



The Lakeville Journal

lakevillejournal.com

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



PHOTO BY SIMON MARKOW

Guests of the carnival at Bunny McGuire Park had a wide variety of rides to choose from, including a classic merry-go-round.

Smiles, bright lights shine at Canaan Summer Nights

By David Carley

NORTH CANAAN — Four days of festivities concluded Saturday, July 19, with the grand finale of Canaan Summer Nights. The carnival first arrived at Bunny McGuire Park on Wednesday, kicking off North Canaan Event Committee's new vision for summer activities in town. What was previously known as Railroad Days was separated this year into two parts: Canaan

Summer Nights in July; and Old Railroad Days Aug. 7 to 10. In addition to the carnival last week, the Douglas Library hosted a Roaring 20s cocktail party (see story on Page A9) and the St. Martin of Tours Parish Church of St. Joseph hosted a barbecue chicken dinner on the lawn. A mix of antique and modern fire engines from Canaan, Lakeville, Norfolk, Sharon, Winsted,

See CARNIVAL, Page A10

Millions in funding awarded to help conservation groups preserve open space

By Debra A. Aleksinas

Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont (D) announced July 15 that the state is awarding \$14.3 million in Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition (OSWA) grants to protect 2,270 acres across 22 towns. The grants, administered to land conservation groups by the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), include five properties in the Northwest Connecticut towns of Cornwall, Kent, Salisbury and Sharon, encompassing more than 400 acres with awards totaling more than \$3 million.

Trio of grants for NCLC
The Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy (NCLC) has received three significant grant awards to support the acquisition and permanent protection of three properties essential for public recreation and ecological resilience, totaling 5,425 acres. A \$1.3 million grant through OSWA leads a trio of recent awards supporting land conservation in Connecticut. The other two grants, totaling \$348,500, were awarded by the Connecticut Land Conservation Council's Land Easement and Acquisition Program (LEAP). According to NCLC, together,



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Supported by a \$250,000 LEAP grant in late June, the 5,200-acre acquisition of a permanent conservation easement by the Kent-based Northwest Connecticut Land Conservancy protects the land surrounding the Colebrook Reservoir, the state's largest remaining untapped drinking water reservoir.

these grants underscore the strong and widespread commitment of public agencies, private organizations, and local communities to conserving natural and working agricultural lands. Properties being protected include Surdan Mountain Preserve in Sharon, the Colebrook Reservoir Conservation Easement and

the Strauss Morrissey Preserve Expansion in Sherman. The properties provide critical habitat for rare, threatened and endangered species by safeguarding clean water sources, supporting natural wildlife corridors and offering new public access to nature.

See CONSERVATION, Page A10

Bunny Williams to receive Estabrook Community Leadership Award

LAKEVILLE — The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News will award the 2025 Estabrook Community Leadership Award to Bunny Williams at a Jubilee celebration on Oct. 12 at the Grove in Lakeville. The award is presented to honor outstanding leadership in community service, as exemplified by Mary Lou and Robert Estabrook. Betsy Smith of Sharon is serving as Chair of the event. As a successful design professional, Bunny Williams of Falls Village is an active and prominent supporter of a wide range of community organizations that provide essential services throughout our towns. According to Williams, "We live in not only the most beautiful part of the country, but in a community of such generous people



PHOTO BY JAMES GILLISPIE

Bunny Williams, right, and Betsy Smith

who help make these events so successful. I think we all feel we want to do what we can to help support the things we care so much about. I am humbled by this honor by The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, our connection to knowing what is happening in the

community." Twenty-five years ago, Williams was instrumental in starting Trade Secrets, a popular event featuring the sale of rare plants and garden antiques, along with a garden tour.

See AWARD, Page A10

Lakeville swimmer heads to nationals

By Riley Klein

LAKEVILLE — Later this month, Phoebe Conklin, 14, will swim in three events at the YMCA National Long Course Swimming Championships in Ocala, Florida. The decorated swimmer has been racking up records for the past few years with the Northwest Connecticut YMCA Lasers Swim Team. Now in her third season with the team, Conklin qualified for nationals in the 50-meter freestyle, 100-meter freestyle and 100-meter butterfly. "I'm excited to get to a new level of swimmers," said Conklin before a recent practice at the Winsted YMCA pool. To make nationals, she met the qualifying time standards for each event. "The qualifying times are designed for 18-year-olds," said Lasers coach Dave Steel. "For a 14-year-old... just to make the meet is an accomplishment." Steel has coached Conklin since she was 10. "She broke one of the



