

The report found a gradual and consistent decline in student population over the period, noting a 12% drop — a deficit of 1,900 over a ten-year period.

In Region One, enrollment at Housatonic Valley Regional High School fell from 446 in 2015-'16 to 314 in 2023-'24, a decline of 132 or 30%.

The number of pre-school and school age children in the 20-town region trended downward, and the decrease exceeded forecasts. Those between birth and age 4 decreased by 9% — 397 fewer children — in a seven-year period.

Some Northwest Corner towns showed enrollment increases.

—Falls Village/Canaan reported an increase of four students.

—Cornwall counted five more students.

—Salisbury reported an increase of 29 students.

—Norfolk's student enrollment dropped dramatically from 116 to 56, a 52% drop.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

A cloud of uncertainty lingers over the future of the Northwest Corner as demographics continue to skew older, according to the recent report by Northwest CT Community Foundation.

—Sharon also showed a deficit of 54 students over the period, a 34% decline.

—North Canaan had 16 fewer students, down 6%.

—Kent enrollment declined by 46, a 19% drop.

The trends show that birth rates will remain low and death rates will remain high.

Racial and ethnic change

The NCCF report also

reported that the region is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. Asian, Black and Hispanic populations rose substantially, while the White population fell by 12% in the past seven years.

There was an unexpected increase in the number of young adults, including in the 25- to 39-year old group. Noting a "small but steady" increase in young adults of 13%, NCCF said that it was an unexpected and positive finding, but said continuation of the trend will depend on housing, job opportunities and work-at-home options.

On the economic front, the region also faces the prospect of fewer and fewer available and experienced workers, some of whom will be turning their backs on Northwest Connecticut for jobs outside the region.

Experienced worker issue

Experienced workers are expected to continue to decline, and more education and training will be required

to obtain employment.

Four out of five workers were employed in a town outside their home town, and three quarters of workers commuted outside the 20-town region for employment.

"This trend brings into question the overall vitality of NWCT's business environment and its capability for meeting the employment needs of its resident workforce," NCCF wrote in the report.

The increase in the young adult group was led by a 41% increase in Torrington. The pandemic was cited as a possible cause due to remote and hybrid learning and working at home. Yet the NCCF study noted that the ongoing decrease in K-12 enrollments is a warning sign for the region's future young adult cohort.

The number of experienced workers in the 40 to 54 year age group showed a sharp decline since 2015, and the purchasing power in this group also declined. Vocational/technical high school education or post-secondary education are viewed as necessary for workers to achieve long-term economic security.

A senior 'explosion'

The senior "explosion" will challenge the capacity of social and healthcare services, NCCF says.

The aging of the region's population will result in a 10% growth in the 65-plus population, meaning that the older adult population will be 25% greater in number than it was in 2015. The total 65-plus population is expected to reach 24,937 this year.

Litchfield County continued to experience migration out of the county, though it

was lower than it was seven years ago. The most popular states for relocation were New York, Florida, Massachusetts, South Carolina, California and Arizona. In-migration from other Connecticut counties more than doubled since 2015, with New Haven and Fairfield Counties leading. NCCF noted that the impact of the pandemic is unknown.

Home values from 2013 to 2023 rose by 65% for a median increase of \$171,816, while household incomes rose 22%.

Rising home prices

One quarter of the region's housing units with a mortgage were owned by households earning \$75,000 or less. Two thirds of those households were paying more than 30% of their income on housing, and the same was found for renters.

From 2017 to 2023, median home values rose accordingly:

—Falls Village/Canaan: \$186,467 to \$324,432

—Cornwall: \$383,592 to \$607,987

—Salisbury: \$473,369 to \$807,848

—Sharon: \$364,709 to \$598,667

—North Canaan: \$178,508 to \$309,831

—Kent: \$344,540 to \$567,457

—Norfolk: \$279,233 to \$462,507

"In sum, the high cost of both homeownership and rental housing does not serve the region well for either persuading those aged 25 to 39 to remain in NWCT or for attracting that demographic to relocate here," NCCF said.

The report can be found at www.yournccf.org

Salisbury selectmen consider preservation strategies for historic railroad station

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — First Selectman Curtis Rand reported to the Board of Selectmen Monday, March 3, that the old railroad station building on Ethan Allen Street in Lakeville had been hit by a box truck and sustained some damage to the edge of the roof.

Rand said this is not the first time something like this has happened.

The town has been looking into the idea of moving the building back from the street, and possibly rotating it, as well as restoring the building. Rand has had on-

going discussions with the State Historic Preservation Office about doing some or all of these things, and about getting grants to pay for the work.

He said he thought moving the building and digging a new foundation, but not rotating it, would cost about \$400,000.

"The goal is to preserve the building," he said. "It keeps getting smashed."



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A box truck damaged the roof of the old railroad station building, again.

Battle of the Bands returns to Housatonic

FALLS VILLAGE — The Housatonic Valley Regional High School Class of 2025 will host the third annual Battle of the Bands April 4 at 7 p.m. for a night of music and fun.

Four bold bands will be competing this year for a cash prize.

Each band will play a set ranging from 10 to 15 minutes and be judged by a panel of experts. Admission is \$10 at the door and concessions will be for sale. Limited edition t-shirts will be raffled off.

HVRHS arts scholarship accepts new applicants

Applications for the Warren Prindle Visual Arts Scholarship (formerly the Contemporary Visual Arts Scholarship) are now available.

Graduating seniors at Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) who are committed to pursuing a degree in Fine Art at a four-year college or university are encouraged to apply. The student must have attended HVRHS for two consecutive years upon graduation.

The scholarship provides substantial financial support to the awardee by contributing \$80,000 to the college or university of the student's choice. This

award is disbursed over four years in an annual amount of \$20,000.

The scholarship was established in 2004 to support a student at HVRHS who demonstrates both artistic talent and financial need to attend a college program in visual arts. Foundation for Contemporary Arts administers the scholarship.

Applications can be obtained by speaking with your art teacher, film teacher, or counselor. Materials will be reviewed by the scholarship committee, and candidates will be contacted later this spring.

The application deadline is March 28, 2025.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on March 3, 2025:

Approved with the condition that the applicant improve the driveway permeability, and the conditions recommended by the Town Consulting Engineer - Site Plan Application #2024-0270 by Engineer Pat Hackett, for demolition and reconstruction of a single-family residence in the Lake Protection Overlay District in accordance with section 404 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 69 as lot 32 and is located at 95 Preston Lane, Salisbury. The owner of the property is NOTSERO LLC.

