



# The Lakeville Journal

lakevillejournal.com

16 PAGES IN 2 SECTIONS VOLUME 128 NUMBER 46 © 2025 LJM Media, Inc, Periodical Rate Postage Paid at Lakeville (Town of Salisbury), Connecticut 06039 THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 2025 \$3.00

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



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN  
Essayist Lola Moerschell talked about life being a series of trapeze swings at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School graduation Friday, June 13.

## Graduating HVRHS seniors emphasize importance of ‘the human connection’

By Ruth Epstein

FALLS VILLAGE — Housatonic Valley Regional High School Principal Ian Strever said secretary Cindy Fuller, speaking with admiration of the class of 2025, summed it up perfectly when she said, “It’s great to know so many good people are going out into the world.”

At graduation ceremonies Friday night, June 13, the constant theme was the accomplishments of these 99 students; academically, athletically, socially and civically and what

an outstanding class it was.

Standing on the front steps of the school on a beautiful spring evening, Strever said next week the building will return to bricks and mortar when these students, “who are vibrant, exciting and Dunkin’-fueled” are gone. He spoke of the endurance portrayed by four members of the class who faced tragedies and incredible challenges, but handled them with courage beyond their years.

Region One Superintendent Melony Shanley-Brady assured the

graduates, “Housatonic will always be a part of you.”

Salutatorian Tess Marks chose to speak on the subject of humanity, noting the international and domestic strife now being faced. “We are the hope of what is to come.” She said compromise is a lost art,

See GRADUATION, Page A10

## Hundreds gather at ‘No Kings’ political protests

By Ruth Epstein

The energized crowds, the custom signs and the constant show of support from passersby honking their horns reflected what many in the Northwest Corner want for this country — “No Kings.”

Such was the strong sentiment at rallies in Cornwall, Kent and Salisbury that mirrored the hundreds held across the country Saturday,

June 14, to protest President Donald Trump’s policies and decrees.

The triangle at the junction of routes 7 and 4 in Cornwall Bridge was filled with more than 300 people, all there to express their fears about what direction the country is headed.

In Cornwall, Doug Craig, holding a huge sign of a crown being

See PROTESTS, Page A10



PHOTO BY TOM ZETTERSTROM  
A huge crowd with custom signs were present in Salisbury Saturday, June 14, for the “No Kings” protest.

## Sharon Hospital president sees promise in new partnership

By Alec Linden

SHARON — After years of negotiations, Sharon Hospital is now officially part of the Northwell Health network. Christina McCulloch, the hospital’s president, said during a June 11 interview that the merger could help address some of the

issues that plague rural healthcare centers.

“When you bring two organizations of this size together, you do have more leverage in many ways,” she said, pointing to staffing difficulties as a key area where the new partnership could offer real support. “When you’re looking at recruit-

ment, which is certainly a challenge in Sharon and always will be due to its rural nature, having a partner will certainly benefit us.”

In early May the New York-based healthcare group finalized its union with Nuvance Health, which has op-

See HOSPITAL, Page A10

## Housing Trust, Habitat join forces to make young family’s dream a reality

By Debra A. Aleksinas

SALISBURY — One neighbor brought a cinnamon swirl bundt cake from Sweet William’s to welcome the Saylor family to the Sell-ek Hill neighborhood.

Another brought her recently born fawn.

The latter, a white-tailed deer

that lives in the surrounding woodlands, had been a frequent visitor since Bridget and Dom Saylor purchased their 1,348-square-foot, single-family home on 2.6 acres for \$195,000 from the Salisbury Housing Trust (SHT) on April 30.

But on this brisk, spring morning, the doe did not come alone. She made a surprise visit with her

spindly legged fawn, eliciting glee from the small group that had gathered to talk about the SHT’s 17th sale of an affordable home in town.

The transaction marked the first collaboration between the Housing Trust and Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut. The

See HOUSING, Page A10



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

### Pirates defend title

The Canaan Pirates won a second consecutive championship in the Northwest Connecticut District 6 Majors Little League with a 6-2 victory over top-ranked Thomaston JRC Transportation Friday, June 13. Full story on Page A9.



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Regional

Health centers to withdraw CT Medicaid rate petition after budget earmark

Decision follows budget deal that secured additional \$26.4M for CT community health centers over the next three fiscal years

By Katy Golvala CT Mirror

The Community Health Center Association of Connecticut, or CHCACT, will withdraw a petition sent to the state in March demanding the administration admit it was in violation of federal law governing reimbursements for care provided to low-income patients on Medicaid.

The decision to stand down follows a deal between CHCACT and the state included in the 2026-27 biennial budget passed by legislators last week. The budget earmarks a total of \$26.4 million over three years to increase how much the state pays the health centers for care provided to patients with Medicaid, known as HUSKY in Connecticut.

“This was a true negotiation,” Deb Polun, chief strategy officer at CHCACT, said. “It’s about getting health centers to a place where they’re more financially sustainable and able to serve all people. And having Medicaid rates go up will benefit all health center patients and really the entire community.”

Federally qualified community health centers provide health care services to patients who may not other-

wise have access to them, and they don’t turn away anyone who cannot pay. In 2023, nearly 70% of Connecticut’s FQHC patients had incomes at or below the federal poverty level, according to data presented in the petition.

Overall, the budget allocates \$15 million in fiscal year 2026 and \$45 million in FY 2027 to boost Medicaid reimbursement rates for providers. Out of that pot of money, the health centers will receive \$5 million in FY 2026 and an additional \$7 million in FY 2027, a spokesperson with the state’s Office of Policy and Management confirmed. The legislation also secures an additional \$14 million for the health centers in FY 2028.

If the rate at which the federal government matches state spending on Medicaid doesn’t change, the agreement would bring in an additional \$15 million, \$36 million and \$80 million in combined state and federal Medicaid dollars to health centers over the next three fiscal years, respectively, Polun said.

“We were very pleased with that compromise,” she added.

In March, CHCACT sent what’s known as a “declaratory ruling request” to DSS

asserting that the agency had not been complying with laws that require periodic reviews of, and increases to, Medicaid rates based on changes to services provided by health centers.

An analysis included in the filing found Connecticut’s average FQHC Medicaid rate to be “at the bottom of the spectrum” in New England, at \$163.37 per visit, compared to \$297 in New Hampshire, \$241.96 in Massachusetts and \$196.79 in Vermont.

As a result of DSS’s actions, community health centers have had to freeze hiring and reduce or eliminate important services, Joanne Borduas, CEO of Community Health and Wellness Center said at the time of the filing.

“Every FQHC’s Medicaid rates must be periodically adjusted to account for all increases (or decreases) to the scope of the medical, dental, and behavioral-health services that the FQHC provides to Medicaid patients,” the filing states. “DSS has done virtually everything in its power not to honor its obligation under the Medicaid laws to pay FQHCs reimbursement rates that reflect cost increases attributable to changes in their scope of services.”

In general, community

health centers get paid a fixed rate by Medicaid per visit for medical, dental and behavioral health services. That fee can vary based on a facility’s size, volume of patients and the extent of services provided. Federal law requires that those rates get periodically adjusted to account for increases or decreases in the scope of services.

The petition asserted that DSS failed to regularly review and adjust rates, and instead based its decisions on whether to grant requests for increases on “irrelevant substantive factors” — for example, that the state budget doesn’t allow for a rate increase or that the FQHC isn’t in need of one.

The budget agreement reached last week also clarifies the process by which the health centers can apply for Medicaid reimbursement rate increases if the “type, intensity, duration or amount of services” provided to patients changes.

The state is still figuring out how the remainder of the funds to boost Medicaid reimbursement rates, which haven’t been broadly adjusted since 2007, will get divided up amongst other provider types, a spokesperson with the Department of Social Services said.

In The Journal this week

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Online This Week

‘Hanging out with bugs’ at Scoville Michael LaScaleia took an audience through the strange world of caterpillars and invasive plants Thursday, June 12. 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.

Disturbance report yields intoxicating driving arrest

At approximately 10:30 p.m. on June 6, troopers were dispatched to a North Canaan address on the report of a disturbance. After investigating, troopers arrested Ronald Andrews, 49, of Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, for illegal operation of a vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Andrews was released on a \$500 non-surety bond and is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on June 20.

Truck knocks out ‘Do Not Coast’ sign

Louis Aragi, 79, of Sheffield, Massachusetts, was traveling east on Route 44 in Salisbury near the intersection with Smith Hill Lane. Due to a mechanical issue in his 2009 Freightliner truck, Aragi drifted off the road and eventually struck a “Do Not Coast” side before a long downhill. Aragi was uninjured and the vehicle sustained superficial damage. Aragi was issued a verbal warning for failure to maintain lane.

Arrest for weapons, assault, and drinking while driving

Near 11 p.m. on the evening of June 10, troopers took Brandon Madeux, 18, of Cornwall into custody on an active warrant out of Troop B for an incident that occurred on May 25. Madeux was processed for the charges listed on the warrant, which involved both felony and misdemeanor crimes: drinking while operating a motor vehicle, carrying of prohibited dangerous weapons, third degree assault, second degree reckless endangerment, and

weapons in a motor vehicle. Madeux was held on a \$25,000 surety bond and was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on June 11.

Traffic stop leads to protective order violation arrest

On the evening of June 12, a trooper conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of New Street and King Hill Road in Sharon when the trooper discovered that the operator of the vehicle was a 75 year-old protected party in a no contact protective order against Denise Aivaz, who was found to be the passenger in the vehicle. Aivaz, 57, of East Berlin, Connecticut, was subsequently taken into custody for violating the protective order and was transported to Troop B where she was processed. She was released on a \$2,500 non-surety bond and was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on June 13.

Individual arrested on fourth trespassing offense in under a month

Just after 8 p.m. on June 12, Esperanza Acevedo, 31, of Poughkeepsie, New York, was arrested for the fourth time since May 18 on criminal trespass and disorderly conduct charges. Troopers had responded to a report of a violated protective order at an Upper Main Street address in Sharon, where Acevedo was located and arrested for those three charges. They were unable to post their \$50,000 cash bond and were scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court on June 13.

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 subject, to editor@lakevillejournal.com

Benefits of native plants

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The “Go Native” exhibit at the Salisbury Association’s Academy Building opened Saturday, June 7.

The exhibit is jam-packed with information on subjects such as:

- Pollinators in gardens.
- Using native trees to provide food and shelter for wildlife.
- Using native woody and herbaceous plants to protect

water quality. Reducing the size of lawns in favor of native meadows and grasses.

How to attract birds with native berry plants.

How to attract butterflies with native plants such as Joe-Pye weed.

Handy lists of beneficial insects and native plants, and of invasive plants.

The exhibit is open through the end of July, Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Selectmen make appointment, approve Eagle Scout project

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — At their regular monthly meeting Monday, June 9, the selectmen reappointed John Holland to the David M. Hunt Library board and accepted, with regret, Emily Peterson’s resignation as interim chair of the Recreation

Commission and as a member of the Solar Committee.

The selectmen approved Richie Crane’s Eagle Scout project, which involves putting up signs to direct runners along Warren Turnpike. First Selectman Dave Barger and Tim Downs from the town crew will work with Crane on the project.

Newly formed regional waste authority seeks grant funding to move forward

By Alec Linden

TORRINGTON — The Northwest Hills Council of Governments voted to pursue a Sustainable Materials Management grant from the state to assist in building out a newly-formed regional waste authority.

The COG had been formulating the concept of a regional solid waste management authority for more than a year with the oversight of the Torrington Transfer Station as its primary purpose. The Materials Innovation and Recycling Authority Dissolution Authority, or MIRA-DA, which is managing the transfer of the station out of MIRA ownership as it winds down operations, had entered a non-binding agreement in February to allow NHCOC to take over control of the facility at the end of June.

On May 14, however, MIRA-DA accepted a \$3.25 million offer from private firm USA Waste & Recycling to buy the transfer station, despite ample testimony from regional leaders on why sticking with the public option would be desirable to municipalities and residents.

At the time of the surprise move, The Lakeville Journal quoted Sharon First Selectmen Casey Flanagan in saying that he felt the sale likely eliminated the possibility for a regional, public solid waste management station in the near future: “I can’t see another facility being permitted.”

Despite the loss of the Torrington Transfer Station, the Torrington City Council voted on May 19 to establish the authority anyway, which is now called the Northwest Resource Recovery Author-

“There is great potential for the NRRA to assist with waste stream diversion and reduction, in addition to managing municipal solid waste for member towns,”

Rista Malanca, Development Director, Northwest Hills Council of Governments

ity, or the NRRA. As per the minutes of the Council meeting and public hearing, councilors and Public Works Director Raymond Drew noted concerns about losing private control of waste management streams due to the USA takeover.

These sentiments were echoed in a memo distributed to the NHCOC before the June 12 meeting by Economic Development Director Rista Malanca, who wrote, “There is great potential for the NRRA to assist with waste stream diversion and reduction, in addition to managing municipal solid waste for member towns.”

Torrington remains the only member of the NRRA as of June 16, though the ordinance that authorized its formation allows for other towns to join.

The COG is seeking \$500,000 in funding from the state issued grant, known as an SMM-R2 grant, to perform a study on how the NRRA may achieve its “full potential” and develop an “action plan” for the new Authority.

Specifically, the proposed study will explore initiatives to improve efficiency in managing materials brought to the Torrington Transfer Station, but Malanca’s memo noted that this will depend on ownership decisions at the facility. It will also seek to locate partners and establish strategies to improve regional recycling programs, and brainstorm various other

municipal programs and outreach campaigns to improve waste management in COG towns.

COG Executive Director Robert Phillips was careful to note that the application will not interfere with efforts from Salisbury and Sharon for a SMM-R2 grants to improve composting and explore a unit-based pricing systems at the towns’ shared transfer station. The grant is divided into several categories with different funding pools, of which Salisbury and Sharon are applying to one and the COG is applying to another.

“We don’t want to compete with ourselves,” said Phillips.

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Our Towns



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST  
State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) attended the “No Kings” protest in Salisbury June 14 in a wheelchair.

State Rep. Horn suffers injuries in running accident

By Alec Linden

The day after concluding what has been described as a grueling legislative session, State Rep. Maria Horn (D-64) had a running accident, leaving her with a broken pelvis and collarbone among other more minor bruises and abrasions. Despite the injuries, she is in good spirits and recuperating at home, eager to get back on her feet.

Horn said after spending weeks in the Assembly hall, she was eager to get some outdoor exercise in, but perhaps pushed a little too hard too soon. She said she was excited to get a run in on the morning of Friday, June 6, but was still exhausted from her time in Hartford and in the final stretch of recovering from a meniscus repair surgery in December.