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Phoebe Conklin, of Lakeville, is a rising freshman at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. team records her second week on the team and she's been breaking records ever since." When asked who she looks up to in the swimming world, Conklin pointed to her two teammates that also qualified for the national

See SWIMMER, Page A10



CELEBRATING 128 YEARS of Fostering the Free Flow of Information and Opinion

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL • THE MILLERTON NEWS
STREET FAIR
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 2025
Academy Street, Salisbury • 11:00 – 3:00 p.m.
LAKEVILLEJOURNAL.COM/STREET-FAIR



Saluting Nonprofits
Live Music
Food • Fun
Danny Tieger
Special Kids Performance
11 a.m.-12 p.m.
Northwest Passage
1 p.m.-3 p.m.
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Online This Week

Falls Village selectmen review grants

At a regular meeting Monday, July 14, the Board of Selectmen discussed grant funding and other expenses for upcoming projects in Falls Village. More at lakevillejournal.com

Prominent educator and nonprofit leader joins LJMN Board of Directors

FALLS VILLAGE — Nancy Elting, who has lived with her family in Millerton since the early 70s, has joined the board of LJMN Media, the nonprofit publisher of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.

Elting spent most of her career in education, including two decades at the Spence School in New York City as a teacher, Admissions Director, Division Head, and Interim Head of School. She currently serves on Spence’s Advisory Board.

Elting was also the Interim Head of The Town Hill School in Lakeville, Connecticut, overseeing the merger with Indian Mountain School. She served as the Interim Head of The Bronx Charter School for Children and The School at Columbia University.

A champion of local volunteering, Elting spent nine years on the North Elast Community Center Board (NECC), the last two as its Chair. Elting said, “having tiptoed into the field of journalism as advisor to The Spence School newspaper, I recognize the importance of honest reporting to our community, and hope to support the publications in any way I can.”

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.

First degree trespass and harassment arrest

On July 14, troopers responded to a trespassing and harassment call on Grant Street Ext. in Norfolk but the accused, Steven Knox, 49, who has a P.O. box in Norfolk, had left the scene. Two days later, Knox was transferred from New Haven Correctional to meet troopers from Troop B who had an active warrant for his arrest. He was processed for first degree criminal trespass and first degree harassment, and

Unconscious man yields DWI arrest

Troopers were dispatched just after midnight on July 16 on a report of a passed-out male in a vehicle on Main Street in North Canaan. After investigating, troopers arrested Brian Thompson, 52, of Sheffield, Massachusetts for illegal operation of a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or drugs. He was released on a \$5000 non-surety bond and is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on July 30.

Crash on Route 44

Around 6 a.m. on July 16, Charles Perotti, 76, of East Canaan was driving a Jeep Grand Cherokee south through the intersection of Allyndale Road and Route 44 in North Canaan. At the same time, Michael Stark, 67, of Hillsdale, New York was travelling eastbound on Route 44 through the intersection and failed to give right of way, striking the front passenger side of Perotti’s vehicle. Stark’s Chevrolet HHR and Perotti’s car were both disabled in the accident, and both drivers reported minor injuries. Perotti was transferred to Sharon Hospital for evaluation, while Stark was brought to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital. Stark was

issued a written warning for failure to grant right of way at an intersection.

Utility pole collision

Late in the evening on July 19, James Konomos, 53, of Salisbury was driving north on Weatogue Road just past the intersection with Twin Lakes Road in his Land Rover Discovery Sport HSE. Seeing a deer in the roadway, he veered to avoid it, ultimately striking a utility pole and ten feet of wire rope guard on the shoulder. Konomos didn’t initially report the accident, and drove the damaged vehicle home. Troopers issued Konomos a misdemeanor summons for evading responsibility and restricted turns.

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

CORRECTION

Regarding the June 26 Police Blotter item titled “Drive-way fender bender,” an error in the police record resulted in misinformation. At the time of the incident, Jeffrey Livingston’s vehicle was being driven by Ruth Blaine, 81, of New York. Blaine was found at fault and issued a warning for failure to grant right of way. Blaine’s name was omitted from the report due to printing error, per Troop B.

Do you have a family member or friend in the military who would be interested in the news from home?

Remember

The Lakeville Journal Company offers free online subscriptions to our website, lakevillejournal.com, for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

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

Check them out inside.