Approved - Site Plan Application #2025-0277 by owner Lemon Properties, LLC, for a new single-family dwelling in the Housatonic River Overlay District in accordance with section 402 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 8 as Lot 28-13 and is located at 160 Dugway Road, Lakeville.

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

Town of Salisbury
Planning &

Zoning Commission
Martin Whalen, Secretary
03-13-25

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on February 24, 2025:

Approved with conditions recommended by the Town consulting engineer - Application 2024-IW-046 by Engineer Pat Hackett for the demolition and reconstruction of a single-family residence in the upland review area. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 69 as lot 32 and is known as 95 Preston Lane, Salisbury. The owner of the property is NOTSERO LLC.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §22a-43(a) & §8-8.

03-13-25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF ALLAN THOMAS BAKER Late of New York (25-00036)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 20, 2025, 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:
Janet L. Baker
c/o Theresa Benedict
D'Alton

Law Offices of Theresa B. D'Alton LLC, 25 No. Main St
P O B 297, Kent, CT
06757

Megan M. Foley
Clerk
03-13-25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF KAREN J. BEATTIE Late of West Cornwall AKA Karen Jacqueline Beattie AKA KAREN BEATTIE (25-00056)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated February 25, 2025, 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:
Nicholas A. Johnson
c/o Mary M. Ackerly
Harris Beach Murtha
Cullina, PLLC, 782 Bantam
Road, P.O. Box 815, Bantam,
CT 06750

Megan M. Foley
Clerk
03-13-25

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Sports



Tessa Dekker creates a lane to the hoop against Old Saybrook. Khyra McClennon wins the tip-off. Daniela Brennan defends Old Saybrook's Breleigh Cooke.

Old Saybrook eliminates Housy from state tourney

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — Housatonic Valley Regional High School got knocked out of the state playoff by Old Saybrook High School March 5.

HVRHS (8) hosted Old Saybrook (9) for round two of the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Class S tournament. As the eighth and ninth seeds in the tournament, both teams earned byes for the first round of the state postseason.

On the way to victory in Falls Village, Old Saybrook came back from behind to win 54-36. Senior Breleigh Cooke scored a game-high 19 points for the Rams with 14 of those coming in the second half.

HVRHS played without captain Kylie Leonard, who was sidelined due to injury. The three active seniors, Tessa Dekker, Khyra McClen-

non and Daniela Brennan, combined for 28 points in their final varsity basketball game.

The Mountaineers started strong and briefly opened up a double-digit lead in the first half. The team created momentum through defensive control, forcing repeated turnovers in the full-court press.

At halftime, HVRHS led 24-18.

Old Saybrook went on an 18-2 scoring run in the third quarter and pulled ahead of HVRHS. Cooke hit two 3-pointers in the hot streak.

Brennan and McClennon both hobbled off the court with injury flare-ups in the second half, but returned with determination to play out the game.

The Rams finished strong with another 18 points in the fourth quarter and secured a 54-36 win.

Old Saybrook coach Steve Woods and Housatonic

coach Jake Plitt shook hands after the game.

"You played a great game. Didn't help that your captain was on the bench," said Woods.

"Your team played really well," said Plitt. "Good luck the rest of the way."

Old Saybrook secured a trip to the quarterfinal round against Somers High School. Somers (16) defeated Old Saybrook 63-53 on March 7 and advanced to the semifinal round against The Morgan School (4).

For Housatonic, the season was over. Plitt praised his team for a successful year, ending 14-6 in the regular season, entry to the Berkshire League tournament as the third seed and the Class S playoff as the eighth seed.

"This season has been really special to me and I'm proud to be a part of it," said Plitt. "We'll see you next year."



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Sophomore Hayden Bachman got a taste of the postseason with playing time in both the Berkshire League tournament and the CIAC Class S playoff.

Skip Barber inducted into Motorsports Hall of Fame

By Colin Chambers

LAKEVILLE — Skip Barber reached motorsport's highest echelon this week when he was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame.

At the official celebration in Daytona Beach, Florida, on March 10 to 11, Barber's legacy as a visionary who reshaped American motorsports was cemented.

As a driver, Barber won national championships in the 1960s and 1970s, racing everything from sports cars to high-powered formula cars.

But when he transitioned from the cockpit to the classroom with the opening of the Skip Barber Racing School, his influence accelerated.

"There is no driving school as recognizable as Skip Barber," said Mario Andretti, who sent his sons, Michael and Jeff, and grandson Marco through Barber's programs.

Longtime Barber instructor Terry Earwood puts it another way: "I put Skip up there with Wally Parks, Bill France, and P.T. Barnum. They had a vision of what they wanted to do, and they did it."

Convinced that racing was a teachable craft, he founded the Skip Barber Racing School in 1975 at Lime Rock and Thompson Speedway, funded by a loan supposedly for a bathroom remodel.

The early days were lean — the first class had just four students and two borrowed cars. "We used to joke they'd



PHOTO BY LOWELL PADDOCK

Skip Barber receiving his plaque at the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in Daytona Beach, Florida.

call it Skip Barter Racing," said Carl Lane-Lopez, one of the school's first instructors. "He bartered for trucks, airplane rides, haircuts — you name it."

Since 1975, the school has produced champions across nearly every professional racing series, from Formula 1 to the Indy 500, the Daytona 500, the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the Rolex 24, and the 12 Hours of Sebring. Celebrities like Paul Newman, Jerry Seinfeld and Tom Cruise also honed their driving skills under Barber's tutelage.

Through its defensive driving programs, the school has saved countless lives on

public roads and profoundly impacted the sport by training an entire generation of mechanics, engineers, administrators and marketing specialists.

Barber sold the school in 1999 but continued working there until 2001.

In 1983, Barber spearheaded a group of investors to purchase Lime Rock Park, eventually becoming sole owner. In 2021, he sold the track to a like-minded group of investors committed to preserving Lime Rock's legacy, and remains a significant shareholder and an active member of the management team.

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TONG

Continued from Page A1

ralization Service showed up and because his father was undocumented, was threatened with deportation. After much thought, the senior Tong was resigned to the fact he would have to leave. But shortly before the deadline, while driving along the Berlin Turnpike, he decided to make a last-ditch effort. He went home and wrote a six-page handwritten letter to then-President Richard Nixon explaining his case. The INS agent returned later and said the president had read the letter and sent the message that the country welcomed him and urged him to stay.

Tong said he's often asked what brings him hope during these times. "In one generation, I went from that Chinese restaurant to attorney general of this state. There are kids out there now; families living with that dream. We need to help them keep it."

The attorney general said that when Trump talks about denaturalizing citizens and then about anchor babies, he is talking about him. "Banning birthright citizens is utterly and brazenly unconstitutional." Audience members, as they did several times during the presentation, applauded loudly.