Before the run, she told friends she was hoping for a “hard reset for [her] health,” she said with a rueful laugh.

Nearing the end of the

loop, Horn said her leg was fatigued and gave out, causing her to fall on the pavement.

She is grateful for the community members who helped during the ordeal, including an unknown motorist who waited with her until her husband arrived, and the staff at Sharon Hospital who she said were “wonderful.”

She was directed to keep weight off her hip for 4 to 6 weeks, and since her collarbone is also fractured, cannot use crutches so she’s partially wheelchair-bound for the time being. While Horn said she’s disappointed to be missing out on the start of hiking, biking and running season, she’s keeping her sights forward and focusing on recovery.

In the meantime, she said she’s grateful for the video and photo updates from her son, who is hiking the Connecticut portion of the Appalachian Trail: “I’m living vicariously through him.”

Sharon Gold Dog public hearing closes without final decision

By Alec Linden

SHARON — After three sessions, the public hearing for a controversial housing development proposal in downtown Sharon closed June 11, but the Planning and Zoning Commission did not issue its decision as it awaits further third-party engineering review.

The plans, which are available for public viewing at the Land Use Office during regular hours or by appointment, detail 12 duplex buildings for 24 total condo units arranged around a 24-foot-wide driveway.

At the June 11 hearing, George Johannesen of Allied Engineering, representing the applicant, Gold Dog LLC, presented updated plans to specify fill material, pipe locations and other details.

Johannesen responded to four technical comments mostly related to runoff drainage and a few additional specifications on the plans from Colby Engineering, the firm hired by the Commission and paid for by the ap-

plicant to perform a review.

Commissioners agreed that these new details would need to undergo additional review from Colby before it could levy a decision on the application, which it now has 65 days to do according to state statute.

Artel Engineering’s Dainius Virbickas returned to the hearing with a list of 24 criticisms of the current plans. Virbickas, who was hired by Pablo Cisilino and Silvina Leone, neighbors to the proposed development on Hospital Hill Road, had previously distributed a list exceeding 50 comments at the first round of the public hearing in March.

Virbickas’ complaints primarily centered around what he described as a lack of specificity and detail relating to the applicant’s stormwater management plan, which has been a central topic of debate between the various engineers. “I find it difficult to see how the Commission could approve an application missing so much information,” he said.

Johannesen parried by saying that “it’s a simplistic analysis because it’s a small property” and that more detailed drainage plans are only required for constructions with a larger disturbance footprint.

Members of the Commission questioned Virbickas’ report, noting the Colby review, which included the review from Artel, only stated 4 corrections in comparison to Virbickas’ 24. “Maybe they’re not real issues?” posited P&Z Secretary Stanley MacMillan Jr.

Several residents who have opposed the project in previous hearings, such as Dobrila Waugh and Margaret Keilty, spoke out again citing runoff concerns and impacts to neighbors as their major concerns with the plan.

Richard Roberts, an attorney hired by Cisilino and Leone, added that the “cookie-cutter duplex houses” will alter the “character” of the neighborhood and that design flaws make the project untenable.

A letter from Amenia

Road resident Cedric Autet that was read aloud similarly stated that what he saw as consistent errors in the application demonstrates a “persistent lack of preparation and professionalism.”

Several residents spoke in favor of diversifying Sharon’s housing landscape. Carol Flaton, who serves as an alternate on the town’s Board of Finance, submitted a leader that was also read aloud in support of the development. “This project appears to fit squarely within the town’s [Plan of Conservation and Development]” and would promote “prudent” growth, the letter stated.

The final speaker to take the floor was 61 Hospital Hill Road resident Andrea Weyant, who appealed to the Commission to think about neighbors’ privacy as the proposed driveway would pass close to her home.

“There are people this is going to hurt,” she said.

The Commission will resume the discussion at its next regular meeting on July 9.

HVRHS student project raises awareness of ongoing humanitarian crisis in Haiti

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — The work of two local high school students has drawn attention to humanitarian needs in Haiti.

As part of a human rights project, Housatonic Valley Regional High School seniors Daniela Brennan and Abby White hosted an informational session to highlight the efforts of groups and individuals assisting people of the island nation.

Brennan said she had been aware of the crisis in Haiti for some time, which is charac-



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN  
Daniela Brennan, left, and Abby White organized the informational event and fundraiser to support Haiti. The HVRHS seniors held the event at the school.

terized by political instability and escalating gang violence. When assigned a human rights project, she saw an opportunity to shine light on the issues.

In their research, Brennan and White contacted agencies with experience working on the ground and coordinated an event to amplify those first-hand accounts.

Louise Lindenmeyr of the Hispanola Health Partners, based in Salisbury, and Lila Meade of The Haiti Project, based in Poughkeepsie, New York, presented to a group at HVRHS June 10 about steps taken to address the needs of the Haitian people.

Their work includes supporting initiatives in health care, including mobile clinics and maternity services, ed-

ucation, access to food and water, microfinancing and the arts.

Both speakers emphasized the importance of elevating women as the “backbone of society,” as Meade put it.

“They are the ones who hold everything together,” said Meade as she discussed an adult education program to teach writing and math. “There are now 30 women who are now part of this program.”

After the presentations, guests moved into the library where Haitian artwork and rice and beans were for sale. Proceeds benefited the people of Haiti.

Cornwall spring real estate transactions

By Christine Bates

CORNWALL — The Cornwall real estate market saw five transfers in April and one in May.

After more than a year on the market, Titus “Bosch” Welliver sold his 1781 house on Hall Road for \$1,008,000.

Median recorded prices in Cornwall have plateaued between \$900,000 and \$1,100,000 since May of last year on a rolling 12-month basis with a peak of \$1,120,000 in December of 2024. Currently there are only three houses for sale in Cornwall – two for under \$400,000 and one for \$1,250,000.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES  
An antique house surrounded by stone walls and steps built in 1781 on 56 Hall Road was sold for \$1,008,000 after more than a year on the market.

**Transactions**

18 Kent Road — fully leased commercial building on 0.3 acres transferred

by GCH Enterprises Inc to Good Hill Properties LLC for \$295,000 on April 1.

35 Pierce Lane — 3 bed-

room/1 bath home transferred by Estate of Michael DeGreenia to Allen DeGreenia by Administrative Deed for \$68,000 on April 2.

39 Great Hollow Road — 2 bedroom/2 bath renovated toll house built in the 1740’s transferred by Robert Nethery to Thomas Hyde Murphy and Julie Bowers Murphy for \$905,000 on April 14.

56 Hall Road — 4 bedroom/3.5 bath house built in 1781 on 10 acres transferred by Titus Welliver to Crosby’s Country House LLC for \$1,008,000 on April 17.

137 Town Street — 5 bedroom/4 bathroom renovated barn built in 1900 transferred by Gray Barn LC to 137 Town Street LLC for \$3,245,000 on April 23.

182 & 190 Dibble Hill Road — 2 bedroom/2 bath house on 11.11 acres transferred by Laurance H. Freed Executor and Estate of Clarisse B Perrette to Trisha Urben, Trustee and Trisha Urben Revocable Trust for \$800,000 on May 15.

\* Town of Cornwall real estate transfers recorded as transferred between April 1, 2025, and May 31, 2025, provided by the Cornwall Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market data courtesy of Smart MLS and InfoSparks. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.



Reverend retires

The Rev. Heidi Truax is retiring from Trinity Episcopal Church in Lime Rock at the end of June after 16 years. The service on Sunday, June 15, featured a special musical program and a lunch afterwards. Asked about her plans for the immediate future, Truax said “I don’t know,” followed by “Once a priest, always a priest.”



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Our Towns



Students in Kent marked the end of middle school June 12. They received diplomas as teachers, family members and friend watched the commencement.

Kent celebrates eighth graders

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — Fifteen Kent Center School 8th graders bid farewell to their school on Thursday evening, June 12, at the 97th commencement ceremonies with a send-off of good wishes and advice as they enter a new phase of their lives.

Principal Michelle Mott began by telling those gathered that graduating was not just about showcasing academics, but growth, resilience and the incredible journey they had at the school. She paid tribute to the staff for “inspiring, guiding and believing in their students.”

Region One Superintendent Melony Brady-Shanley encouraged the children to get involved at high school. “That will shape who you’ll be as adults,” she said.

Guest speaker was Leah Darby, a 2018 graduate of the school who is entering her fourth year at the University of Connecticut this fall. She said she remembers sitting in those seats, harboring two emotions. The first was pride—proud of all the work she’d accomplished, proud of her friends sitting beside her, and then quipped, “proud I hadn’t tripped during the

walking-in ceremony in my heels that made me two inches taller.”

But, she said the pride couldn’t cover up the other emotion—fear. As a resident of Torrington, she would be going to Torrington High School, leaving all her friends who were going elsewhere. However, she found success in her new surroundings—she was valedictorian of her class and participated in several activities.

She challenged the graduates to embrace their fears, believing KCS has prepared them well. “Go step outside of your comfort zone even though you’re scared. Go make your mark, and the world will be a better place for it.”

The graduates are: Ella Barrett, Harper Bloom, Cul-len Bonis, Mario Brito-Trinidad, William Brown, Isla Jordan-White, Noell Laurry, Lucille Matuszewski, Grayson Merritt, Sofia Ramos, Alastair Schnepf, Gia Torzilli, Marisol Vaughn, Cadence Velky and Kianna Williams.

Ella Barrett and Noell Laurry were the class essayists. Presidential Award winners were Marisol Vaughn and Alastair Schnepf.

Salisbury Central School students head to high school

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — The weather matched the dress of the Salisbury Central School Class of 2025 as the students walked one at a time, clad in formal attire, through the school’s front door into a golden June evening for their long-awaited commencement ceremony on Thursday, June 12.

As the 25 soon-to-be alumni took their seats on the landing, the robust crowd of family and friends — camped out lawn party-style below the building’s entry staircase — quieted down before the first speaker of the evening took the podium.

Salomon Schmidt, who was the recipient of the school’s Literary Excellence Award, kicked off the pro-



Students walk down the front steps as confetti falls at the eighth grade commencement ceremony June 12.

ceedings with an eloquent land acknowledgment recognizing the Schaghticoke and Mohican peoples’ stewardship of Salisbury’s landscape.

Quin Sheil delivered a poignant treatise to the importance of small moments

tle things, and be the little things for someone else,” he advised his classmates as they move on to high school and beyond.

Liberty Brammer ruminated on the fleeting nature of growing up: “We didn’t realize at the time, but moments are everything.”

While distributing diplomas, school Principal Stephanie Magyar read off a series of four adjectives that faculty had chosen to describe each student before calling their names, including some colorful entries such as “basketball-loving” and “aquatic.”

To conclude the ceremony, students paired up to perform intricate handshakes before descending the stairs and into the throng of loved ones, where seventh grade-provided refreshments awaited.

Sharon recognizes ‘truly special’ class

By Alec Linden

SHARON — The Sharon Center School’s commencement ceremony went down in the school gym on the evening of Tuesday, June 10, in a celebration that highlighted the eclectic and singular personalities of the 13 students in the Class of 2025.

The group entered the room one at a time in a stately procession that displayed a broad array of fashion preferences among the class, ranging from formal evening wear, more casual choices, and Oliver William Peterson’s striking white suit, complemented by the addition of an arm sling.

“Our time to move on SCS has arrived — oh yeah!” exclaimed soon-to-be high schooler Justin Andino Valdez in his welcoming remarks, receiving hearty laughter from the large crowd of family and friends.

Region One Superintendent of Schools Melony Brady-Shanley took the podium next to advise the class



Oliver Peterson accepts his diploma at the Sharon Center School commencement.

on the transition into high school, encouraging the students to “enjoy the exploration.” She said, “High school is not just about textbooks and tests, it’s about learning who you are.”

School Principal Carol Tomkalski offered a more retrospective speech, reflecting on memories with the class over their SCS journey and lauding the students’ ability to work together.

“Throughout it all, you have exemplified what it means to be a team,” she said.

Stefany Delgado Rosales continued on that theme in her keynote reflection essay, noting the class’s tenacity as a unified whole.

“There’s something truly special about this class,” she said. “We’ve lived through unprecedented times and found joy.”

Diplomas and a flurry

of awards recognizing the achievements of each student were handed out, with no member of the class left undecorated.

To close the ceremony, the graduates, burdened with their new accolades, gathered below the stage before spontaneously sprinting down the center aisle to the joyful tune of Pharrell Williams’ “Happy” and boisterous applause from the crowd.

LEGAL NOTICES

**Invitation to Bid - LVT Flooring Replacement Project**

The Region One Board of Education, located at 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031 invites bids on a Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT) Flooring Replacement Project at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

Signed and sealed bids will be received by Sam Herrick - Business Manager of Region One, and Sara Woloszyn - Executive Assistant to the Business Manager, at 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope bearing the full name and address of the bidder, plainly marked HVRHS LVT Flooring Replacement Project. Bids must be submitted by Monday, July 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m., at which time bids received will be opened publicly and read aloud. Bid terms and conditions, along with the “Official Bid Form” may be obtained online at [www.region1schools.org](http://www.region1schools.org). The Region One Board of Education reserves the full and unqualified right to award the bid; waive any and all bid conditions and formalities; award the bid to other than the lowest bidder; reject any and all bids received; or divide the reward should they deem any of the foregoing to be in the best interest of the school district.

Dated at Falls Village, CT, this nineteenth day of June, 2025.

06-19-25

**Invitation to Bid - HVRHS Ag-Ed Air Conditioning Project**

The Region One Board of Education, located at 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031 invites bids on an Air Conditioning Project in the Ag-Ed Department at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

Signed and sealed bids will be received by Sam Herrick - Business Manager of Region One, and Sara Woloszyn - Executive Assistant to the Business Manager, at 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, CT 06031. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope bearing the full name and address of the bidder, plainly marked HVRHS Ag-Ed Air Conditioning Project. Bids must be submitted by Monday, July 7, 2025 at 1:00 p.m., at which time bids received will be opened publicly and read aloud. Bid terms and conditions, along

with the “Official Bid Form” may be obtained online at [www.region1schools.org](http://www.region1schools.org). The Region One Board of Education reserves the full and unqualified right to award the bid; waive any and all bid conditions and formalities; award the bid to other than the lowest bidder; reject any and all bids received; or divide the reward should they deem any of the foregoing to be in the best interest of the school district.

Dated at Falls Village, CT, this nineteenth day of June, 2025.