• Ocean State Job Lot

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application #2025-0291 by Tim Sneller for a detached accessory apartment on a single-family residential lot at 136 Long Pond Road, Lakeville, Map 02, Lot 12 per Section 208 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The hearing will be held on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 6:45 PM. There is no physical location for this meeting. This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom where interested persons can listen to & speak on the matter. The agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/agendas/. The application materials will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-meeting-documents/. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to landuse@salisburyct.us. Paper copies of the agenda, meeting instructions, and application materials may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM at the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury CT.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission
Martin Whalen, Secretary
07-24-25
07-31-25

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following actions were taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on July 14, 2025:

Approved - Application 2025-IW-058 by owner Benjamin Palmer (235 Belgo Road LLC) for renovation of existing barn to be used as a single-family residence. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor’s map 9 as lot 9 and is known as 235 Belgo Road, Lakeville.

Approved - Application 2025-IW-059 by Nicholas Brandfon and Benhamin Bahre for a septic system replacement. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor’s map 6 as lot 52 and is known as 70 Belgo Road, Lakeville. The owners of the property are Alexandra and Nicholas Brandfon.

Any aggrieved person may appeal this decision to the Connecticut Superior Court in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut

General Statutes §22a-43(a) & §8-8.

Town of Salisbury
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission
Sally Spillane, Secretary
07-24-25

LEGAL NOTICE TOWN OF KENT

The first installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property, Motor Vehicle and Motor Vehicle Supplemental tax for the Grand List of 2024 is due and payable July 1, 2025. The first installment of the Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicle tax for the Grand List of 2024 will become delinquent on Monday, August 4, 2025.

As soon as the tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at the rate of 1.5% per month from July 1, 2025 until the same is paid.

Bills may be viewed and paid online by going to the Tax Collector’s page on the Town of Kent website at www.townofkentct.gov.

The Tax Collector’s office will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The office will also be open Friday August 1, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

There is a red drop box next to the front door of the Town Hall for payments.

Payments are also welcome through the mail at P. O. Box 311, Kent, Connecticut 06757.

07-10-25
07-24-25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF STEPHEN EISENBERG Late of New York AKA Stephen Jay Eisenberg AKA Stephen J. Eisenberg (25-00266)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated July 10, 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 fiduciaries are:
Karen Knudson
Eisenberg
and Adam Eisenberg
c/o Thomas E Kass
Leech Tishman Robinson
Brog, PLLC, 875 Third Avenue, 9th Fl, Unit 7, New York, NY 10022
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
07-24-25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF HAROLD JUPITER Late of New York, NY (21-00207)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated July 10, 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:
Tina Jupiter
c/o Denise A Mortati
Law Offices of Denise A, Mortati, LLC, 2 Corporate Dr,
Ste 201, PO Box 110294, Trumbull, CT 06611
Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
07-24-25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JOHN N. HEINS, JR. Late of Canaan (25-00285)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated July 8, 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:
Brenda Dubrule
c/o Linda M Patz

Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP
7 Church Street, P.O. Box 101
Canaan, CT 06018
Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
07-24-25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF KAREN ANN PARSONS Late of Salisbury (25-00254)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated July 3, 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:
Kristina Lattrell
c/o Robert A Scott
Slavin, Stauffacher & Scott, LLC, 27 Siemon Company Drive, Suite 300 W, PO Box 9,
Watertown, CT 06792
Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
07-24-25

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF JOAN A. TURNURE Late of Salisbury (25-00250)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated July 3, 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:
Richard L. Turnure
c/o Michael Downes
Lynch
Law Office of Michael D. Lynch, 106 Upper Main Street,
P.O. Box 1776, Sharon, CT 06069
Beth L. McGuire
Chief Clerk
07-24-25

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 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 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

Our Towns



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES
Woodridge Lake's 85 Shelbourne Drive built in 1976, almost 50 years ago, has retained its value through updates and sold for \$565,000 on June 26.

Goshen June real estate sales

By Christine Bates

GOSHEN — The Goshen real estate market was busy in June with eleven transfers, six of them in Woodridge Lake, as its median price remained above \$640,000. Inventory of homes for sale has remained steady with 13 homes available for sale and only two rentals.

Transactions

116 Brynmoor Court — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on .95 acres in Woodridge Lake sold by Randy and Pamela M. Carocci to Jamie and Patrick Timothy for \$625,000.

Park Road — 0.44 acre lot at Tyler Lake sold by Albert James Berera and Kelly Lucey Berera to Yasminah H. Rink for \$252,000.

411 Beach Street — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home sold by Suzanne Potters to Shady Lawn Farm LLC for \$750,000.

80 Shelbourne Drive — 3 bedroom/3+ bath house in Woodridge Lake sold by Jaclyn N. Hill to Alexander Domanski and Lauren Browne for \$657,000.

24 Stonebridge Lane — 3 bedroom/2 bath house on 4.6 acres sold by Stonebridge Lane LLC to Michael and Mallory Ditter for \$700,000.