Speaking on the importance of immigration for moral and economic structural reasons, Tong noted, "America runs on Dunkin' and immigrant workers. There would be no economy without immigrants." Half of all farm workers are undocumented, as are half of those working in the meat packing industry he said.

Touching on Connecticut's Trust Act that was passed in 2013, Tong explained that it limits how local law enforcement can cooperate with federal immigration officials to protect the rights of undocumented immigrants. He called efforts to repeal the act "ridiculous," saying "the federal government does its job and

we here do ours." He said if anyone tries to get rid of the act, he will fight it and believes he'll win, emphasizing several times that Connecticut is a sovereign state. The federal government has a lot of power, but can't come to Connecticut to tell its citizens what to do.

When asked what people can do to help those without legal status, Tong advised not to put anyone at risk and make sure they have a plan if ICE shows up. Agents must have a judicial warrant to come on private property. He also recommended they seek people who will provide pro-bono legal advice. He said those holding green cards have legal status and should be respected by ICE. He also recommended not using the word "sanctuary" since it has no legal meaning and can be inflammatory. He was also forthright in saying not everyone can be protected from deportation.

He added there is no evidence to support the claims that immigrants create crime more than American citizens and stressed the Trust Act does not protect violent criminals.

At the outset, Tong said he and his colleagues had sued the federal government when Trump and the Office of Policy and Management tried to freeze all federal funding for a variety of grants, especially those dealing with medical research. "We now have an injunction to stop him from breaking the law. Remembering we have checks and balances, we're serving as the only check since there is so much disinformation out there."

Coming to the end of his message, Tong's tone was foreboding. "We're not on the precipice of a constitutional crisis, we're in one. Trump is already not in compliance with federal court orders. If he doesn't follow Supreme Court rulings, we're in a dark place. We all have the responsibility to take to the streets and speak out."

PROJECTS

Continued from Page A1

with it.

Moran and Ohler, who is also a long-time drone enthusiast, then presented the idea to Patrick McGuire, the fire department's assistant chief, and the rest, as they say, is history.

"It's rare for a young man to do what he did," said McGuire of the student's success in obtaining a \$2,500 grant for the drone and then training members of his department on the technology.

"We haven't used it yet," due to fire department training, noted the assistant fire chief, "but we are hoping to get out there in the spring" and give it some airtime, said the assistant fire chief.

McGuire said the remote-controlled drone will help firefighters identify potential nearby water sources when battling structure fires in remote areas and also assist with search and rescue operations for people and animals.

"It could also fly above buildings and provide an aerial view of a burning structure," enhancing safety for the volunteer firefighters arriving on scene, he said, noting that his department is extremely thankful for the gift.

Moran, 15, recalled that his infatuation with drones started at an early age and continued into high school, where he started a small drone program through the school's agricultural education program and has assisted with training his peers.

"I've always been into drones," the teen said during a recent Sunday morning meeting at the firehouse with Ohler, McGuire and his dad, David Moran, chair of the Agricultural Education Department at HVRHS.

Ohler praised Moran for identifying the community need and navigating the complex process.

"This program offers youth an opportunity to experience firsthand the power of advocating for change by interacting with local government."

— *Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation*



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Daniel Moran, second from right, with the drone the HVRHS sophomore donated to the North Canaan Fire Company as part of his Youth in Democracy project. Moran is shown here with the town's first selectman, Brian Ohler, right, Assistant Fire Chief Patrick McGuire, center, and David Moran, Agricultural Education Department Chair at the high school, left.

"Daniel is very methodical. There were multiple steps, going back to the foundation, presenting all the data. I was very impressed. It's really making, in a way, such a technological advancement to the capabilities of the fire department."

Another bonus to the volunteer fire department's new drone equipment, said Ohler, is that it may help lure young recruits.

"It shows them that there is more to firefighting than

morning to discuss progress, which includes creating labels for the blue bin and distributing newsletters throughout the community.

"I am happy to be the facilitator, but the program is being administered by Alex," noted Bartram, who plans to place a bright, blue plastic collection bin outside the transfer station's office door. It will occupy space next to the Boy Scouts' red, white and blue wooden collection box filled to the brim with torn and tattered American flags.

"They will be the leaders in a few years," Bartram said, praising the youth initiatives.

Currently, most people dispose of prescription pill bottles with recyclables, but the problem with that, said the transfer station manager, is that due to their small size, pill bottles often end up mixing with recycled glass.

Removing them from the process, he said, helps the environment and the recycling process.

Wilbur is currently awaiting receipt of a \$1,500 stipend for needed supplies, and once the collection bin is in place, the next step is to educate the public.

Most people take for granted that their medications come in resealable, clean containers, Wilbur said. However, in some parts of the world, medications are distributed in whatever health care providers or clinics have available, which could be something as basic as a folded scrap of paper.

"I am compiling a final budget and will start printing out labels and newsletters which I plan to hang up around the community," explained the HVRHS senior, who also plans to be at the

transfer station during the project launch to spread word to residents about the new initiative.

Once the bin is full, the pill bottles will be collected by Wilbur and her mom, Mary, and delivered to Ed O'Toole, leader of Berkshire Amistad in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, whose organization supplies Honduras with medical equipment and supplies.

"He goes to South America once every few months and has agreed to work with me and bring the pill bottles from here with him," Wilbur explained.

A significant senior population

Jean Saliter, gate-keeper at the transfer station on Fridays and Saturdays, praised the teenager's initiative, which is something she had tried to pitch years ago after hearing about a similar program started by a parish in the Chicago area where people were collecting, cleaning and shipping pill bottles "so that they could do good work in third world countries."

The idea, however, was short lived, Saliter recalled, because the labels needed to be removed entirely from the plastic bottles, a task that turned out to be extremely labor intensive.

Under Wilbur's proposal, only names need to be blacked out on the label.

"I'm thrilled," about Wilbur's project, Saliter said, noting that both Salisbury and Sharon have a significant senior population that generates countless empty pill containers.

A resident of the Noble Horizons, Saliter suggested it would make sense to start a collection among residents there and throughout the towns' senior living communities, which can be delivered in bulk by volunteers to the transfer station.

STAMPS

Continued from Page A1

necticut stamp is the Ned Anderson bridge over Ten Mile River. The river forms the border between Kent and Sherman, with the northern end of the span located in Kent.

Nestell K. "Ned" Anderson was a dairy farmer living in Sherman. While walking in the woods in 1929, he met Judge Arthur Perkins, who was active in the movement to build the Appalachian Trail. Perkins introduced him to Myron Avery, who was instrumental in the trail movement. Avery and Perkins gave Anderson the responsibility for creating the 70-mile route of the AT in Connecticut. He personally mapped and built much of the state's trail, and for a time he was the sole maintainer. Anderson also organized the Housatonic Trail Club in 1932 to help maintain the trail.