06-19-25

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF CHARLES COLLINS Late of Massachusetts AKA Charles H. Collins (25-00214)**

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated June 5, 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: Anne C. Childs

c/o Ronald Angelo Soccili Brenner, Saltzman & Wallman LLP, 271 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511

Megan M. Foley Clerk 06-19-25

**TAX COLLECTOR TOWN OF SALISBURY CT LEGAL NOTICE**

The taxpayers of the Town of Salisbury are hereby notified that I have received the Warrant and the Rate Bill to collect taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2024 with a levy of 11.00 Mills. Said taxes become due on July 1, 2025. If said Real Estate and Personal Property tax is over \$100.00, it is payable in four installments due: July 1, 2025, October 1, 2025, January 1, 2026, April 1, 2026. Motor Vehicle tax shall be paid in one installment due: July 1, 2025. Payments must be received or postmarked by August 1, 2025. If said Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle taxes are not paid on or before August 1, 2025 interest at the rate of 1.5% (18% annually) will apply. The minimum interest charge is \$2.00. Taxes can be paid by mail addressed to: Tax Collector, PO Box

338, Salisbury CT 06068. WPCA Sewer use fees for the year July 1, 2025 are also due and payable on August 1, 2025. Tax office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am-4pm. There is a drop box in the vestibule of the Town Hall open 9am-4pm, Monday-Friday and a 24 hour drop box on the Factory Street back side of the Town Hall. Please check [salisburyct.us](http://salisburyct.us) for additional credit card payment information. FAILURE TO RECEIVE A BILL DOES NOT INVALIDATE THE TAX OR THE INTEREST. Please contact the Tax Collector’s Office 860 435-5189 or [taxcollector@salisburyct.us](mailto:taxcollector@salisburyct.us) if you do not receive a bill or have questions. Dated this 5th day of June 2025.

Jean F. Bell, CCMC Tax Collector Salisbury, CT 06068 06-19-25 07-03-25 07-24-25

**TAX COLLECTOR’S NOTICE, TOWN OF CANAAN**

Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut statutes, the undersigned Tax Collector of the Town of Canaan gives notice that she will be ready to receive Motor Vehicle taxes and

the first installment of Real Estate & Personal Property taxes due July 1, 2025 at the Tax Collector’s office in the Canaan Town Hall, 108 Main St, Falls Village, CT on Monday’s & Wednesdays 9am-12pm. Payments must be received or postmarked by August 1, 2025 to avoid interest.

All taxes remaining unpaid after August 1, 2025 will be charged interest from July 1, 2025 at the rate of 1.5% for each month elapsing from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00. Sec. 12-146

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of his/her responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges. Sec. 12-130.

Rebecca M Juchert- Derungs, Tax Collector, CCMC 06-19-25 07-03-25 07-24-25

07-17-25 657289

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

Notices can be emailed to [legals@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:legals@lakevillejournal.com) or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Go to [www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices](http://www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices) to view current and past legal notices.



# OBITUARIES

## Barbara Ellen Branchina

LAKEVILLE — Barbara Ellen Branchina passed away on May 31, 2025, in her home in Kennebunk, Maine, after a long illness.

Barbara was born on March 26, 1945, in Brooklyn, New York, to Fred and Ruth Helfst. She later attended Warwick (New York) High School where she met Nick, the love of her life. They were married June 26, 1968. Barb received her B.A. in Education from SUNY, New Paltz.

They later moved to Lakeville where they lived and raised their children for 35 years. Barb was a homemaker for several years, then received her M.S. in Education from Central Connecticut State University. She was an elementary school teacher at Salisbury Central School for many years. Upon retirement, they moved to Kennebunk to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Barbara was a loving mother, grandmother and

wife. She had many passions, including interior decorating, literature and mysteries, history, gardening, cooking and baking, and crafting. She was an active member in the Congregational Church in Salisbury, Connecticut, and later at South Congregational Church in Kennebunkport. She and her husband made many friends in Maine and were active members of the Kennebunk Newcomers Club.

Barb is survived by her husband of 57 years, Nick, her daughter, Carly McKinney and her husband John, her son, Nicholas, and four grandchildren, John, Molly, Nicholas and Benjamin, all of Kennebunk, as well as her brother Fredrick Helfst and his family of Glen Rock, New Jersey.

A private family service will be held later in the summer in Kennebunk. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hospice of Southern Maine, Scarborough.



## Gloria L. (Rivera) Coates

TORRINGTON — Gloria L. (Rivera) Coates, 82, of 80 Fern Dr., died Monday morning, June 9, surrounded by her loving family at the Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. She was the wife of George T. Coates Sr. Gloria was born September 15, 1942, in Puerto Rico, daughter of the late Carmello and Gloria Rivera.

Gloria worked many jobs during her life. For the majority of her working life she was a house cleaner. During recent years she became the “Walmart Lady” at the Torrington Walmart and greeted everyone with a smile and a warm hello. Gloria loved beauty; whether it was shopping for the latest, new product, or getting home and trying it out. Gloria’s greatest joy was taking care of and spending time with her children and grandchildren. She would love to watch them play in their various sport-

ing events. Gloria was also a communicant of St. Mary’s Church in Lakeville, Conn..

In addition to her husband Gloria is survived by her two sons: George T. Coates, Jr. and his wife Magnolia of Weatogue, Conn., and Kirk Coates and his wife Melissa of Winsted. Gloria is also survived by her two step-daughters Lachau Tansimore of Virginia and Gwynne Deveau of Bloomfield. Her brother Carmello Rivera Jr. of Florida and her ten grandchildren: Taj Coates, Mya Coates, Dae Coates, Lia Coates, Mason Coates, Maddox Coates, Samuel Deveau, Roman Ramos, Rachel Ramos, and Arabella Tansimore.

A Celebration of Gloria’s Life will be held on Friday June 20, 2025, in the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. North Canaan, CT 06018 from 6 to 8 p.m.. Flowers may be sent.



## Barbara Maxwell O’Neill

SHARON — Barbara Maxwell O’Neill passed away on June 7, 2025, in Danbury at the age of 89.

Born on March 6, 1936, in St. Louis, Missouri, Barbara was the daughter of Robert Joseph Maxwell and Audrey Leona Knueppe Maxwell. She graduated from Jennings High School and earned a Bachelor of Journalism degree from the University of Missouri in Columbia in 1958.

Barbara began her career with KMOX Radio in St. Louis and went on to work in publishing, advertising, public relations, television production, marketing, merchandising, photography, and the travel industry in Los Angeles and New York City. She also served as an administrative aide to the late Democratic Congressman from Illinois Melvin M. Price in Washington, D.C.

For 25 years, Barbara worked as Associate Publisher of the University of California Berkeley Wellness Letter in New York City be-

fore retiring to St. Louis.

A passionate traveler, Barbara explored destinations around the world including Mongolia, New Zealand, Turkey, Cambodia, Europe, China, Japan, Chile, Peru, Israel, and Egypt. She was also an active volunteer with several organizations in St. Louis, including the St. Louis Zoo.

Barbara was an avid runner and sports enthusiast. She completed the New York Marathon, hiked England’s 190-mile Coast-to-Coast trail, and trekked through Bhutan in the Himalayas.

She delighted in her dogs and is seen here with her beloved Max.

She is survived by her brother Robert Maxwell, sister-in-law Susan Hassler, nephews Taylor Maxwell and Colin Maxwell, all of Sharon, Connecticut and New York City, and many dear friends.

Barbara donated her body to the St. Louis University School of Medicine. Contributions in her memory may be made to the St. Louis Zoo.



NORTH CANAAN — Dorothy Mae Winn Cecchinato, 95, passed comfortably and peacefully on June 13, 2025, at Geer Nursing Home. She was born October 4, 1929, in Torrington, the daughter of Leo David Winn and Ester Gertrude (Hart) Winn. She was the oldest of four children growing up in West Cornwall. She attended grammar school at the Cornwall Consolidated School and finally 7-8th grade at the Salisbury Central School. Dorothy graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1947 and was awarded the Bay Path College Award. Following graduation, she married her high school sweetheart Anthony F. Cecchinato, Sr. They settled in North Canaan and were married for a wonderful 59 years.

Dorothy was very active in sports throughout her life playing softball and bas-

## Dorothy Mae Winn Cecchinato

ketball through high school and continuing softball on the Canaan Girls softball team. She was an active golfer and bowler participating in these sports into her late 70’s. She enjoyed skiing and would frequent the slopes at Catamount with her husband Anthony throughout the winter. Several ski trips to Colorado are also fond memories for her and the family. She always enjoyed watching sports and with her husband attended numerous sporting events that her three granddaughters participated in all through high school and college.

Her first job was working as a secretary at the General Electric Company in Norfolk. She worked there for 8 years from 1947 to 1955. After GE, and after raising her

son, she began working in 1965 at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Regional District One in Falls Village, as the Clerk to the Board for all of the Region One schools. She logged a total of 36 years of service at HVRHS. In 2018, she was one

of the first group of Honorees inducted to the HVRHS Wall of Honor. After retirement, she continued supporting activities at HVRHS through her work with the HVRHS Alumni Committee and the Blue and Gold Alumni bulletin. In addition to her career at HVRHS, she worked on the Planning and Zoning Commission in North Canaan and was also the chairman of Housing Authority of North Canaan. She worked on the Democratic Town Committee and was a long time member of the North Canaan Board of Education until she was 90. She was an active member in the Cranford Club for many years in North Canaan.

Dorothy is predeceased by her brother David Hart Winn of Marcellus, New York.

She is survived by two sisters: Marion Elizabeth

Winn Staples of New Smyrna Beach, Florida; and Gertrude Lucille Winn (Kroehle) Hunter of Falls Village.

Her son: Anthony F. Cecchinato Jr. and his wife Elizabeth Cecchinato of Litchfield.

Granddaughters: Andrea Leigh (Cecchinato) Calore and husband Dan Calore of Watertown, Connecticut; Ashley Lyn (Cecchinato) Labonte and husband DJ Labonte of Litchfield; and Abigail Elizabeth (Cecchinato) Palesty and husband Alexander Palesty of Woodbury, Connecticut.

Great Grandchildren: Zachary and William Calore; Addison, Harper and Vance Labonte; and Greyson, Jack and Callan Palesty

There will be a church service at the St. Martin of Tours Church of St. Joseph in North Canaan starting at 10 a.m. on Friday June 20, 2025. The burial will be at the St. Joseph’s Cemetery in North Canaan immediately following the service. There will be a reception for family and friends to celebrate her life at a location to be determined following the burial.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers to consider making a donation to the North Canaan Cranford Club.



## David A. Wright

LAKEVILLE — David A. Wright, 82, passed away Saturday, June 14, 2025, at Sharon Hospital. He was the beloved husband of Laura (Solan) Wright.

Dave was born in New York City on March 19, 1943, son of the late William and Martha (Lynn) Wright. He spent his early years in New York City and later in New Jersey. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Rutgers University, then worked for two years in Wilton, Conn., before moving to Burlington, Vermont, where he received his PhD in chemistry.

In 1968, Dave met Laura, and they married in July 1970. Just a month later, the couple moved to Chicago where Dave completed his post-doctoral research in chemistry at the University of Chicago. After two years, they relocated to Canada, where Dave established a chemistry research program at the University of Guelph. In 1976, he earned his MBA from McMaster University in Ontario and went on to work as a CPA at Thorne Riddell in Toronto.

In 1979, Dave and Laura settled in Lakeville, Laura’s hometown. He became the Chief Financial Officer of Anamet, Inc. in Waterbury, a role he held until his retirement. Even after retiring, he

continued consulting part-time until just two years ago. Beyond his professional achievements, Dave had many passions.

He enjoyed playing bridge, both online and with local friends, and was a Grand Master in chess. He was an avid reader and had a lifelong love of math, science, and history.

In addition to his wife, Laura, Dave is survived by his three children, Jessica Wright (Chris Yerton) of Berlin, New York, Alison Le (Hong Le) of Severna Park, Maryland, and David Wright (Kira Costanza) of Lakeville. He also leaves behind three grandchildren, Harrison, Augusta, and Michael; a sister, Martha Lynch; many beloved nieces and nephews; and his cherished dog, Huxley. He was predeceased by his brother, William Wright.

Graveside services will be held Friday, June 20, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Salisbury Cemetery, Undermountain Rd., Salisbury, CT. Ryan Funeral Home, 255 Main St., Lakeville, is in care of arrangements. Memorial contributions in Dave’s memory may be made to the Scoville Library (www.scovillelibrary.org) 38 Main St., Salisbury, CT 06068. To offer an online condolence, please visit ryanfhct.com

# SPORTS



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Milo Ellison hit a two RBI single in the bottom of the 6th inning to win the league semifinals June 11.

## Walk-off win sends Pirates to championship

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — The Canaan Pirates advanced to the league championship after a comeback victory over the Tri-Town Red Sox Wednesday, June 11.

Down 3-2 with two outs and two on in the bottom of the 6th inning, “Mighty” Milo Ellison stepped up to the plate and launched a fly ball deep to left field. The single brought home Brody Ohler and Sam Hahn for a walk-off Pirates win. “Milo did it,” shouted a

teammate. “Let’s hear it for Milo!”

Elite pitching from both sides kept the game close. Starter Sam Hahn pitched five and one-third innings for the Pirates and recorded 10 strikeouts. For the Red Sox, Joey B. struck out 11 batters over five innings.

Ellison led the Pirates offensively, batting 2-for-3 with one run and three RBI. Sam Norbit logged an RBI and went 1-for-2 at the plate for Canaan.

Championship coverage is on Page A9.

Worship Services Week of June 23, 2025	
<b>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon</b> 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	<b>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.</b> 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
<b>Trinity Episcopal Church</b> 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.trinitylinerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylinerock.org (860) 435-2627	<b>St. John’s Episcopal Church</b> 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290
<b>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC</b> 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	<b>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT</b> Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, September 14 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome
<b>FISHES &amp; LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH</b> is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org	<b>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH</b> 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
<b>The Lakeville United Methodist Church</b> 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	<b>UCC in CORNWALL</b> 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
<b>Falls Village Congregational Church</b> 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	<b>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall</b> 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!
<b>The Sharon United Methodist Church</b> 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	<b>St. Thomas Episcopal Church</b> 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
<b>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church</b> 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building	<b>Promised Land Baptist Church</b> 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
<b>Sharon Congregational</b> 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	<b>Canaan United Methodist Church</b> 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!

For more obituaries, see page A8



## EDITORIAL Summer interns

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News again this year will provide paid summer internships to high school and college students who want to learn about reporting and editing at a weekly newspaper. Nine students will join our newsroom next week for a six-week experience. On Day One, they will attend our weekly Tuesday news meeting, watching and listening as we plan the next week's coverage and talk about how and who will cover the news and events in our community.