38 Shelbourne Drive — 4 bedroom/2 bath home in Woodridge Lake sold by 38 Shelbourne Associates LLC to Sheryl Friedman for

\$575,000.

Milton Road Lot 6 — 3.31 waterfront acre lot sold by Fred Erik Nilsen to Lazaros and Maria Nikeas for \$1,125,000.

42 Pond Ridge — 5 bedroom/3.5 bath home built in 2022 sold by Damian and Kim M.L. Shanks to Anirudh Roy and Lauren Buccellati for \$1,395,000.

85 Shelbourne Drive — 4 bedroom/2 bath home in Woodridge Lake sold by Gena Robin Greher and Lawrence Berger to Lisa H. and Michael Danforth for \$565,000.

53 Bentley Circle — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 0.95 acres in Woodridge Lake sold by Beatrice A. Palaka to Rebecca Godson for \$405,000.

434 East Hyerdale Drive — 4 bedroom/3 bath home in Woodridge Lake sold by Joshua I. and Whitney Anne Morin to Jason Dismukes for \$642,000.

**Town of Goshen real estate transfers recorded as sold between June 1 and June 30, 2025, provided by Goshen Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag sales by a number of days. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.*

Street Fair on Academy

SALISBURY — The Lakeville Journal Street Fair returns to downtown Salisbury for the third year Saturday, Aug. 2, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Academy Street.

Over 20 nonprofit organizations will showcase their missions. Hungry visitors can choose between food trucks and nearby restaurants.

There will be activities for children including face painting and a scavenger hunt, and live music from Danny Tieger (11 a.m. to noon) and Northwest Passage (1 p.m. to 3 p.m.).

And Salisbury businesses will have special offerings for the street fair crowd.

Gov. Lamont joins Democrats at Sharon garden party

By Ruth Epstein

SHARON — Among the lush gardens giving off the sweet scent of flowers everywhere, Democrats gathered Saturday, July 19, to hear from state and local officials about the current political landscape.

Governor Ned Lamont (D), accompanied by his wife, Annie Lamont — the pair just coming off a hike in the area — told Miller, a renowned garden, “I love your office. It’s much more peaceful than mine.”

He had high praise for State Rep. Maria Horn, D-64, and then turned to the national picture, noting, “There’s lots of noise coming from the White House,” but expressed pleasure that Connecticut is a state that passes compassionate laws and policies. “The Northwest Corner shows up and lets us know their values. We always know where you stand.”

Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz, looking around, said, “I feel as though I should go mow my lawn and plant flowers.” She said she and the governor fight back every day the decisions that are coming down from Washington through the “Big Bad Bill.” She mentioned cuts to healthcare, food assistance, education and Planned Parenthood.

“We feel budgets are a moral document,” said Bysiewicz. “We are working to uplift people. We are fiscally responsible. We’re fighting back to expand rights, not take them away. I love to hear people say they’re so lucky to live in Connecticut.”



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN
Governor Ned Lamont (D) speaks at the Sharon Democratic Garden Party Saturday at the home of Lynden Miller.

Horn pointed out the folks in the Northwest Corner believe in helping their immigrant neighbors. “We express support for all. We’re here to support something good.”

She then introduced two young people who were raised in the area. Ben Gray of Sharon grew up in Cornwall and is now an environmental lawyer. He recently worked for the National Congress of American Indians, but his job was eliminated. He sees four priorities for youth: the environment, education, supporting marginalized groups and the cost of living.

Elinor Wolgemuth of Salisbury, Class of 2025 Housatonic Valley Regional High School graduate, will be part of a select group attending

ing a joint program between Brown University and Rhode Island School of Design in the fall. She noted that many of the older generation have apologized to her, sorry for the conditions they are leaving the youth of this country.

“I speak through my art,” Wolgemuth said, and lamented that society is not focusing on the human connection. “Use your positions for a good cause,” she told the audience.

Other speakers were Comptroller Sean Scanlon, Treasurer Erik Russell, John Elliot, who is seeking the governor’s seat, and Jimmy Tickey, head of the state Democratic party.



125TH ANNUAL
TWIN LAKES DAY
August 2, 2025
Camp Isola Bella
410 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury

10:30 a.m.
Annual Membership Meeting

1:00 p.m.
Twin Lakes Day, with fun for all ages!
Swim and canoe races, much more.
Everyone welcome. Rain date is August 3

twinlakesorg.org





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SAT., AUG. 2 | 7:00 PM
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Music Mountain Summer Festival



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN
Mudge Pond in Sharon is blanketed by water lilies, which can make invasive detection difficult.