Through trail hikers are an integral part of the culture in the Northwest Corner. Residents love to regale listeners about their experiences of meeting with, and sometimes befriending, those who come walking through the towns during spring and summer as they head to their destination.

Hikers also enjoy the amenities found in many of the towns. There is a shower at the Welcoming Center in Kent. Salisbury boasts two hostels that cater to hikers.



PHOTOS BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Left, Lisa Hoage, postmistress of the Salisbury Post Office, shows a postcard set depicting the newly offered Appalachian Trail stamps including the one for Connecticut, pictured above.

Trail angels are known to set up meals at certain entry points to provide nourishment and conversation for those passing through.

For 45 years Richard Bramley, owner of the Cornwall Package Store, has been offering a free beer — or non-alcoholic beverage — to those who take a break from their hike while passing his shop on Route 7 in Cornwall Bridge.

"Anybody who does that hike deserves a free beer," Bramley said. He also keeps a log, asking visitors to make a comment, which he enjoys reading even years after they've been by.

Post office personnel are

very familiar with hikers who send packages of essentials ahead which are there for pick-up when they arrive. Salisbury Postmaster Lisa Hoage talked about the dozens of hikers she sees during the hiking season.

Since the stamps debuted, Hoage said there has been a lot of interest from those wishing to purchase them. She showed the many letters of request from around the country. There is also a special pictorial postmark for hand canceling in both black and green, for which she gets daily requests. There are also cards and magnets with the image available. Someone arrived on Feb.

28, saying he was traveling from North Adams, Massachusetts, to Kent to get each town's postmark. They will be available until June 29.

Steve Barlow of Torrington has hiked parts of the Connecticut AT. During a recent excursion, he was enjoying the view looking down the Housatonic Valley from a high point in Sharon when he noticed a bird floating in the wind currents.

Barlow recalled, "At first, I thought it was a crow and then decided it was a hawk as it got closer. Then I finally realized it was a bald eagle. He glided right toward me before veering off into the trees to my right. That was pretty cool. The trail has such spectacular views."

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Dan Howe's time machine

“Every picture begins with just a collection of good shapes,” said painter and illustrator Dan Howe, standing amid his paintings and drawings at the Kearcher-Monsell Gallery at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. The exhibit, which opened on Friday, March 7, and runs through April 10, spans decades and influences, from magazine illustration to portrait commissions to imagined worlds pulled from childhood nostalgia. The works — some luminous and grand, others intimate and quiet — show an artist whose technique is steeped in history, but whose sensibility is wholly his own.

Born in Madison, Wisconsin, and trained at the American Academy of Art in Chicago, Howe's artistic foundation was built on rigorous, old-school principles. “Back then, art school was like boot camp,” he recalled. “You took figure drawing five days a week, three hours a day. They tried to weed people out, but it was good training.” That discipline led him to study under Tom Lovell, a renowned illustrator from the golden age of magazine art. “Lovell always said, ‘No amount of detail can save a picture that's commonplace in design.’”

Training led to work. Early on, while still a graduate assistant at Syracuse University, Howe began painting portraits — chancellors, deans, and, later, an endless roster of chairmen and medical executives. It paid well, but Howe found that the job of a portraitist, even a highly skilled one, is ultimately limited. “They're just the same thing, you know, just a guy in a suit. Later, maybe it was a girl in a suit,” said Howe.

Between commissions, he painted for



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN
Dan Howe at the Kearcher-Monsell Gallery at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

himself. This show is a gathering of those moments — studies of his wife and daughters, mythic scenes painted for libraries, and Star Wars covers from his time living near Dark Horse Comics in Oregon. A large painting, originally commissioned for a library, shows a girl in an attic opening a trunk, imagination spilling into the room. The library remodeled and sent the painting back. Now it anchors a wall in the show.

Dan Howe's work reflects the Brandywine School's devotion to craftsmanship, narrative depth, and a luminous, almost nostalgic realism. Like Howard Pyle and N.C. Wyeth before him, Howe builds scenes using light and composition to evoke mood and meaning. His meticulous brushwork

and layering techniques nod to the tradition of classical illustration, yet his work diverges in its contemporary stillness. Of Norman Rockwell, Howe said, “He's of my era, and our styles are similar. Of course Rockwell is Rockwell. I've got a little more painterly, Sargent-esque stuff running through mine.” The influence is there, not as mimicry, but as a quiet echo, refined through his own aesthetic language. “I'm an anachronism,” he said, without regret. His influences form a lineage of illustrators whose work once filled the

pages of The Saturday Evening Post and Collier's. They understood, as Howe does, that a painting must be more than accurate. “Mood is everything,” said Howe, drawing a comparison between two paintings in the show — a couple by a fire — to an old Star Wars concept painting. “Same color scheme. Different world. Mood is everything.”

Teaching remains a passion for Howe. When he and his family moved to the east coast from Chicago, Howe taught

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Jon Kopita reading between the lines at the David M. Hunt Library.

ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Reading between the lines with Jon Kopita

Jon Kopita's work, with its repetitive, meticulous hand-letting, is an exercise in obsession. Through repetition, words become something else entirely — more texture than text. Meaning at once fades and expands as lines, written over and over, become a meditation, a form of control that somehow liberates.

“I'm a rule follower, so I like rules, but I also like breaking them,” said Kopita, as we walked through his current exhibit, on view at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village until March 20.

In 2007, Kopita and his husband, Olaf, an architect, took a trip to The Vitra Design Museum outside of Basel, Switzerland. Kopita found himself infuriated by the pomp surrounding the collection of what were once utilitarian objects, now absurdly canonized. “The irony is that a lot of that furni-

ture was designed to be mass produced, taking really good design and making it accessible to middle class people,” Kopita explained. “It wasn't supposed to be something so special.” Upon returning home, Kopita began repeatedly writing, “I hate Vitra” on lined paper. Channeling his frustration, he wrote the simple statement 100 times and through the act, found a cathartic release. “It harkened back to when you're in school and you have to write out, ‘I will not speak in class’ or something 100 times on the black board.” Except for Kopita, what was meant to be disciplinary was not only a contemplative practice, but a healing act. “For me, the experience of repetitive writing became meditative and cathartic, more of an exorcism of thoughts rather than something either punitive or tedious.”