Also from Day One, they will be given assignments. In some cases in the beginning, they will be paired with a reporter to shadow, and they will work independently with an editor. Every Thursday for the course of the program they will come together for in-person class workshops that will be held in the newsroom. The Thursday sessions provide instruction on how to pitch a story, better ways to photograph, as well as Associated Press style and topics on libel, ethics and the all-important matter of actually writing the story!

Workshop instructors include experts in their fields, but the learning for the interns really happens through the interaction with editors throughout the week. Riley Klein, managing editor of The Journal, and Nathan Miller, managing editor of The Millerton News, will be on the other end of the phone and email as the interns fan out into our communities to cover meetings and events, discovering the nuances of our community journalism.

It's refreshing for us as editors to see our own world through new eyes. This spring, as we chronicled this month in The Journal, we worked with students at Housatonic Valley Regional High School as they created their own newspaper, HVRHS Today. The Housy program will continue in the fall.

Our 2025 summer interns include high school students from the Northwest Corner and beyond, but the greater number are college students who aspire to learn how journalism serves as a witness to history.

Interns and schools include:

Linus Barnes — Vassar College, Poughkeepsie  
Jules Williams — University of Virginia, Charlottesville

David Carley — Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio  
Copey Rollins — The Hotchkiss School, Salisbury  
Mia DiRocco — Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Falls Village  
Simon Markow — Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Falls Village  
Charlie Greenberg — Riverdale Country School, Bronx, New York

Theo Maniatis — Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vermont

We're also proud to be selected by Marist University in Poughkeepsie, New York, to host one of its students as part of a new partnership. Marist student Grace DeMarco has already started her internship.

Last year, when the interns concluded their summer program, they wrote about their experience and we will share that with you again this year before they return to the classroom.

With the newspaper industry facing so many challenges, and even existential threats, it was heartening to receive big interest from students wanting to try a journalism internship. Please welcome our 2025 Lakeville Journal/Millerton News summer apprentices.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### North Canaan concern

I am writing in opposition to the tripartite ordinance to create four-year appointed terms for the positions of Treasurer, Tax Collector and Town Clerk in its proposed form.

While I am not necessarily opposed to shifting these positions from elected officials to appointed employees, I feel strongly that the upcoming town meeting is the wrong venue for this ordinance. The Board of Selectmen only just proposed this ordinance at the most recent Board of Selectmen meeting on June 2. The town meeting to decide on this matter has been set for June 23, and this proposed change was only announced in the town newsletter on June 13. I believe the timing of the proposition and its announcement in the newsletter ten days prior to the town meeting does not give the residents of the town sufficient time to consider the ordinance. This ordinance should instead be put to the town as a ballot proposition in November. This would allow the selectmen and the Board of Finance to determine how such a change might impact

the town budget and whether these positions should be combined in any way. Residents are being asked to vote on a significant change to municipal operations without any clear indication of how this change may affect the town budget.

Furthermore, I believe that if this ordinance goes forward, it should be amended so that the appointment of a Treasurer, Tax Collector or Town Clerk should be approved by all three selectmen, rather than by a simple majority vote of two selectmen. Since these positions are essential to the smooth operation of municipal business, all three selectmen should be in agreement on any appointments.

The conversion of these positions from elected to appointed may indeed be beneficial for the town of North Canaan. However, I believe the residents of North Canaan should be given more time to consider this proposal.

**Chris Jacques  
Chair, North Canaan  
Democratic  
Town Committee**



*The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Lakeville Journal and the Journal does not support or oppose candidates for public office.*

*We accept gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals and organizations for the general support of our activities, but our news judgments are made independently and not on the basis of donor support.*

*Deadline for letters is Monday at 10 a.m. Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com Include name, town and phone number. Please keep letters to 500 words or less.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Save our public lands before it is too late

By the end of the 19th century in the United States, many animals and birds had been decimated by overhunting. The most notable was the passenger pigeon, which existed in massive numbers but went extinct from overhunting, as did the Eastern elk, which was declared extinct in 1880. This occurred due to a combination of overhunting, loss of habitat, and a lack of knowledge of conservation.

When he was merely 26 years old, Theodore Roosevelt traveled west to see buffalo and discovered only skulls of the animals on the vast plains. This made such an impression on him that when he became President years later, he created the U.S. Forest Service, 150 national forests, 51 federal bird

reserves, four national game preserves, five additional national parks, and 18 national monuments using the 1906 Antiquities Act. He wanted to leave the American people a treasure for future generations to enjoy by preserving the magnificent land of this country and the animals and birds which lived here.

Today there are more than 430 national parks across 85 million acres in every state and territory of our country. Millions of Americans each year visit our national parks which stimulates the economy and brings jobs to those states.

The Trump administration is the first administration not to add land to the national parks but to try to destroy them. Many park

personnel have been fired, so keeping the parks open to the public has become a problem. Now the Trump administration wants to hand the national parks over to the states to run, which would be a financial burden for many states. The Trump administration also wants to open the national parks for mineral extraction, mining, logging, and drilling for corporate profit. They are asking the Department of the Interior and of Agriculture to reinstate oil and gas leases on the public lands and to revoke drilling protections in lands from Alaska to Wyoming and from New Mexico to Pennsylvania.

The millions of acres of our national parks — from the Arctic National Wild-

life Sanctuary to the Everglades—have thus far been saved for future generations and have protected hundreds of threatened and endangered species. This includes over one million acres of wildlife migration corridors and five thousand miles of streams and rivers, plus watersheds that collectively supply drinking water for over two million people.

Exploiting the parks and public lands by this administration would destroy our country's public lands and its wildlife for future generations of Americans. We must speak out now to stop this destruction before it is too late.

**Lizbeth Piel**

Sharon

### Clarifying Concept 6 and the Pope Property

Lorraine Faison raised important issues in her recent letter to the Lakeville Journal (June 12th) concerning the ecology of the Pope Property. Many others (including myself) share Ms. Faison's concern that concept plans were developed absent a thorough understanding of the Pope site's underlying ecological attributes. The site's ecology must guide any proposed development and infrastructure planning.

At the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity and Housatonic Valley Association's Northwest Connecticut Affordable Housing & Conservation Collaboration meeting on May 16th at Salisbury Town Hall, I was quite clear that Concept Plan 6 could no longer serve as the guidepost for development of this site. That position was strongly supported by several meeting attendees.

One statement in Ms. Faison's letter requires correction/clarification. Although I am the Chair of Salisbury's Planning and Zoning Commission, the ecological analyses being conducted on behalf of the Litchfield County Center for Housing Opportunity and

the Town of Salisbury are not in my elected capacity, but as an ecological consultant.

For those who may be unaware, since 2002 I have served as a consultant, advising a wide range of clients including agencies at the federal, state and municipal levels, as well as conservation groups, developers, corporations, and grass roots citizen groups. My focus has been on how to best use scientific data to create project outcomes based upon comprehensive ecological understanding and best development principles. There have been questions about my qualifications to conduct such research. I have decades of field experience studying New England's turtles and vernal pools and have authored many peer-reviewed publications on these subjects, as well as herpetology in general.

It is premature to discuss in detail the results of my work, but I will touch on several general points. The study is taking place on both the Pope Property as well as Trotta Field. Those two Town-owned properties are contiguous and share the same riparian ecosystem, so it makes good "ecological

sense" to study and subsequently manage these parcels together. Additionally, these investigations are not limited to the areas that need to be conserved, but also areas that should be managed and restored for the benefit of wood turtles and other important species.

While there is space on the site to accommodate both housing and recreation infrastructure, the ecological

constraints of these properties warrant a smaller development footprint than anticipated by the concepts presented by the Pope Land Design Committee. The end result is that considerably more land will need to be dedicated for habitat conservation, habitat management, and habitat restoration.

**Michael W. Klemens, PhD**  
Lakeville

*More letters on Page A7.*

#### THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

(USPS 303280)

An Independent Connecticut Newspaper  
Published Weekly by LJMN Media, Inc.  
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; Dan Dwyer, Chair  
64 Route 7 North, Falls Village, CT 06031  
P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039-9989  
(860) 435-9873 • lakevillejournal.com • editor@lakevillejournal.com

Volume 128, Number 46 Thursday, June 19, 2025

#### Mission Statement

LJMN Media, Inc. Publishers of

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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Subscription Rates - One Year: \$120.00 in Litchfield County, \$147.00 outside county  
Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate  
Paid at Lakeville, CT 06039. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LJMN Media, Inc., PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.



# Viewpoint

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

**125 years ago — June 1900**  
S.W. Raymond of the Connecticut Bible Society conducted a service in the school house at Mt. Riga last Sunday afternoon.

**SALISBURY** — An automobile passed through this village on Monday evening.

**SHARON** — Mrs. Rogers of Amenias is sewing for Mrs. R.P. Knight.

We have the wireless telegraphy, the horseless carriage, the chainless safety smokeless powder, and now if we had gossipless country towns, a good many people might have some dreamless sleep.

Our local wheelmen are cautioned against riding on the sidewalks. It is counted a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine. The practice is especially dangerous after dark. It is also well for wheelmen to remember the law against going without a lighted lantern after dark.

During the heavy thunder shower of Monday evening lightning struck a hay stack near John Garrity's and burned it. A bolt also struck the ground back of A. Martin's, tore up a telephone pole and plowed quite a furrow in the ground.

**100 years ago — June 1925**  
The new schedule on the C.N.E. went into effect last Sunday. The 11 o'clock morning train and 1 o'clock afternoon steam trains are removed and a gas bus now operates in their place. The gas bus is a dinky affair and carries passengers and mails, but the mails are only through mails in locked pouches, as the bus has no room for a mail clerk. Thus we lose local mails. The only time we can send a letter to way stations east is on the early morning steam train, and we can only receive way mail from the east on the evening steam train. It is indeed a "beautiful" service and about fit for darkest Africa, or the Arctic regions. No passenger trains at all are operated on Sunday.

About 20 young friends of Master George Sherwood helped him to celebrate his fifth birthday on Wednesday.

Mrs. Annie Scribner has been suffering from an infected right hand the past three weeks, but is much improved.

**LIME ROCK** — Mr. John Lowe is selling fine strawberries from his own garden.

Mrs. Rose Mitchell who has been in New York for the past few months has returned to Lakeville, and is employed at The Gateway. In the recent robbery of the railway station Mrs. Mitchell's trunk was one of those which was forced open. Mrs. Mitchell says that she thus lost two hundred dollars which she had placed in the trunk when it was shipped from New York.

The rebuilding of Interlaken Inn is nearing completion and it is thought the building will soon be ready for business.

Owing to the fact that the express service on the midday trains has been discontinued, O'Loughlin Bros. have decided to run an auto parcel delivery service daily between Millerton and Hart-

ford. Any one desiring service of this nature can have their errand attended to by calling 174-2 and will be assured prompt and courteous treatment.

A small fire at Edward McCue's ice house called out the hose company last Friday. The fire siren failed to work and then when it did finally start it failed to stop. A broken push button seemed to be the cause of the trouble. The fire was extinguished before the services of the firemen became necessary.

A.S. Martin has added a new Selden Pathfinder auto truck to his equipment. John Phillips is driving the new machine, and is so proud of it he will not even let a fly light upon it.

A severe rain and wind storm struck town on Monday evening with a fall of hail stones. The wind broke branches from the trees in some sections. The amount of dead branches on the ground after the storm emphasized the fact that many of our beautiful trees are in need of pruning and other care.

**50 years ago — June 1975**  
Six-year-old Michael Dunn, a kindergartener at North Canaan Elementary School, drowned Tuesday in Salmon Kill in Lime Rock. Two-year-old Melissa Bearn, daughter of Stuyvesant and Wendy Bearn, of White Hollow Road, also fell into the stream and is in critical condition at Sharon Hospital but is showing slight improvement, according to a hospital spokesman late Wednesday. Michael was the son of Bernard and Debra Dunn of Housatonic Road in Canaan. The mothers of both children, as well as other adults, were working in and around the Bearn home at the time of the accident, but reportedly none was aware that the children had gone outside and to the stream-bank.

Memories of railroad wheel manufacture in Lime Rock around the turn of the century are still a vital part of the life of Willard Palmer of Perry Street, Lakeville. He even has some of the old wheel patterns. Mr. Palmer, a lively man whose sprightly manner belies his 80 and more years, has lived in Northwest Connecticut most of his life and springs from a family that was involved with the major industries that flourished here. "My father's people were connected with the foundries," he said, "while mother's were all railroaders." Some of the family also worked in the quarries. Mr. Palmer confesses to an early desire to become a railroader, but eventually gave up that dream to work in wood. He said that his family discouraged him from working with the railroads, holding that "it was no kind of life." And then, "the woodwork just seemed to come handy," he noted.

"It is a total joy to live in an age in which you can fly," Nancy Tier of Sharon told members of the Salisbury Rotary Club Tuesday in recalling her 48 years as an active pilot. "I think flying today is the safest means of transportation," she declared, noting that this feeling is reaffirmed "when I sit there and relax and look down at all those people in cars going zip, zip."

Mrs. Tier related how she had wanted to fly ever since she was 9 and started taking lessons at Hoover Field in Washington, D.C. the fall after Lindbergh made his solo flight across the Atlantic. She obtained her license in 1928 after a total of 16 hours and 45 minutes in a plane with 10 hours of solo.

**SHARON** — Merydith McMillan has won another award from Cricket, the national children's magazine. This is the second time she has been honored for her work as an artist. Mery has just completed first grade at the Town Hill School.

The Grand Union this week announced it would discontinue use of trading stamps as part of a major new marketing strategy in 82 stores of its Empire Division in upstate New York and sections of Vermont, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

**25 years ago — June 2000**  
CANAA — Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is celebrating its 30th anniversary, but no one is looking back. A carnival-like picnic on the lawn of the facility last Saturday was within view of a piece of history that is in the process of becoming a memory and making way for two new facilities. Folks also got a sneak peek at plans to renovate the existing center. Demolition began Friday on the old Geer Hospital, last used eight years ago. Two adjacent Geer-owned houses are also slated to be removed, all to make way for "The Village at Geer Woods." Two assisted-living facilities — Geer Village and Geer Woods — will be built on a revamped 69-acre Geer campus that includes a relocated main driveway and expanded parking.

**FALLS VILLAGE** — For the second year in a row, the Lee H. Kellogg School has earned first place in Gov. John Rowland's Summer Reading Challenge. Students at the school read a total of 3,553 books, or an average of 30.9 books per student, and 100 percent of students participated. School librarian Judy Gafney said much of the credit for the school's outstanding placement was due to D.M. Hunt librarian Erica Joncyk, who encourages the students with prizes and parties and keeps count of how many books are read.