Continued on next page

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THE VOICE OF ART'S THERAPEUTIC ART PROGRAM FOR OLDER ADULTS PRESENTS:
Paint Cafe with Hannah Jung featuring Wheat Field with Cypressess

Tuesday March 25th 1:30-4:00 Learning Center (Snow Date => March 27th)

Noble Horizons will be hosting a Paint Cafe art class featuring van Gogh's "Wheat Field with Cypressess." Studio art supply fee with be waived for Noble residents! Registration is required, please sign up using the QR code below or by going to the Events page on our website at noblehorizons.org.

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COMEDY: MIKE COBB

Patton Oswalt brings comic relief to The Mahaiwe Theater Saturday, March 22

Comedian and actor Patton Oswalt is well known for his standup routine as well as his roles in film and television. Oswalt made his acting debut in the Seinfeld episode, “The Couch” and has appeared in “Parks and Rec,” “Reno 911,” “Modern Family,” and “A.P. Bio.” He has done voice-over work for movies including “Ratatouille,” and had his own Netflix special, “Patton Oswalt: Talking for Clapping.”

Oswalt will present his unique brand of humor in a show titled “Effervescent” at the Mahaiwe Theater in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, on Saturday, March 22. With sardonic style, he makes keen observations about American culture and gives biting critiques of the current administration.

In a recent interview with the Lakeville Journal, Oswalt said,

“Things are so dark. It feels like they’re depending on craziness to bulldoze their stuff in. So, I’m using absurdity and almost surrealism to battle it. I also realize that when you’re coming into a show like this, you want some escape. It’s certainly not the whole set.”

“Politics used to be about getting stuff off of your plate so that you can live. Now it wants to dominate the news cycle and everyone’s emotions. So, in a weird way, comedy is an act of defiance,” he added.

Comedians like Richard Pryor and, more recently, Dave Chappelle pushed boundaries of taste and limits. George Carlin was quoted as saying, “I think it’s the duty of the comedian to find out where the line is drawn and cross it deliberately.” So, how far is too far and who decides?

“When you became a comedian, you signed



PHOTO BY SAM JONES

Patton Oswalt

up for having the ground continually cut from underneath you. That’s the deal you made. Comedy is an ephemeral art that doesn’t age very well, and you have to embrace

that,” Oswalt said.

In recent years, political correctness has restrained the growth of comedy and free speech. Today, the pendulum seems to have swung in the opposite direction to the far right.

So, are there funny right-wing comedians?

“There have been comedians who are more conservative in their outlook, but they don’t make it their identity. I know

some comedians who are right wing but are still good at doing comedy. It’s not that right wing comedians aren’t funny, it’s that there’s a lot of right wing people who think that they deserve to be funny. The failed comedian to right wing grifter pipeline is pretty short,” Oswalt said.

And how about politicians who think they’re funny and use their pulpit to bully?

“You have to know how to be funny. Fast forward to people who just want to break boundaries and are just cruel. They don’t understand what comedy is. The nightmare that Elon is putting us through is all because he wants to be cool, and he’s not. So, he’s gonna blow up the world. That’s an oversimplification, but it’s also accurate. He’s like the kid whose dad owns the rec-center and thinks that all the kids should like him, but he’s obnoxious and mean so no one wants to hang out with him,” Oswalt said.

Like many comedians, Oswalt tests out new material in small clubs and open mics. When asked if he receives any push-back on his politically

pointed jokes, Oswalt said, “When you go out in the world, people are just kind of the same. I’m never saying anything that’s unreasonable, even when I’m making fun of stuff like religion, conservatism and especially, fascism. It’s not in a way that people can say, ‘No, wait a minute, fascism’s good!’ unless they’re just trolling.”

At this point in his career, Oswalt has developed his own fans who come to see him. He wins crowds over by staying welcoming of everyone.

“I’m a big believer that if you treat audiences with respect, they’ll come and meet you. I’m always excited to be in front of people,” he added.

With surprise as a key element to any new show, Oswalt won’t divulge the nature of his new act, but he guarantees it will feature new material.

“Look at how accelerated the news has gotten. Who knows what I’ll be talking about by the time I get to Great Barrington!” he said.

For tickets to Patton Oswalt’s show, go to: mahaiwe.org

...Jon Kopita *Continued from previous page*

His current show at the library includes work spanning a decade, with many of the pieces created during the COVID-19 pandemic. An educator for over 30 years, Kopita found he had time and space during the pandemic to really investigate his process and to create work in volume. “I did 40 works during the first 150 days,” he said. The early pieces were instructional in nature with words like “wash hands,” “social distancing,” and “zoom” but soon began morphing into existential inquiry — with questions like “is this all there is?” repeating like a dark mantra. Some are reminders of the stark political divisions that emerged during those days. There is a tribute to the Black Lives Matter movement with names repeated in grief: George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. The whole display, Kopita delights, demands something that feels almost radical in today’s digital age: slowness. “This is a difficult show because you really have to stop and process. It asks people to read.”

In many ways, Kopita has spent a lifetime questioning the boundaries imposed on him, both literal and figurative. “90% of going to school is a hazing system where you’re just learning how to write between the lines — these are the rules.” He felt the pressure of conformity from an early age. His own father had expectations for him: a stable corpo-

rate job, health insurance, a 401k. Kopita tried it for a year and a half. “It was like my boss was saying, ‘if you work really hard, you can have what I have.’” Kopita took one look at “what he had” — a suburban house, a company car — and thought, “Yeah, I don’t want this at all.” He moved to New York, got a job in a Soho gallery, and never looked back. “I know really well firsthand what it means to step across the line and try to do things differently and do things on your own terms.”

In his piece, “Transition,” Kopita grapples with the fluidity of identity, a structured yet random exercise where “he” gradually transforms into “she.”

“There’s so much going on right now with ideas of gender and what gender means, a kind of war on how people identify,” he said. “There are days where I’m 100% he, and then maybe there

are days where I’m more she.” The work, much like his larger practice, is about change, about pushing against the expected, about honoring the beauty in what falls outside the lines.

Kopita is fascinated by the tension between order and deviation, by the way small shifts — whether in handwriting, identity, or thought — can carve out new landscapes. But for all its rigor, Kopita’s work is not about control. It’s about surrender. The act of writing, for him, is like a river cutting through rock, shaping itself as it moves. “I think of it as how the words carve up the paper. So, it actually becomes a three-dimensional exercise in my head at times.” It is discipline as liberation, structure as rebellion, a practice that turns the most mundane act — writing the same word over and over — into something sacred.

...Dan Howe

Continued from previous page

a series at the Norman Rockwell Museum called “Painting Like Rockwell,” something he hopes to revive. “I like beginners,” he said. “They don’t have bad habits yet.”