## Status Report

**FALLS VILLAGE** — A bobcat was spotted near Prospect Street the night of Saturday, June 14.

There have been 16 consecutive weekends of rain in Connecticut. Beginning March 1 and stretching to most recently June 14, the weather has damped many community events and caused high water levels on rivers in the Northwest Corner.

**SALISBURY** — "First Friday Music" at the Salisbury Congregational Church has been cancelled for July, since the first Friday of the month is July 4.



PHOTOS BY MARY CLOSE OPPENHEIMER

Local artists Victoria and Mike Selbach created designs, pre-cut and prepped cardboard, supplied materials, and hosted the group making signs for protests.

## Our community working together

The power and joy of our community working together towards a common goal were beautifully illustrated this month.

More than 60 friends and neighbors from as far as Amenias and Great Barrington joined forces with Salisbury's 'Saving Democracy' group to hold an impressive 'Makers Event' to make 90 posters in preparation for the "No Kings Day" protests in Salisbury and Hartford on Saturday, June 14.

Local artists and social justice activists Victoria and Mike Selbach created designs, pre-cut and prepped cardboard, supplied materials, and hosted the group. They even designed and pro-

## GUEST COMMENTARY MARY CLOSE OPPENHEIMER

duced "No Kings" T-shirts for everyone to wear.

Amy Lake and Kathy Voldstad were instrumental partners, bringing their brilliance and support to the concept from the very beginning. And, as is often the case, the scale of this project could not have been achieved without the deep connections and years of activism that so many people have built in this community.

Organizing the protests was a true team effort. Jill Drew, Sophia and Lee de-Boer, and Al Ginouves also made significant contributions to help make it possible.

A bus was organized for transportation to Hartford. Our group joined the estimated 9,000 to 10,000 people calling for change.

It's no surprise that research shows that people who feel connected and get involved in their communities often feel a greater sense of happiness and well-being. I've seen this firsthand — not just for myself, but for my friends as well.

Capitol police estimated that nearly 10,000 people were protesting.



Left to right at the Capitol in Hartford: Barbara Friedman, Victoria Selbach, Jill Drew, Amy Lake and Carol Magowan.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Cheers for June 14th demonstration in Salisbury

In my 65 years in Salisbury Never have I seen the need for a demonstration the size of the one I am now witnessing on the White Hart lawn protesting the desire of our president to be treated like a king.

George Washington, not to be compared with Donald

Trump, resigned as leader of this new country rather than be declared a King.

Trump has crossed a red line authorizing National Guard and 700 Marines out against his own people. We are a country of immigrants and it is our diversity which

has made us great. Protests today against Trump's actions show that the American spirit is alive and strong. We will not tolerate such abuse of our Democracy.

**Elyse D Harney. Age 94**  
Salisbury resident since 1960

## NASCAR, Lime Rock concern

The problem with NASCAR at Lime Rock is NASCAR itself.

Too big, too noisy, and totally inappropriate for Salisbury.

Let us hope that the owners of Lime Rock realize this and do not repeat the event next year.

Inge Heckel

Salisbury

## Realtor® at Large

Wood turtles are a population in decline in NW CT due to fragmentation and loss of habitat caused by development. In Connecticut, they are protected by the Endangered Species Act. To find out more about these turtles, please see: [portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/wildlife/pdf\\_files/outreach/fact\\_sheets/woodturtlepdf.pdf](http://portal.ct.gov/-/media/deep/wildlife/pdf_files/outreach/fact_sheets/woodturtlepdf.pdf). Agriculture and road crossings are also serious threats to the wood turtle and the Mass. Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has put out a wonderful report on this topic called: [MOWING ADVISORY GUIDELINES IN RARE TURTLE HABITAT: PASTURES, SUCCESSIONAL FIELDS, AND HAYFIELDS](http://www.mass.gov/dfwfs/publications/mowing_guidelines.pdf) which can found at: [hvfarmhub.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/mowing-guidelines.pdf](http://hvfarmhub.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/mowing-guidelines.pdf). Some of the key points are to avoid mowing fields that are wood turtle habitat between May 15th and Sept. 15th, to raise the bar up to 7 to 12 inches to protect the turtles and fledgling grassland birds and to mow in a pattern that allows wildlife to escape rather than become trapped. Simple measures like these will allow the Wood Turtles to thrive rather than decline!

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Our Towns



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN  
Gavin Mechare receives Peter G. Lawson Citizenship award from the Board of Selectmen, from left, Chris Kinsella, Dave Barger and Judy Jacobs.

Lee H. Kellogg class advances

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Nine students celebrated the completion of middle school at the Lee H. Kellogg School (LHK) Wednesday, June 11.

LHK Principal Stacey Calo praised the Class of 2025 for their “laughter, curiosity and heart.”

“They left their mark in the classroom, the hallways and the playground.”

Gavin Mechare won the Peter G. Lawson Citizenship Award. First Selectman David Barger, flanked by Selectmen Judy Jacobs and Chris Kinsella, took the stage to present the plaque.

Barger recalled a piece of advice he received long ago from Lawson, who served as First Selectman (among

many other offices and roles). “Don’t be a resident — be a citizen.”

Of Gavin Mechare, Barger said “He is respectful, dependable, and always willing to lend a hand — not because he has to, but because it’s simply who he is.”

Calo announced the other award winners:

Presidential Award of Educational Excellence — Jenaveeve Wagner.

Presidential Award of Educational Achievement — Audrey Dorizzi and Lola Miller

Connecticut Association of Boards of Education Award — Audrey Dorizzi and Lola Miller

Litchfield County Superintendents Award — Jerron Nirschel

North Canaan bids farewell to ‘unforgettable’ 8th grade class

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — Wednesday, June 11, marked a milestone for 33 high school-bound students who received diplomas in front of North Canaan Elementary School.

First-year Principal Beth Johnson spoke of the impact the Class of 2025 had on her personally.

“What you did was leave a mark on my heart. One that no class will ever touch. You are unforgettable. Not just for your size or your sass but for your spirit. I love you all and I truly cannot wait to see where you land.”

Teachers presented academic awards by subject. The Leila Woods Scholarship was awarded to Abigail Rose Veilleux and Destini E. Hiller.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN  
Confetti flies as the Class of 2025 says goodbye to North Canaan Elementary School at the commencement ceremony Wednesday, June 11.

The group joined together in song, performing “Vien-na” by Billy Joel.

While each student walked across the stage, Johnson shared memories and words of support.

around you. Whether it be in Spanish class, kickball games or backstage with the drama club, your kind heart, strong spirit and sense of humor have made a lasting impression on your teachers, friends and me.”

Confetti flew as family and friends in attendance applauded the accomplished students.

Sophia Rose Funk, Lainey Anne Diorio and Lyla Violet Diorio recited a poem titled “Always Be a Student,” by Joanna Fuchs: “Keep on learning NCES 8th graders. Though your graduation’s done, your whole life’s an education that has only just begun.”

Public hearing set in North Canaan for new Dunkin’

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — The Planning and Zoning Commission received an application for a new Dunkin’ location at 14 East Main Street across from the Stop & Shop plaza.

A public hearing for the special permit application was set for July 14 at 7 p.m.

Allan Borghesi of Borghesi Building and Engineering Company in Torrington presented the plan to P&Z at its regular meeting June 9.

He described a roughly 1,800-square-foot building with a drive thru lane and parking lot. The design is largely the same as an application that was approved by P&Z more than 10 years ago, with the addition of a rain garden, he said.

The Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission approved the updated plan in April 2025.

If approved by P&Z, the new building will replace the existing Dunkin’ located in the gas station across the street.

**Mining at odd hours**

A second public hearing July 14 will take place to discuss a proposed text change to mining regulations.

The text change would add email as a viable communication option for miners requesting permission to mine outside of the permitted times of Monday to Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

George Martin, zoning enforcement officer, drafted the text change.

“The present regulations calls for a fax to be sent to the ZEO,” said P&Z Chairman Mike O’Connor. “George proposed a text change to add email to the accepted forms of communication.”

Mining operators are permitted up to 200 hours per year, with approval, to mine outside of typical hours for “emergencies” including weather, equipment breakdown or seasonal demands.

Martin noted there is no specified time requirement to request approval, and there have been instances where permission was requested after the fact.

“They’re notifying me either the day of or the day after. I’m asking them to adhere to this and be a day ahead, if at all possible, but if they have emergency breakdowns in the middle of something they might not be able to get ahold of me,” said Martin.

Adding a time requirement was not included in Martin’s proposed text change.

Martin said he has received noise complaints related to mining on Allyn-dale Road and Sodom Road recently.

Martin reported that he conducted a noise test using a decibel app on his phone and found the volume to be within reason.

“I got no reading above 65 decibels. I’m not a scientist. It’s not perfect. But it’s not up in the danger range,” said Martin.

The hearing on the text change will follow the hearing for Dunkin’.

OBITUARIES

Ronald Anthony Orlando

MILLERTON — Ronald Anthony Orlando, Jr., 59, of Millerton, passed away at home on June 12, 2025, following an eighteen-year battle with bone marrow failure diseases and acute myeloid leukemia. He is survived by his wife Linda Moon Orlando at home; his parents, Ronald and Marlene Orlando, Sr. of Sharon, Connecticut; his son, Nathaniel Orlando; his brother, Todd Orlando of Lincoln Park, New Jersey; three nieces, Jordan, Alex and Avery; his brother-in-law, Robert Moon of Pawling, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Ronald was born on July 10, 1965, in Peekskill, New York. He grew up in Putnam Valley, New York, and graduated from Peekskill High School in 1983. Ronald graduated from Elizabeth-town College in 1988 with a Bachelor’s Degree in History and from Fordham University in 1989 with a Master’s Degree in Education.

Ronald was previously employed by Putnam County Dept. of Social Services and Dutchess County Dept. of Social Services. At the time of his retirement, he was employed as a probation officer with Dutchess County Probation.

Ronald was a proud Eagle Scout and also served as a Cub Scout leader with his

son’s troop. He served on the Millerton Zoning Board for several years due to his interest in his local community. Ronald was a knowledgeable historian with a keen interest in the history of World War II. His other many interests included a love of film noir movies, the TV show Svengoolie, crossword puzzles and curating his many collections of vintage toys and soldiers, movie lobby posters, baseball cards and antique photos and postcards.

Ronald was a wonderful husband, father, son and friend and will be greatly missed. Many thanks to Hudson Valley Hospice for their care. This obituary was lovingly composed by his wife Linda.

Calling hours will take place on Friday, June 20, 2025, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. Graveside services and burial will take place on Saturday, June 21, 2025, at 2:30 p.m. at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton, New York. Clergy from Hudson Valley Hospice will officiate. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis, TN. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit [www.conklinfuneral-home.com](http://www.conklinfuneral-home.com)



Cornwall students conclude CCS era

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — “You are a small class but you have left a mighty mark,” said Cornwall Consolidated School Principal Leanne Maguire to the five 8th-graders in the Class of 2025.

A commencement ceremony to bid farewell to the students was held in the school gymnasium Tuesday, June 10.

Maguire recalled the accomplishments of this class, including earning the “Red, White and Blue School” distinction for their group project on the Americans with Disabilities Act last year.

Students spoke of memories made with their classmates throughout their time at CCS.

Mason Bryant, who joined the school in 5th grade, compared his experience to “a jump in motocross.” In 6th grade, the base of the jump, he made friends. In 7th grade, the top of the jump, he gained confidence. And in 8th grade, “getting off the end of that jump and flying to the finish,” he soared to new heights.

Bryant repaired an all-terrain vehicle for his 8th-grade exploration project. He shared an Evel Knievel quote with the audience about overcoming failure: “There isn’t success without mistakes.”

Bryant and his classmates, Donald B. Polk III, Jonathan D. Bindley, Mya Jaylinn Weed and Austin Allen Ward, were applauded for their accomplishments as they received their diplomas.

The ceremony culminated with a cap toss and guests migrated outside for pizza by Marzano’s food truck.

He described a roughly 1,800-square-foot building with a drive thru lane and parking lot. The design is largely the same as an application that was approved by P&Z more than 10 years ago, with the addition of a rain garden, he said.

The Inland Wetlands and Conservation Commission approved the updated plan in April 2025.

If approved by P&Z, the new building will replace the existing Dunkin’ located in the gas station across the street.

**Mining at odd hours**

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George Martin, zoning enforcement officer, drafted the text change.

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Announcement of Services

Nancy Bergenty

Graveside services for Nancy Bergenty will be held on Saturday, June 28, at 11 a.m., at Mountain View Cemetery on Sand Road in Canaan. The family will greet friends at VFW Post 6851 on Route 7 in North Canaan, immediately after.

For more obituaries, see page A5



Sports

Pirates defend Little League title

By Riley Klein

THOMASTON — The Canaan Pirates are champions once more.

In the Northwest Connecticut District 6 Majors Little League title game Friday, June 13, the Pirates defeated Thomaston JRC Transportation by a score of 6-2.

Brody Ohler pitched a two-hitter for Canaan. Milo Ellison relieved him, facing one batter who flew out to right field where Ben Young secured the final out.

Canaan never trailed in the game against top-ranked Thomaston, which lost one game all season prior to the championship. Both JRC losses came from the Pirates with players aged 10 to 12 from Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon.

In the title game at Reeves Field in Thomaston, the Pirates started strong with a lead in the top of the first inning. Ohler singled, then stole second base. Liam Downey brought him home with a single, then Sam Hahn doubled to put runners on second and third. Ellison brought them both home



Bentley King on second.

with a triple and the Pirates went up 3-0.

The margin held until the sixth inning when the Pirates extended their lead to 6-0. With J.T. Farr and Bentley King on, Ohler sent a deep shot to center field and rounded the bases for an in-the-park home run.

In the bottom of the sixth, Ohler surrendered two runs before reaching his pitch limit. Ellison stepped in to end the game with some help from Young in right field.

The Pirates piled on Young in the outfield chanting “Benny! Benny!” The two sides shook hands in the spirit of sportsmanship before trophies were awarded.



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

The Pirates rejoice around Ben Young after the last out.

After winning the District 6 title for the second straight year, Coach Tom Downey said “It feels awesome. Especially this group who worked really hard. Last year we were dominant, this year these guys worked their butts off.”

“We definitely earned it,” said third baseman Michael Prisco.

Ohler finished with nine strikeouts on the mound,

three hits in three at bats, two RBI and a home run. Ellison hit 1-for-2 with two RBI, Liam Downey went 1-for-3 with an RBI, Sam Hahn and J.T. Farr hit 1-for-3 and Sam Hamlin hit 1-for-2.

For Thomaston, Owen H. hit 1-for-2 with two RBI and Lucas K. hit 1-for-2. The pitching trio of Gavin M., Jackson Ether and Brody Conlon combined for 12 strikeouts.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Anthony Labbadia in the triple jump June 14.

Labbadia places 9th in New England

By Riley Klein

NEW BRITAIN — Anthony Labbadia soared to 9th place in the triple jump at the 2025 New England track and field championships Saturday, June 14.

On his first attempt of the event he leaped 44 feet and one inch, qualifying for the finals and setting the new Housatonic Valley Regional High School record. The previous school record of 43 feet, eight inches was set by Don Hurlbutt in 1967.

Conditions were rainy for the meet with the grounds crew utilizing a leaf blower to dry the track between events. Labbadia said he had experienced similar weather at the Berkshire League championships in May, and he won the triple jump there, so he was confident.

“It doesn’t bother me,” said Labbadia of the rain, noting he was excited to be back at Willow Brook Park. “Being here makes me jump farther. I just have to make sure I’m thinking about everything without overthinking.”

Labbadia, a rising senior at HVRHS, wrote his capstone on the triple jump. In his research, he studied and broke down the biomechanics of the event.

Two days before the

championships, he made a bold change to his jumping approach — switching from a “right, right, left” sequence to “left, left, right” — and it paid off.

“I’m glad I switched my feet,” he said after the result. “I’m happy with my performance.”

Once all the jumpers from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont had finished, Labbadia’s distance held for 9th place.

The 2025 triple jump gold medal winner was Amar Skeete, sophomore from Catholic Memorial High School in West Roxbury, Massachusetts, who jumped 48 feet, two inches. The 2nd place finisher was Mitch Krasco of Mahar Regional High School in Orange, Massachusetts, with a distance of 46 feet, two and a half inches. Jessie Singleton Jr., junior at Bloomfield High School in Connecticut, placed 3rd with a distance of 45 feet, ten inches.

Labbadia was the first HVRHS athlete to compete at the New England meet since Sydney Segalla in 2022. Track coach Alan Lovejoy said he cannot recall another HVRHS male athlete qualifying since he became coach in 2009.

Red Sox end season with comeback win

By Riley Klein

with reporting from Simon Markow

NORTH CANAAN — The Canaan Red Sox ended the season with a thrilling 14-13 win over the Tri-Town Phillies Thursday, June 12.

Canaan trailed for most of the game but kept it close. Ultimately, the Red Sox secured the victory with a final-inning comeback in front of the home crowd at Steve Blass Field.

The Red Sox rejoiced as victors. Reflecting on the season, Coach Nikki Blass stated, “My boys continue to come off the field smiling and doing better than the game before.”

The Red Sox are part of the Northwest Connecticut Steve Blass Little League AAA program, consisting of players aged 9 to 11 from Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon. Tri-Town includes players from Goshen, Litchfield, Morris and Warren.

The result June 12 marked the first win of the season for the Red Sox. The night before, Coach Nikki Blass reassured her team with a letter, writing, “You should keep your heads high and know that you are all an asset to this team. Tomorrow we are clearing the slate and we will win.” She continued, “I hear in addition if you put a bat under your bed you get an amazing hit on game day.”

The bat trick paid off and many Red Sox logged hits in the game. “Everyone was on fire,” exclaimed Blass after the game.

Quinn McKniff pitched the majority of the match for Canaan with reliever Myles Shippa taking the mound for the final inning.

Offensively, Blaze Freund logged his first hit of the season. His twin brother Roan scored after sliding head-first into home “Pete Rose-style.” Myles Shippa recorded an RBI double in the game.

The Red Sox gathered beneath the scoreboard for a team photo after the win. With wide smiles and baseballs held high, the players ended another joyous Little League season.



PHOTOS BY SIMON MARKOW

Blaze Freund, at left, and Myles Shippa play for the Canaan Red Sox June 12.

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HOSPITAL

Continued from Page A1

erated Sharon Hospital since 2019, and also oversees hospitals in Danbury, Norwalk and New Milford as well as three additional facilities in the Hudson Valley. In a May 7 press release, Northwell President and CEO Michael Dowling described the merger as an investment in regional healthcare, while Margaret Crotty, who chairs the non-profit’s Board of Trustees, is quoted as saying it is “an unprecedented opportunity a more integrated, regionally connected health system across Connecticut and New York.”

McCulloch shared their enthusiasm, reporting that now, six weeks after the merger was announced, “there’s really quite good energy around our relationship.” She said that several weeks prior, members of the Northwell leadership team visited the hospital to bookend the new partnership with a day of celebration. “You could just feel the energy and excitement about the partnership.”

The new, integrated healthcare system now employs 104,000 staff members across Connecticut and New York, including 22,000 nurses and 13,500 providers dispersed across 28 hospitals, 1,050 ambulatory care units and 73 urgent care centers. Before the merger, Northwell had already been the largest private employer in New York State for several years, according to its website.

No money exchanged hands as part of the deal, but Northwell pledged to invest at least \$1 billion in Nuvance hospitals.

Hospital consolidation is a nation-wide phenomenon and has had critics in the past decade for causing hiked patient prices and deteriorating the quality of service at medical centers in certain instances. A 2020 study in the New England Journal of Medicine found that patient experience generally worsened at hospitals that were acquired by larger systems, though the Harvard Medical School reported that the study’s lead author qualified that some cases of mergers improving hospitals cannot be ruled out.

McCulloch is confident that Nuvance joining the Northwell banner is one

such instance. “It’s not about cutting resources and cutting services. It’s about optimizing what both of those organizations have, ultimately strengthening the access to care for everyone that lives in the community.”

She further explained that Northwell’s hospitals are consistently highly ranked and it was the only healthcare employer in New York to make Fortune Magazine’s 2024 rankings of best workplaces in the state.

McCullough said she was enthusiastic to work with such a decorated partner, as Sharon Hospital had also received its share of accolades, including receiving five stars from the Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services five years in a row and the only hospital in Connecticut to achieve the honor in 2024.

While integrating with Northwell is the immediate focus, McCullough said, the hospital has much planned for the future including bolstering its primary care capacities. “Primary care is the foundation of any community,” she said.

She mentioned that plans also exist to build up specialty departments, such as orthopedics and cardiology, the latter of which has already seen growth with the addition of cardiologist Dr. Sheri Harrison just over a year ago.

McCulloch assured that labor and delivery services at the hospital are guaranteed for a further five years. The maintenance of maternity services was established as a condition to the state attorney general William Tong’s agreement to the proposal.

McCulloch said she is grateful to be part of a broad and resource-rich network that can provide residents quality immediate care and prompt connections to additional services elsewhere if they are required. “Rural hospitals across the nation are closing and shrinking and having to make really difficult [decisions], just to be financially stable and be able to be there for their communities,” she said.

“Sharon hospital is really lucky to be a part of a larger organization so that we can benefit from those shared resources.”

GRADUATION

Continued from Page A1

with people only hearing, but not listening. “Don’t let the differences pull us apart. Why can’t they bring us together? We’re all inherently different, but that is what makes a successful community.”

As they always do, the two AFS students, Carlos “Charlie” Castellana Cruz from Colombia and Allegra Ferri from Italy, spoke with deep gratitude, emotion and eloquence about the year they spent at the school and how welcomed they were made to feel.

“Everything Housy did for me will go wherever I go,” said Cruz, while Ferri said, “This year reminded me of the human connection.”

Essayist Lola Moerschell talked about life being a series of trapeze swings.

Valedictorian Manasseh Matsudaira gave a touching tribute to his dad who died this year. He said he was so engrossed in the college application process, he couldn’t bear to watch the 19 videos his father had recorded during the last year. “I missed the opportunity to bond and connect with my father.” He urged his classmates to not let ambition get in the way of relationships with others.

Matsudaira moved the audience when he said his



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Left, Elinor Wolgemuth decorated her graduation cap with a colorful scene and the words “To The World We Dream About.” Right, valedictorian Manasseh Matsudaira spoke of ambition and relationships in his speech at HVRHS graduation Friday, June 13.

dad, who was ever-present at all his soccer game, was not there to see him make an impressive goal.

The class chose Peter Vermilyea, the social studies department chairman, to be guest speaker. Using a phrase found in the school song written decades ago by Hattie Travis, he focused on the “greater work” that the students will do in their future. “Not more work. Not harder work. But greater work — work that matters. Work that impacts the world around you.”

Vermilyea said looking back will allow them to remember their firsts, so when the greater works ahead feel intimidating, remember them and reflect on the progress made.

“Look to what you and your classmates have achieved, collectively and individually, to understand what greater work is...Along the way you have demonstrated — and taught all of us about curiosity and enthusiasm, leadership and mental toughness, kindness, bravery and determination. You’ve

shown each other and the rest of us what it means to be a community. And that’s no small thing,” Vermilyea said.

The Good Sportsmanship Awards went to Daniela Brennan and Kyle McCarron. The Good Citizenship Awards to Tess Marks, Madeline Collingwood and Elinor Wolgemuth. The Chamberlain Arts Achievement Awards to Andy Delgado and Ellanor Karcheski.

David Moran, head of the agriscience department, was presented the Community Award of Merit.

PROTESTS

Continued from Page A1

slashed, said he’s mainly concerned that Trump’s big bill “has too many hidden things.” Paul Bacsik of Sharon said, “We need co-branches of government, not one.”

Lori Welles of Cornwall believes, “There are so many things going on that people are in doubt about what is true. The Constitution is fundamental to protecting our society. The administration is lacking in humanity.”

David Stoneback was appalled that those who broke into the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, are being pardoned.

Ed Greene said his big concerns are how Trump is undermining the government and his lack of support for those who need help. “It’s an assault on all our programs.” His wife,

Dinny Greene, added, “He’s dismantling the fabric of our society.”

Dick Sears, who was one of the organizers of the rally, walked along the edge of the grassy area chanting “Show me what democracy looks like” and later encouraged the crowd to answer “This is what democracy looks like.”

In Salisbury, hundreds gathered where Route 44 meets Route 41. Tom Zetterstrom described the scene: “A mosaic of all signs would have illustrated a broad spectrum of grievances appropriate for a Smithsonian archive about the waning days of our democracy.”

In Kent, an “Unhappy Birthday Party” was sponsored as part of the rally by the Democratic Town Committee on the Golden Falcon

lot in the center of town. Participants lined Route 7 with similar signs to the other demonstrations.

Kent DTC chairman Patricia Oris energized the assembly, saying due process is the cornerstone of our democracy. She went through a litany of actions that have been taken under this administration, starting off each with the words, “How dare they” and the audience repeating the phrase. Some of these included the criminalizing abortion, the treatment of State Sen. Alex Padilla and a budget that rewards billionaires and takes food out of the mouths of children.

She mentioned the \$40 million spent that day “to feed his ego on a ridiculous parade. I’m here to say we’re

the true Americans. We are the patriots. We’re putting our feet down and saying enough is enough. We will survive. The power of the people is unbeatable. We are Americans and Americans bow to no king.”

Carolyn Casey of Kent said she is afraid Trump will declare martial law, suspend habeas corpus and arrest everyone. Amanda Cernitz of Kent said Trump lied when he said he’d uphold the Constitution.

Lianna Gantt led the group in an “Unhappy Birthday Song” to Trump.

“Unhappy birthday to Trump,

The guy we want to dump. He tramples on the Constitution,

What a mean-hearted grump!”

HOUSING

Continued from Page A1

deal made home ownership a reality for the Saylor family: Bridget, Dom and their three children, Zoe, 14, Owen, 12, and Lewis, 11.

Prior to the purchase, the Sayers had rented a house in Lakeville for 13 years.

“We were waiting in the wings,” explained Bridget, whose family has deep roots in the Northwest Corner. Her parents own and operate the family-run Clarke Outdoors in West Cornwall.

“When this house came up, Judy [Gafney] knew how much we love the woods and the creatures,” she said of the Housing Trust’s board member.

Housing Trust President John Harney said the deal was even sweeter because Bridget’s late grandfather, Vic Clarke, “was one of our childhood heroes who taught us all how to cross-country ski, hike, rock climb, paddle and love the outdoors...so supporting his granddaughter was of the highest importance to accomplish in memory of Vic. He would have loved this home.”

In 2000, the 2.6-acre property at 30 Selleck Hill was donated to Habitat for Humanity by Sally Ellsworth

to ensure that the property would be forever affordable. On April 30, SHT sold the house to the Sayers and retained the land, which is governed by the trust’s ground lease.

David Sellery, executive director of Habitat for Humanity’s Northwest region, described his organization’s collaboration with SHT as a “meaningful first step toward building a broader coalition for affordable housing in our region.”

The Selleck Hill deal, he noted, is a great example of how collaboration can move the needle on affordable housing.

“By working together, we can do more for our neighbors than any one organization can do alone. This partnership reflects a shared commitment to creative solutions that honor both the character of our community and the urgent need for accessible housing.”

Habitat’s board President, Bob Whelan, noted that Habitat and the Housing Trust employ the same model, “in that we continue to own the land and we sell the improvements. It gives the families the ability to build wealth, as

we allow for appreciation on the home.”

The beauty of the concept, he said, is the ability to put the home back into an affordable housing situation down the road.

Dom Saylor, a teacher at the Berkshire School in Sheffield, Mass., noted that the property affords the natural setting the family had long been seeking, yet is convenient to town.

“The kids walk to the library, and Zoe enjoys the teen programs at Scoville. The fact that this area of land is available to our income level I find astounding. It would go for way more for just the land alone,” on the open market, he noted.

Another selling point of the home was its spacious basement, a popular hangout for the youngsters.

“There’s a woodstove down there and it’s very dry,” perfect for music practice, said Dom, who noted, “Our kids have a band...The Sayers,” with Zoe on bass, Lewis on drums and Owen on guitar.

All three children attend Salisbury Central School, and Zoe plans to attend Berkshire School next year.



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

The Saylor family, center, (Bridget, Dom, Zoe and Owen) is flanked by Judy Gafney, far left, of the Salisbury Housing Trust, and Habitat for Humanity of Northwest Connecticut officials David Sellery, executive director, and Bob Whelan, president, at right.

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THEATER: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

## Juneteenth and Mumbet’s legacy

In August of 1781, after spending thirty years as an enslaved woman in the household of Colonel John Ashley in Sheffield, Massachusetts, Elizabeth Freeman, also known as Mumbet, was the first enslaved person to sue for her freedom in court. At the time of her trial there were 5,000 enslaved people in the state. MumBet’s legal victory set a precedent for the abolition of slavery in Massachusetts in 1790, the first in the nation. She took the name Elizabeth Freeman.