Howe also runs a summer figure drawing workshop at HVRHS with an old-school approach. “You’ve just walked into a time machine — this is art school, 1965. Three hours of drawing in the morning, three in the after-

noon. No cell phones.” His methods may be antiquated but the results are living proof that some things are worth preserving. “Maybe this stuff is so old it’s new again,” he mused.

As he hung his pieces for this show, Howe said teachers stopped by, connecting his images to their own memories. “That’s a success,” he said. “If a picture makes someone feel something, then it’s done its job.”

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COMPASS

MUSIC: KRISTA A. BRIGGS

Jesse Ofgang and Kevin Elam bring Celtic thunder to the Library Annex on a stormy evening

Acclaimed Irish flutist Desi Wilkinson advises musicians to “Play only tunes and songs you’re mad about ... Emulate what you like and then do your thing.” It’s advice Jesse Ofgang and Kevin Elam have seemingly taken to heart as part of their “Prelude to St. Patrick’s Day” tour which landed at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex on March 5, where the Celtic-flavored duo found themselves playing to a nearly full house on a wet and windy Wednesday.

While neither Ofgang nor Elam is originally from Ireland, their musical souls are firmly connected to both the Emerald Isle and the Highlands. While Ofgang claims partial Irish heritage through his mother and believes his musical partner is not of Irish descent, Elam’s resumé is filled with accomplishments in Irish music. He took top prize in 2019 in men’s English singing at the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann competition in Drogheda, Ireland and



PHOTO BY KRISTA A. BRIGGS

Kevin Elam, left, and Jesse Ofgang, right, entertained guests at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex on March 5 with an array of Irish and Scottish musical fare.

has medaled at both the All-Ireland Fleadh and CCE Mid-Atlantic Fleadh competitions. Despite his Irish roots, Ofgang’s musical focus is actually across the Irish Sea, where he earned a master’s degree in Scottish music and bagpipes. As a student, he performed with the 16-time world champion Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band.

Both musicians are

multi-instrumentalists. Elam, the duo’s vocalist, is skilled in tin whistle, bouzouki, banjo, mandolin and guitar while Ofgang, a bagpiper, has mastered uilleann pipes and border pipes as well as the Irish flute and whistles, organ, guitar and piano. In addition to touring — together and separately — Ofgang and Elam both provide instruction to students in musical instrumentation.

“Prelude to St. Patrick’s Day,” which wrapped up on March 9 in Middletown, Connecticut, featured an array of Celtic tunes and songs. According to Ofgang, there’s a difference between the two. By definition, songs include lyrics and tunes consist strictly of music. Ofgang and Elam included both in their hour-long set at the Library Annex, which began with “The Foggy

Dew,” a song lamenting Ireland’s political divide and the resulting violence of the Easter uprising, which was followed by a jig, “The Road to Lisdoonvarna.”

“Rocky Road to Dublin” drew an enthusiastic response from the crowd as did the folk song, “The Lakes of Pontchartrain,” which Elam and Ofgang introduced as a song about alligators. The ballad is actually of unknown origin and its subject matter centers on a Creole woman and the unrequited love a drifter holds for her in the Deep South. The duo believes the song may very well have been penned by an Irish immigrant to the United States.

Elam and Ofgang

invited the crowd to join them in “The King’s Shilling,” another song exploring the realities of war with its introspective chorus “Come ladies, come. Hear the cannons roar. Take the King’s shilling and we’re off to war.”

The duo then segued over to Scottish fare with the audience joining in once more for “Auld Lang Syne,” traditionally sung on New Year’s Eve, but the song is also used to close out occasions — ver as the evening slowly wound down. Ofgang, assisted by Elam, then wrapped up the night with traditional Scottish bagpipes, a worthy overture to St. Patrick’s Day 2025.

The concert was sponsored by the Ann and Abe Efron Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. Library director Rhianon Leo-Jameson said the library is looking into additional grants to fund further programming for community enjoyment. For more information, visit nemillertonlibrary.org.

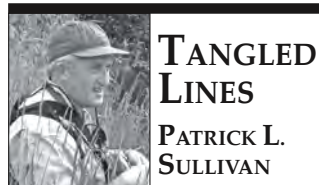
Stir-crazy angler takes first trip of new year

I’ve got a bad case of the Shack Nasties. With a slight change in the weather I ventured out Wednesday and Thursday, March 5 and 6.

First I scouted a couple of little blue lines. No good. Still too much ice and snow for solid footing.

Since I am nursing a rotator cuff injury and my right pinky toe still aches from when I cleverly slammed it into the furniture two months ago, I am not in the mood for adventurous wading.

That left the Blackberry.



TANGLED LINES
PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

At one spot the shelf ice was still in effect. It was theoretically fishable but I kept going to Beckley Furnace, where the big pool beneath the dam was clear.

I pounded it hard, starting with junk flies such as squirmy worms and brightly-colored mops.

Then I got cute with a double-nymph rig: a little black stone on a dropper and a Bread and Butter nymph with a

tungsten head on point to drag the whole thing down into the depths.

I managed two bumps. One could have been a hangup but I’m counting it as a bump.

Downstream below the second, smaller dam the shelf ice presented serious challenges.

There’s really only one way to get rid of shelf ice besides waiting for it to melt.

That is to stand on it and break it.

This is an excellent way to break up shelf ice.

It is also an excellent way to sprain or break an ankle.

Maybe it’s old age

creeping up on me, but somehow I am not inclined to take the chance.

Imagine really banging yourself up mere weeks before fishing starts in earnest, and then sitting sullenly in a dark room watching old Filipino horror movies as the broken or sprained element heals while outside trout are merrily gobbling up bugs after the long winter.

Thursday I went further afield. Furnace Brook in Cornwall, al-

ways an early season favorite, was roaring after the inch-plus of rain we got Wednesday night.

That left Macedonia Brook in Kent, which was actually fishable above the waterfall.

I probed that for a couple hours with a Tenkara rod and a series of darkish nymphs that could be mistaken for an early black stonefly.

Or just something to eat. I doubt any holdover trout in there are all that picky about the menu.

I managed to tick-

le precisely one small brown trout.

In fact I messed with that little guy for about an hour.

It went like this:

Cast. Drift into strike zone. Lift out before fly gets stuck in brush buildup. Watch bemusedly as little brown trout pecks at nymph on the way up.

Cast three or four more times with no result. Sit on rock. Ponder the infinite. Consider

Continued on next page

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com

MARCH 13

Native Hawaiian Forest Birds and Cutting-Edge Conservation Efforts with George Wallace

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

Take a break from winter on Thursday, March 13, 5 to 6:30 p.m., and visit the vibrant tropical world of Hawai'i's native birds with bird preservationist George Wallace. Learn about innovation efforts to restore habitats, protect native species from invasive predators, and preserve these beautiful birds.