Local playwrights Lonnie Anderson and Linda Rossi will tell her story in a staged reading of “1781” to celebrate Juneteenth, ay 7 p.m. at The Center on Main in Falls Village, Connecticut. Singer Wanda Houston will play MumBet, joined by actors Chantell McCulloch, Tarik Shah, Kim Canning, Sherie Berk, Howard Platt, Gloria Parker and Ruby Cameron Miller. Musical composer Donald Sosin added, “MumBet is an American hero whose story deserves to

be known much more widely.” Houston has shared the stage with stars ranging from Barbra Streisand to Motown great Mary Wells. “I have had the honor of portraying Elizabeth Freeman for three years in “Meet Elizabeth Freeman” by Teresa Miller. Our first reading of “1781” is in celebration of Juneteenth, which is wonderfully symbolic and poignant.” Juneteenth celebrates the end of slavery. Two years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, word of their freedom finally reached slaves in Texas on June 19, 1865. MumBet, born in 1742 to African enslaved parents, was purchased at age six months by Colonel John Ashley of Sheffield, Massachusetts, for whom she worked until her thirties. Ashley helped write the 1773 Sheffield Declaration which stated, “Mankind in a state of nature are equal, free, and independent of each other, and have a right to the



PHOTO BY JEFFERY SERRATT

Sheffield resident, singer Wanda Houston will play Mumbet in “1781” on June 19 at 7 p.m. at The Center on Main, Falls Village.

undisturbed enjoyment of their lives, their liberty and property.” Rumor has it that MumBet overheard a reading of the document. After a traumatic household experience, MumBet left the Ashley home in Bartholomew’s Cobble, walked four miles to Sheffield, and asked attorney and abolitionist Theodore Sedgwick to help her gain her freedom. Houston shared, “I live in Sheffield near where she was enslaved, in a

house she would have passed on her walk from Ashley Falls to Sheffield. I am humbled by the fortitude and inner strength it must have taken for this woman to defy norms and take a stand for her own freedom. We Americans must still stand and fight for our rights to live free.” Elizabeth Freeman spent her years as a free woman working for wages in the Sedgwick household, saving money to buy her own home in Stockbridge,

where she was a midwife and healer. She died in 1829 and is buried in “Sedgewick Pie,” the family burial plot in Stockbridge. One of her great-grandchildren, W.E.B. DuBois, born in Great Barrington, was the first African American to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. DuBois founded the NAACP. Her tombstone reads: “She was born a slave and remained a slave for nearly thirty years. She could neither read nor write yet in her

own sphere she had no superior or equal. She neither wasted time nor property. She never violated a trust nor failed to perform a duty. In every situation of domestic trial, she was the most efficient helper, and the tenderest friend. Good mother, farewell.” The performance of “1781” will take place Thursday, June 19 at 7 p.m. at The Center on Main (103 Main St., Falls Village). Admission is free, donations gratefully accepted.

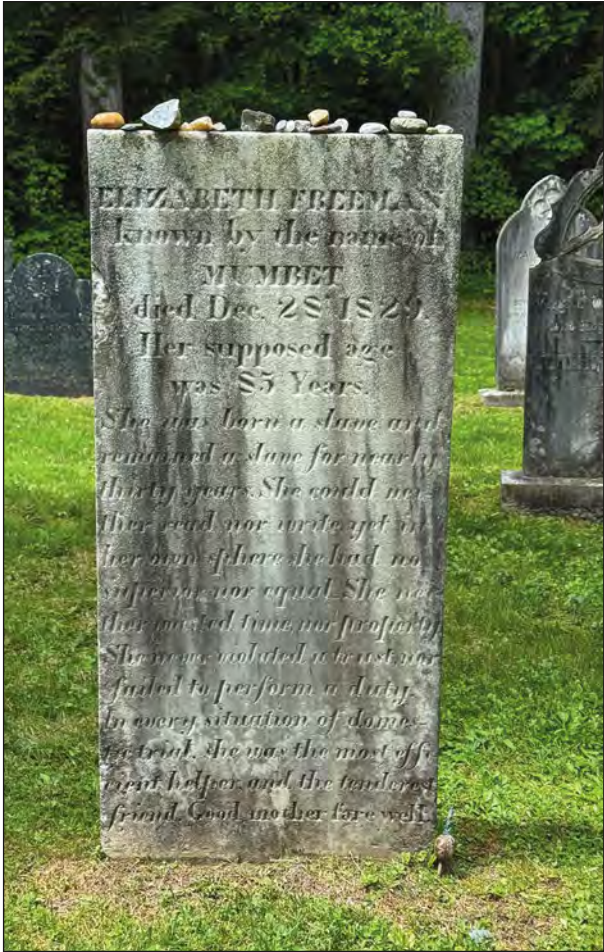


PHOTO BY LONNIE CARTER

Tombstone of Elizabeth Freeman in the “Sedgewick Pie” family burial ground in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

## A sweet collaboration with students in Torrington

Thanks to a unique collaboration between The Nutmeg Fudge Company, local artist Gerald Incandela, and Saint John Paul The Great Academy in Torrington, Connecticut a mural — designed and painted entirely by students — now graces the interior of the fudge company. The Nutmeg Fudge Company owner Kristy Barto was looking to brighten her party space with a mural that celebrated both old and new Torrington. She worked with school board member Susan Cook and Incandela to reach out to the Academy’s art teacher, Rachael Martinelli. “When Susan and Gerald brought this to me, I immediately saw it as a chance for my students to make something meaningful and lasting,” said Martinelli. “It wasn’t just about painting a wall, it was about teaching kids to serve their community through their art.” Martinelli introduced the project as an after-school club for grades four through eight. “I wanted students who were truly committed,” she explained.

Interest was so high that she had to divide participants into rotating grade-level groups, with occasional full-team days for collaboration. The mural became a long-term endeavor, stretching across a school year and a half. The painting was created on canvas, a nearly 4’ x 27’ roll, donated by Incandela. The paint came courtesy of school principal Ed Goad. With materials secured, the students dove into research, studying maps, landmarks, and city history to inform their designs. “They worked to capture the spirit of Torrington,” Martinelli said. “But also, to match

the whimsy of a candy shop.” The result is a mural that features a playful “candyland” version of the city, where important buildings and landmarks are sized according to their importance to both the client and the community. “They created this hierarchy of bubbles and buildings, this joyful visual story,” Martinelli said. “It’s full of life.” Beyond art skills, Martinelli witnessed her students develop qualities often harder to teach: teamwork, communication, resilience. “They learned to scale up sketches, mix large

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY KRISTY BARTO, OWNER OF THE NUTMEG FUDGE COMPANY

The new mural painted by students at Saint John Paul The Great Academy in Torrington, Connecticut.

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ART: DEBORAH MAIER

In the company of artists

For anyone who wants a deeper glimpse into how art comes about, an on-site artist talk is a rich experience worth the trip. On Saturday, June 14, Henry Klimowicz’s cavernous Re Institute — a vast, converted 1960’s barn north of Millerton — hosted Amy Podmore and Brigitta Varadi, who elucidated their process to a small but engaged crowd amid the installation of sculptures and two remarkable videos.

Though they were all there at different times, a common thread among Klimowicz, Podmore and Varadi is their experience of New Hampshire’s famed MacDowell Colony. The silence, the safety of being able to walk in the woods at night, and the camaraderie of other working artists are precious goads to hard-working creativity. For his part, for fifteen years, Klimowicz has promoted community among thousands of participating artists, in the hope that the pairs or groups he shows together will always be linked. “To be an artist,” he stressed,

“is to be among other artists.”

Curator and owner Klimowicz and both artists spoke of the physicality of making art, revealing an abounding intimacy with their materials. Podmore recounted seeking the perfect bare branches to use in her “Fall,” the piece that dominates the center of the space. She would find those that most suggested figures slipping into a fall, and mimic them herself, as animators do for accuracy, before admitting them into the crew now lying on the floor. Each is unique, but all are united by their red-socked feet, which, though tiny, are touchingly rendered in adult proportions. For art professor Podmore, they signal how “failing in public” is a phenomenon today’s students must learn to navigate.

For Varadi, whose background is Rusyn-Carpathian, the main medium is Karakul sheep’s wool, a particularly robust variety used in Persian carpets. Her process of felting the fiber involves extremely

hard labor; she wryly expressed hope that technology would ease the burden of this long-term project, best seen in her huge wall piece, “With Their Backs to the Mountains.” The title refers to the staunch resilience of her ancestors — stateless but proud, subject to historical violence.

In Varadi’s video “Hunia-Permission to Be,” the color red amid the chiaroscuro of snowy winter forests offers a mesmerizing counterpart to Podmore’s floorpiece. Wearing the traditional, oversized red felted coat called the Hunia, the artist silently plods through the lovely scene, suggesting cycles of effort, disappearing and reappearing.

Podmore’s video adds the aural element, with the creaking of trees rubbing against each other at various tilts. The title “Fifteen Degrees” indicates a tree’s maximum safe angle from vertical. Reflecting this, two silhouetted jointed figures lean against each other — by turns intimate and aggressive — a shockingly apt metaphor



PHOTO BY AIDA LALEIAN

Curator Henry Klimowicz, left, with artists Brigitta Varadi and Amy Podmore at The Re Institute

for current society.

“As a younger artist,” Podmore observed, “I was very serious about the human condition; now I see that it is just bizarre.”

Another of Podmore’s works, “Audience” — now on view at

Mass MoCA — gives a nod and a wink to our strange time. Hundreds of unique plaster-cast baskets mounted along an 85-foot wall, some fitted with single mechanical eyes, offer viewers the experience of being viewed, to the

quiet cacophony of eyes popping open. A must-see through Nov. 30.

The Re Institute exhibition can be seen through July 5, with hours Saturdays 1 to 4 p.m. and by appointment. More information at the reinstitute.com.

ART: MIKE COBB

Matter and memory: The mixed media art of Sophie Eisner

Sophie Eisner is a mixed media artist working in steel, fabric, concrete, silicon and other materials. Her solo show “Holding Patterns” at the Norfolk Library closed on June 15.

Thematically, “Holding Patterns” explored the energy of potential and how the human body holds emotional experience. Her work often depicts empty vessels and uses negative space to explore tension between objects.

Inspired by the memo-

ry of a traumatic childhood injury at her family home in Norfolk, Eisner remembers how her father took care of her.

“When I was three years old, I fell and cut my knee badly. My dad picked me up and put me in the kitchen sink. I think about that in terms of objects and the relationship between space, feelings and memories. Physical space and emotional quality are very merged,” she said.

Perhaps due to this experience, sinks and empty vessels figure

frequently in Eisner’s work. She has a fondness for the smoothness and utility of their design as well as empty bowls. But Eisner explores other ideas and works in different mediums such as welding metal coils and clay.

“If we take that into the metaphorical range, it’s like a human where we’re not all made at once but who you are grows out of this accumulation of experiences and events that sort of mark you over time. So, that’s another way that

I’ve explored ideas of memory,” she said.

While Eisner’s work deals with personal experiences, it is open to viewer interpretation, often in a non-linear fashion.

“It is like when you have a dream, you forget about it and then you remember it later. There’s enough logic or structure there that it feels familiar or like it could be known, even though it’s not necessarily nameable,” she said.

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY HANNAH VAUGHAN

Sophie Eisner in her studio in Kingston, New York.

...a sweet collaboration Continued from previous page

batches of paint for consistency, and adapt their work when it overlapped with someone else’s. They really respected each other’s contributions.”

The project also reflected the Academy’s Catholic STREAM (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Math) approach to education. “This was STREAM in action,” Martinelli explained. “They used technology to scale and transfer designs, applied math for

proportions and spacing, and worked collaboratively to problem-solve. But they also lived their faith — through service, solidarity, and joy.”

Martinelli believes the mural speaks as much to the process as it does to the final product. “Some of the kids who worked on it have already graduated, but they’re coming back for the unveiling. That says something.”

The unveiling of the mural will take place at The Nutmeg Fudge Company on June 11, from

5:00 to 7:00 p.m., where families, friends, and community members are invited to celebrate the students’ achievement.

Asked what stood out most from the experience, Martinelli said, “For me, the most

rewarding part was watching a diverse group of kids work together — different grades, different friend groups — all collaborating with respect, flexibility, and positivity. They created something beautiful, together.”

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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JUNE 19

1781: Mumbet's Story

Center On Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.  
7 p.m. on June 19.  
Mumbet's story, 1781, the year she got her freedom as the first enslaved person to do so. The inimitable Wanda Houston will be Mumbet as she becomes Elizabeth Freeman. Written and researched by Lonnie Carter and Linda Rossi. Free.

JUNE 20

Poetry Discussion Group with Mark Scarbrough

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org  
On Friday, June 20, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., join Mark Scarbrough for an informal discussion of Ocean Vuong's Night Sky with Exit Wounds. Registration is required, and information can be found at scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/14486979.

Books & Blooms 10th Anniversary

Cornwall, Conn.  
A two-day garden event and benefit for the Cornwall Library.  
On Friday, June 20, 5:30 p.m.: What Makes a Garden a Garden? Talk by Dee Salomon at Cornwall Town Hall, followed by a cocktail reception with live music at the Library.  
On Saturday, June 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Self-guided tours of four Cornwall gardens, plus an art exhibit and rare garden book sale at the Library.

Tickets: \$40 (Friday), \$30 (Saturday), \$65 (both) at Books & Blooms 2025 or the Library.

Ocean Vuong: Poetry Discussion with Mark Scarbrough

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org  
Join Mark Scarbrough on Friday, June 20, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., for a discussion of Night Sky with Exit Wounds, by Ocean Vuong. Offer your thoughts, listen to others, and deepen your understanding of this contemporary poet and his work. Registration is required.

scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/14486979

JUNE 21

But, Oh, Those Summer Nights

Luther Barn, 17 Furnace Bank Road, Wassauc, N.Y.  
June 21, 8 to 11:59 p.m.

\$28, 21+, BYOB (no glass)

All-vinyl dance party with DJs Tim Love Lee & Scott Anderson. Use code ARTISTS for \$14 tickets, LOCAL for \$5 (12592 residents). Tell your friends, dress to impress, and follow @thecapricorndream soundmachine on Instagram for outfit inspiration!

Fur The Love of Dogs: Dog Adoption Event

Indian Rock Schoolhouse, 25 Mygatt Road, Amenia, N.Y.  
June 21 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

To support the work and rescues of Upstate Pups and Bleu's K9 Rescue. I addition to the pups up for adoption, there will also be food, games and activities, exhibits, vendors and crafters and more!