Registration is required. Visit: scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/13880853

MARCH 14

Poetry Workshop with Sally Van Doren

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

Join Sally Van Doren on Friday, March 14, 2 to 4 p.m., for an immersive workshop experience of writing, reading, and listening. An inspiring poem and well-chosen prompts will unlock your imagination to generate new, unexpected work. No poetry-writing experience is required. Registration is required. Visit: scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/13737163

Lunch & Learn: Protect Yourself from Scams

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org

Friday, March 14, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Learn how to recognize and avoid scams in phone calls, emails, and texts. Includes lunch from JAM. Preference given to Sharon residents. Registration required: hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com. Info: hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org, (860) 364-5041.

RECEPTION: Housatonic Camera Club Photo Exhibition

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

Join us on Friday, March 14, 5 to 6:30 p.m., to celebrate the Scoville Library's first Housatonic Camera Club Exhibition. See the show, meet the photographers, enjoy refreshments, and learn about this local club that has been going strong for nearly 75 years. To learn more, please use this link: scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/14029372

This Word of the Week was contributed by WotW player Zaryah Gordon

MARCH 15

Saturday Morning Family Series at The CENTER for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck

The CENTER for Performing Arts, 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. www.centerforperformingarts.org

Saturdays at 11 a.m. Tickets: \$10

Celtic Heels Irish Dance

Date: Saturday, March 15, 2025, Shows at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Celebrate 40 years of Irish dance with the Celtic Heels Performance Troupe.

Corned Beef Dinner

Pine Plains Presbyterian Church, Pine Plains, N.Y.

The Pine Plains Presbyterian Church is holding their annual Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 15 with pickup from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. We donate 25% of our net profit to our two local food banks, Willow Roots and The Food Locker.

Dinners are \$18 each and include corned beef, red potatoes, cabbage, glazed baby carrots, Irish soda bread and dessert. Dinner is Take-Away only and a limited number of walk-in dinners may be available. We accept cash, check or Venmo @ FUPCPP.

To reserve dinners, please phone 518.398.7117 and leave a message on the church's voicemail and include your phone number, or send an email to dyanwapnick@optimum.net and please include your phone number.

Soapmaking

Bes, 50 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.shop-bes.com

Sat, March 15, 1 to 3 p.m.

Learn how to make cold process soap. (Saponification using lye + oil/fats) Class fee covers instruction and materials. We'll go over lye safety and the basics of soap making. Attendees will leave the workshop with 16oz of soap (equivalent to four 4oz bars) that will be cured and ready to use after a month's time.

Erica Recto (owner of Bes) will be leading the workshop. Little known fact: she used to have a small apothecary business that was carried in shops in the US and Japan. She also taught soap making classes in NYC and was voted one of the top instructors on coursehorse.com in 2016.

MapleFest

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn.

Sharon Audubon Center's MapleFest is Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. See sap turned into syrup, learn the process, and explore conservation efforts. \$10/adults, \$5/kids (2 and under free). Dress warmly; trails may be muddy or snowy. Call (860) 364-0520 x105, visit www.sharon.audubon.org, or like us on Facebook for more info.

MARCH 16

Copake Grange Family Event

Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, Copake, N.Y.

Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, hosts a Family Play and Meet event Sunday, March 16, 10 a.m. to noon.

Parents and caregivers and their young children are invited to meet friends and neighbors with young children for an afternoon of play and social time.

The event is a fun way to meet young families in the area and build lasting friendships. The event is free, donations are appreciated.

The Copake Grange Program Committee organized this event.

No reservation needed.

For more information email ameliafaith@gmail.com.

Publishing: An Inside View of Industry Changes & Strategies for Authors with Stephanie Koven

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

On Sunday, March 16, 4 to 5 p.m., Stephanie Koven, an editor, literary agent, rights director, and writer for over 30 years, will share her uniquely varied experience and knowledge of the book publishing industry. Whether you're a writer hoping to publish, or a reader wondering how publishing world is changing, this is a chance to learn and ask questions of an expert. Registration is required. Visit the Events Calendar at www.scovillelibrary.org. Event page: scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/14024158

Last week's WotW

S	C	O	N	E
W	I	T	C	H
C	H	A	I	R
C	H	I	L	D
C	H	I	L	I

Word of the Week

Hints relate to adjacent five-letter words. Solve to reveal correct letters. Green tiles indicate correctly placed letters in the Word of the Week. Yellow tiles indicate a correct letter in the wrong place. Uncolored tiles indicate letters that do not appear in the WotW.

1. Narrow lane between buildings
2. Linked metal loops
3. Chocolate-coffee combo
4. To walk in a military manner
5. Equal in quality or strength

MARCH 17

Queer Council (free event)

THRIVE, 96 Main Street, North Canaan, Conn.

Queer Council is a gathering for the LGBTQ community - a time and space for meaningful connection. We will offer a short meditation, prompted conversation, and an opportunity to share needs and wants. Facilitator: Julie Kunz

Pre-registration is not required. Participants may arrive as early as 6:30 pm for snacks and refreshments. The event is from 7 to 8 p.m.

Learn more about this event and other THRIVE offerings at aspacetothrive.org.

MARCH 19

Dine Out for History Adds a Night

Millerton, N.Y.

Millerton's Dine Out for History adds an extra night at Taro's Pizzeria (18 Main St. on Thurs, March 27, 5 to 9 p.m., after bad weather affected its original date. Participating restaurants donate 10% of proceeds to the North East Historical Society.

Upcoming Dates: **March 19** - Golden Wok (2 Main St.) Takeout only

March 27 - Taro's Pizzeria

Mention "Dine Out for History" when dining!

...tangled

Continued from previous page



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Shelf ice on the Blackberry River last week. Do not stand on shelf ice. It's a great way to get hurt.

changing fly. Conclude it makes no difference. Watch passenger car slither around on muddy dirt road.

After 10 minutes of this, drift nymph into strike zone and miss fish again. Sit back down on boulder...

Standard operating procedure in these cases is to say, "Oh well. At least it was nice to get out."

This is baloney. It was cold and windy and nobody with any sense would go out and stand in cold water just for the sake of getting out of the house.

But...

I didn't injure myself. My waders didn't leak. I was wondering if I could get an orthotic insert into the wader boot without problems. I could.

I didn't break or lose any equipment other than a black conehead Woolly Bugger, size 8, which was claimed by the tree that is sticking into the Beckley pool.