Make Music: A Free Celebration of Music

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. americanmuralproject.org  
Join us for free admission, grassroots music-making, and free performances starting at 3 p.m. Held in 1,000 cities around the world, Make Music Day is the world's largest annual music event. AMP is proud to be the hub of musical festivities in Winsted, Conn. Check the schedule of performances and plan your visit to AMP.

Fei-Fei, Piano

Gordon Hall, Music Mountain, 225 Music Mountain Road, Falls Village, Conn. musicmountain.org  
At 7 p.m. on June 21, Music Mountain will host a concert by Fei-Fei on piano.

JUNE 22

Chocolate Trios Workshop with Flora Lazar

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org  
Launch yourself into an infinite world of chocolate-dipped delights with professional French pastry chef and chocolatier Flora Lazar.

On Sunday, June 22, 4 to 6 p.m., come learn hands-on how to dip a variety of French sweets. Registration is required. scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/14510742

Troutbeck: Natural Dye Napkins

Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y.  
June 22 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Join Cottage Courses (cottagecourses.com) at Troutbeck in learning how to dye fabric with natural materials.

Each participant will be given four raw edge linen napkins to dye with Marigold and Cochineal. You will learn the process of mordanting fabric for natural dye, techniques for making different patterns and designs, and creating a set of beautiful hand dyed napkins for you to take home and enjoy.

Kevin O'Hara Reading & Talk

Bushnell-Sage Library, 48 Main St., Sheffield, Mass.  
On Sunday, June 22, 2:30 p.m., author Kevin O'Hara will read from his books and share stories and photos from his year-long journey around Ireland with his donkey Missie. Part of the Friends' Artists Talk Series. Books available for purchase and signing.  
More info: www.thedonkeyman.com

Cupcake Celebration

Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, Copake, N.Y.  
One thousand cupcakes of every flavor and description will fill the tables at Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, during the fifth annual Cupcake Celebration, Sunday, June 22, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Admission is free.

Get more information at 917-270-5989 or www.friendsofcopakegrange.org/our-activities

Marmen Quartet & Victoria Schwartzman, Piano

Gordon Hall, Music Mountain, 225 Music Mountain Road, Falls Village, Conn. musicmountain.org  
At 3 p.m. on June 22, Music Mountain will host a concert by the Marmen Quartet & Victoria Schwartzman on piano.

Last week's WotW				
A	P	P	L	E
S	O	L	A	R
L	A	S	S	I
G	L	A	S	S
C	L	A	S	S

JUNE 23

Literacy Night

Douglas Library, 108 Main St., North Canaan, Conn. douglaslibrarycanaan.org  
Canaan Child Care Presents Literacy Night at the Douglas Library in North Canaan on Monday, June 23 from 6 to 7 p.m. Join for a delightful evening as the teachers bring to life "The True Story of the 3 little Pigs," as narrated by A. Wolf and written by Jon Scieszka. Adding to the experience, Geoff Merrill will provide live music. This event is free.

JUNE 24

Falls Village Community Writers Book Launch

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org  
On Tuesday, June 24, 5 p.m., celebrate the release of a new book by local writers and students featuring Falls Village stories. Reading, refreshments, and books for sale.  
Details: huntlibrary.org | (860) 824-7424

The Joy of Bicycle Maintenance with Shepherd Myers

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org  
Bike repair expert Shepherd Myers will demonstrate how to inspect a bike for common maintenance issues and how to

remove, inspect, patch, and reinstall an inner tube. Bring your bike-maintenance questions! Tuesday, June 24, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., registration required. scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/14753517

Playwriting Collaborative

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org  
Develop your dialogue-writing skills in this supportive group that gathers weekly to read one another's works-in-progress and to workshop scenes. The Collaborative meets on Tuesdays 3 to 4:45 p.m., through July 15. Registration is required, and information is available at scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/14755832

JUNE 26

Garden Legacies

Hollister House Garden, 300 Nettleton Hollow Road, Washington, Conn.  
On Thursday, June 26, 4 to 6 p.m., Vin Cipolla, President and CEO of Historic New England in conversation with Thomas L. Woltz, Senior Principal of Nelson Byrd Woltz Landscape Architects. Light refreshments will be

served. Enjoy the gardens after the conversation. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is preferred. For more information, contact (617) 994-5934 or Events@HistoricNewEngland.org.

Drawing & Watercolor with Peter Cusack

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org  
For three Thursdays starting July 26, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., join West Cornwall artist and art teacher Peter Cusack for a drawing and watercolor workshop. The workshop is free, and materials will be provided. Registration is required. scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/14614649

Author Talk: Karen Chase – Two Tales

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org  
On Thursday, June 26, 5:30 p.m., local author Karen Chase discusses Two Tales, her new book of verse blending 16th-century love and a futuristic dystopia. Books available for purchase and signing.  
Details: huntlibrary.org | (860) 824-7424

YOUR NEWS

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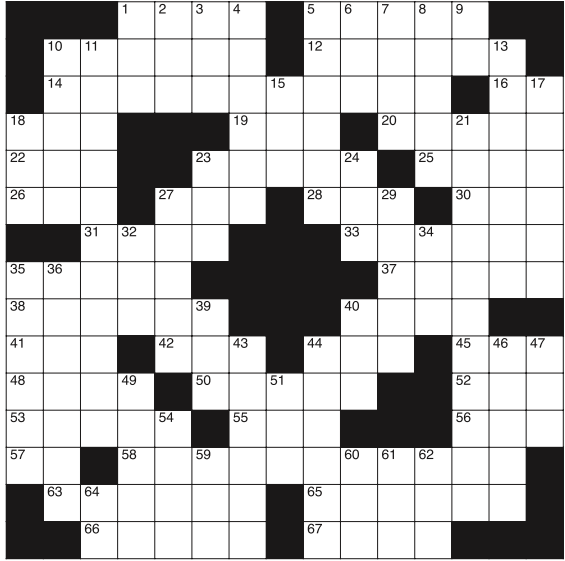
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Type of bread
- 5. Range of mountains
- 10. Ended
- 12. Musical forms with a recurring theme
- 14. On the nature of being
- 16. Law enforcement agency
- 18. Australian flightless bird
- 19. Subway rodent
- 20. More dried-up
- 22. A beaver might build one
- 23. Suggestive of the supernatural
- 25. Art \_\_, around 1920
- 26. American rocker Snider
- 27. Not or
- 28. Earliest human: \_\_-Magnon Man
- 30. Firearm
- 31. Tough outer skin of fruit
- 33. Alternative form of a gene
- 35. Low shrub some call "fat pork"
- 37. Plants in the chamomile tribe
- 38. Revolutionary War era spy
- 40. Portion of a book
- 41. Hoover's office
- 42. Title of respect
- 44. Tax collector
- 45. Cool!
- 48. Real estate
- 50. Boy's name
- 52. Airborne (abbr.)
- 53. Strongly recommends
- 55. Hit lightly
- 56. Bar bill
- 57. Atomic #54
- 58. Devotes again
- 63. Fish sauce
- 65. French stock market
- 66. Things that consist of two elements or parts
- 67. Tense

CLUES DOWN

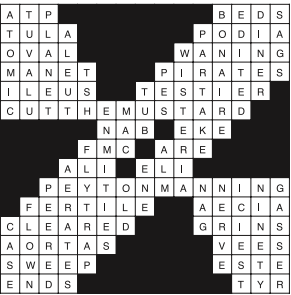
- 1. Retired game show host Sajak
- 2. Equal (prefix)
- 3. Israeli city \_\_ Aviv
- 4. Loved
- 5. A type of analyst
- 6. Ad \_\_
- 7. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 8. Ran without moving
- 9. Opposite of yes



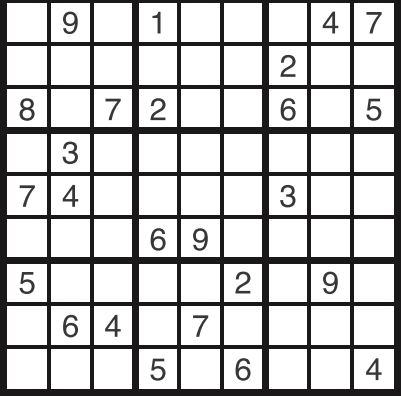
- 10. Diffuse clouds of gas
- 11. Mentioning one by one
- 13. Instruments used to dilate
- 15. Freshwater fish
- 17. Remotely-manned flying objects
- 18. Doctor of Education
- 21. Renews
- 23. Not the start
- 24. Pitching stat
- 27. Small water buffaloes
- 29. Ceramic jars
- 32. I (German)
- 34. Something to toss on a fire
- 35. The process of flowing in
- 36. A series of acts at a night club
- 39. Egg of a louse
- 40. Inquire too closely
- 43. Travelers
- 44. Drink
- 46. Behave in a way that degrades

- 47. Electronic music style
- 49. Northern Ireland city
- 51. Upset
- 54. Stiff structure resembling a hair
- 59. Father
- 60. North Atlantic fish
- 61. 8th month (abbr.)
- 62. Make an effort
- 64. Commercial

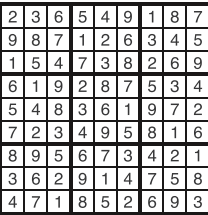
June 12 Solution



Sudoku



June 12 Solution

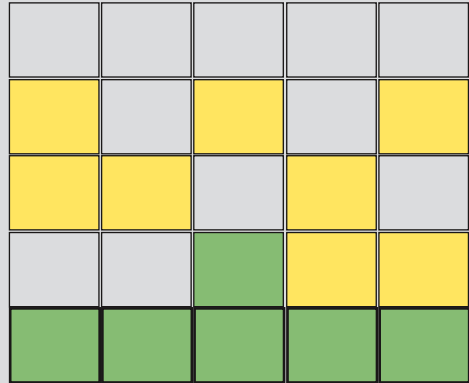


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Word of the Week

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. Leader of police or fire dept.
- 2. Opposite of old
- 3. A ridge or surface on the brain
- 4. Highly marbled Japanese beef
- 5. Rainy spring meets summer heat



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Our Towns



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

David Paton knows all about mushrooms, even “the mushroom of immortality.”

Paton talk unearths mushroom wisdom

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — David Paton of Lakeville gave a presentation on wild mushrooms at the Scoville Memorial Library Saturday, June 14. The presentation was sponsored by the library and the Salisbury Association Land Trust.

In an interview earlier in the week, Paton, who grew up in Sharon and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1976, said he first became interested in wild mushrooms as a youngster attending camp at Sharon Audubon.

He recalled an adult pointing to an Amanita mushroom and saying, “This can kill you.”

“I thought, ‘oh, cool.’”

As an adult Paton worked for Sharon Audubon as a caretaker. An Audubon intern who was knowledgeable about wild mushrooms har-

vested one and made “puff-ball parmigiana,” which Paton told the library audience was incredibly delicious.

At the library, Paton brought a few mushroom samples and was answering questions as people filtered in.

He described one sample as “not a beginner mushroom,” a theme he returned to during the talk.

“I just found this out in the yard,” he said at the start of the talk.

Identifying a wild mushroom to determine if it is edible is not a simple process, although it is easier than it was when Paton first got started.

“In the olden days it was books,” he said.

Now he uses apps.

“The app says it’s edible,” he continued. “Should I eat it? No.”

Full story online at lakevillejournal.com

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — About 40 citizen scientists came to the Yale Forestry Camp in Great Mountain Forest Saturday, June 7, to participate in a bioblitz as part of Connecticut Trails Day.

A bioblitz is a short but intense effort by citizen scientists to go out in the woods and try to find as many species as possible.

GMF director Mike Zarfes and Billy Gridley of Norfolk’s Aton Forest facilitated.

During the orientation Gridley and Zarfes explained that the idea is to get out in the wild, take lots of photos, and worry about sorting out the identifications later.

They explained how to use the iNaturalist app for this purpose.

Gridley likened it to a treasure hunt.

Outside the group split up into three smaller groups. Two of those disappeared into the woods leaving Hartley Mead, an insect specialist, with a group consisting of three middle-schoolers (and one parent) from Colebrook.

The target was a modest woodpile near a fire pit on the camp’s lawn.

A tarp covering the woodpile was removed, and Mead and the young people started disassembling the pile.

Success was almost im-



Documenting the critters required close inspection by citizen scientists June 7.

mediate. The group found a long-horned beetle, and Mead produced a jeweler’s loupe so everyone could get a really good look.

The students — Jonah Gone, D.G. Pedro and Greyson Hepburn — dove into the woodpile without hesitation, even when a garter snake was discovered.

The adults — Mead and Greyson’s mother Jenny Castellano — maintained a respectful distance.

But D.G., Jonah and Greyson were all over the snake. The excitement mounted when they found at least three more and successfully captured them by hand for closer inspection.

Also on the species roster from the woodpile: assorted crawling things such as centipedes or millipedes, the long-



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Billy Gridley led the effort at Great Mountain Forest.

horned beetle, something else that scurried away before anyone got a good look, and a slug.

D.G. Pedro took time out from the species quest to make drawings of the findings. A very realistic drawing of a garter snake appeared on her pad in just a few moments.

After the woodpile was exhausted, Mead said the next target was ticks. He and

the boys wandered off into the nearby tall grass, while D.G. worked on drawings and Castellano, after some incisive remarks about her past experiences with tick-borne diseases, stayed put in the mowed area.

After a while the explorers came back and were amazed to find precisely zero ticks on themselves.

“The one time you want to get a tick...” mused D.G.

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**SHARON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IS SEEKING A PIANIST:** to join our music team. We host a weekend worship service; knowledge of traditional hymns is beneficial. The team practices once per week and on Sunday in preparation for our 10:30 worship. A stipend is available. Call 860-364-5002 or e-mail PastorDawson06@yahoo.com.

**HELP WANTED**

**THE CORNWALL HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN CORNWALL, CT IS LOOKING TO HIRE:** a docent to open the museum to visitors every Saturday from July 5 to Columbus Day weekend. Hours are from 9 to 3. Duties include greeting visitors, answering questions, and processing gift shop purchases. Anyone interested should contact Suzanne Fateh at: curator@cornwallhistoricalsociety.org. Hourly pay is \$20. Visit our website to learn more about CHS.

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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, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, physical or mental disability or an intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination.

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**Offices will be closed Friday, July 4<sup>TH</sup>**

**Ad deadline for the July 10<sup>th</sup> issue is Noon on Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> for ALL Display Advertising**

**Legals Deadline is 4 p.m. on Thursday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Classified Line Deadline is Noon on Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**

**Letters to the Editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>**

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