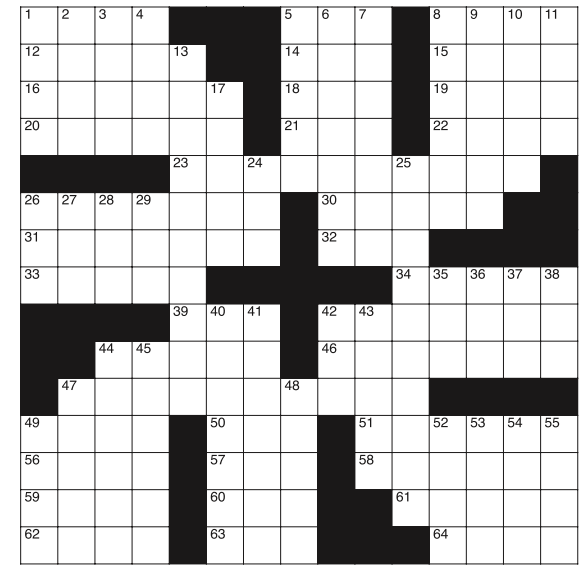
And I didn't get stuck in the mud on the seriously gooey Macedonia State Park road.

So this initial salvo of the 2025 campaign goes in the win column.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep
5. Rock TV channel
8. Streetcar
12. Concerning
14. Expression of recognition
15. Greek goddess of youth
16. An iPad is one
18. Adult beverage
19. Manning and Wallach are two
20. Makes a petty verbal attack
21. Tyrion Lannister's nickname
22. Pointed ends of pens
23. Wristwatches
26. Body part
30. Made a mistake
31. Adjusted
32. Turkish honorific title
33. Yell
34. Historic Alabama city
39. Cub
42. Type of sea bass dish
44. To call (archaic)
46. Unfortunate
47. Separate oneself from others
49. Hero sandwiches
50. Former OSS
51. Open spaces in a forest
56. Innermost brain membranes
57. Fortune
58. Hunting expedition
59. Doomed queen Boleyn
60. Peyton's little brother
61. Type of wrap
62. Scottish tax
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. An increase in price or value



24. ___ student, learns healing
25. Bacterial skin infection
26. Expresses surprise
27. What one says on a wedding day
28. Crony
29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)
35. Unit of length
36. Side that is sheltered from the wind
37. More (Spanish)
38. Autonomic nervous system
40. Violent troublemakers, originally in Paris
41. Statements that something is untrue
42. Greek alphabet letter
43. Suspends from above
44. Popular types of cigars
45. Girls

47. U.S. philosopher and logician
48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
49. Relaxing spaces
52. From a distance
53. Form of Persian
54. Amounts of time
55. Trigonometric function

March 6 Solution

S	N	I	P	A	S	S	E	R	T	D	E	E	
W	I	D	E	G	A	U	C	H	E	E	R	A	
E	X	O	S	K	E	L	E	T	O	N	C	A	R
P	I	L	E	I	P	R	O	M	S	U	S	E	
T	E	S	T	E	D	B	I	A	S	E	D		
A	V	A	R	I	C	I	O	U	S				
M	U	M	S	N	A	M	E	N	G	A	M	I	
U	F	O	S	E	N	I	O	R	S	T	A	D	
D	A	N	A	E	I	N	R	O	F	E	D	S	
I	R	R	E	S	O	L	U	T	E				
S	A	T	E	E	N	P	A	M	P	A	S		
E	G	O	N	A	D	E	R	B	A	R	C	A	
E	A	R	A	M	E	N	A	B	I	L	I	T	Y
M	M	E	D	O	C	I	L	E	E	M	I	R	
S	A	D	E	R	O	D	E	D	S	A	N	E	

Sudoku

		2		1	4		7	
							5	
	5			9				
			7			8	6	
		4			5			
			2					
5			8	6		9		4
	8			9			3	
	7	3	1			8		

March 6 Solution

5	4	2	3	1	6	8	7	9
7	6	9	4	2	8	5	1	3
8	1	3	9	7	5	2	4	6
4	8	5	2	6	7	3	9	1
9	2	6	1	3	4	7	8	5
3	7	1	5	8	9	4	6	2
6	3	4	7	9	2	1	5	8
2	5	8	6	4	1	9	3	7
1	9	7	8	5	3	6	2	4

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HELP WANTED

LOVE TENNIS? JOIN OUR TEAM AT WYANTENUCK COUNTRY CLUB IN GREAT BARRINGTON! Tennis shop attendant position offering competitive pay, fun work environment, and playing privileges included. Position offered May 15th through September 15th from 8:00 am until 5:00 pm. Position includes assisting club members, handling phone inquiries, keeping the area clean, welcoming and fun. Please call Jennie at 413-528-0350 or email jen@wyantenuck.org to apply or for details.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Wyantenuck Country Club is seeking staff for the 2025 season. Want to work in a beautiful setting with a great team? Full and Part-Time Employment available. Positions Available; Bartenders, Dishwashers, Line Cooks, Waitstaff. Bartender position starts end of March; Dishwasher, Line Cook and Waitstaff positions available the end of April. Please email: brandon@wyantenuck.org or call 413-528-0350.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Wyantenuck Country Club is a private club. Want to join our team? Full Time position available. Position Available; Head Waitstaff Position available the end of April. Please email: brandon@wyantenuck.org or call 413-528-0350.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON TO WORK ON A SMALL ANGUS FARM: Duties include feeding, cleaning, fencing, or terrain. And telephone number would be 518-821-9804.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF AMENIA: is seeking applications for Part-Time Town Life Guard. Candidates must possess basic lifeguard certification and CPR. Salary \$25/hour, up to 7 hours a week. Letter of Interest may be submitted via email to dmklingner@ameniany.gov or by mail to Town Clerk, 4988 Route 22, Amenia NY 12501. Application deadline: March 24, 2025 at 2:00pm.

PLUMBING/HEATING TECHNICIANS & APPLIANCE INSTALLERS: Decker & Beebe 404 Ashley Falls Rd, North Canaan is looking for skilled/licensed technicians with strong mechanical aptitude, problem-solving skills and attention to detail. Our team values expertise, dedication and craftsmanship. We offer competitive hourly wages with overtime opportunities, bonuses, health insurance, paid time off, and 401(k) with company matching after a probationary period. Email resumes to sgrant@deckerandbeebe.com or Call Steph for an interview now, 860-824-5467.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTICE: Equal Housing Opportunity. All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1966 revised March 12, 1989 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap or familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. All residential property advertised in the State of Connecticut General Statutes 46a-64c which prohibit the making, printing or publishing or causing to be made, printed or published any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, creed, color,

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