Water chestnut in Mudge Pond targeted for removal

By Alec Linden

SHARON — The recently-formed Mudge Pond Association got a nod from the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission at its July 14 meeting to go forward with its first major project: a “minimally invasive” hand pulling removal of water chestnut.

Matt Vogt, owner and president of New England Aquatic Services, joined Association Chair Andrew Cahill to present the planned procedure to the Commission. Vogt explained that the infestation of the invasive water weed, which spreads its barbed seeds between water bodies via boats and waterfowl. Its presence in Mudge Pond is likely recent enough to be dealt with effectively by hand pulling without the use of herbicides.

The use of herbicides to manage invasives in regional lakes has been a hotly debated topic in recent years, with detractors citing the potential for further ecological damage as a reason to seek alternative methods. Proponents argue herbicides are the only reliable way to actually eliminate an invasive plant colony, the proliferation of which would cause more extreme damage to the ecosystem.

Selectwoman and IWWC alternate Lynn Kearcher lauded the approach, describing it as “a very environmentally sound way to extract” the plant. She explained time was of the essence, emphasizing the need

to “act fast.” Vogt expressed that once chestnut becomes widespread, it can be very difficult to get rid of. Many of the seeds released by the plant late in summer sink to the bottom, creating a “seed bank down in the sediment” where they may remain viable for years.

Vogt said the group will be monitoring for additional colonies beyond the five locations identified in a 2024 report in an effort to be “as thorough as possible.”

The team will conduct two pullings per year, one in July and another in October, for three years, using a pontoon boat as a floating workstation and a kayak to access trickier colonies.

Cahill expressed that the project is likely to be uncontested within the community due to its mild approach, and will be a good first initiative for the Association.

The 2024 report identified additional infestations of invasive aquatic plants, namely fanwort, Eurasian milfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, and brittle naiad. Eurasian milfoil and fanwort specifically are much more established in the lake, and may require more intensive measures to be eliminated. The report recommended the use of herbicides for all other invasive populations, but stipulated any plans to do so would require approval from the state’s Department of Energy and Environmental Conservation’s pesticide department.

Cornwall recognizes 100 years of The New Yorker magazine

By Simon Markow

CORNWALL — Celebrating the 100th anniversary of The New Yorker magazine, Cornwall Library hosted a screening of “Top Hat and Tales; Harold Ross and the Making of The New Yorker,” directed by Cornwall local, Adam Van Doren.

Made in 2001, and narrated by American actor Stanley Tucci, the documentary tells the story of Harold Ross, founder of The New Yorker, and the early days of the magazine that began in 1925.

A crowd of 40 people took their seats for the screening Saturday, July 19, but due to technical difficulties the showtime was delayed. Fortunately, a Lakeville Journal intern was present with an extra copy of the documentary, which was signed by Van Doren moments prior.

The film began, chronicling the successes and struggles of Ross and his magazine. It shows how the people of New York were quickly drawn to the cover art and cartoons. Ross pushed his writers with meticulous edits and continuously improved



PHOTO BY SIMON MARKOW
Adam Van Doren

the quality of the publication over time.

With its stories big and small, the magazine captured the metropolitan lifestyle of New York City. Stories ranged from random, such as missing hat wires under theater seats, to historic, dedicating an entire magazine to the dropping of the A-bomb on Hiroshima. The New Yorker’s ability to adapt kept the magazine alive.

Ross, originally from Aspen, Colorado, brought an outsider’s perspective to his work. He never assumed anyone’s quality of work based on how famous they were. When asked about hiring Ernest Hemingway as a writer, Ross replied, “Is he any

good?”

The audience of the screening shared laughs and moments of awe as cartoons from the magazine showed on screen. Rich history and comical stories were brought to light by the documentary.

Following the end of the film, Van Doren was interviewed by Alex Prud’homme, a writer with works published in The New Yorker. Their conversation further examined the film and the inspiration behind making it.

“Originally I was going to do the entire history of The New Yorker but that was very cumbersome. I decided to focus on a story that had a beginning and an end and that is Harold Ross,” Van Doren said.

He was struck by Ross’s fanatic perfectionism, or as Van Doren explained, “He wanted to have his hands in everything, a control freak is what we would say now.”

He said Ross was singularly focused on the magazine and “worked himself to death” in 1951.

His dedication created a cultural icon that has stood for a century.

Audrey Lillian Watson

MILLERTON — With heavy hearts but grateful spirits, we celebrate the extraordinary life of Audrey Lillian Watson, who passed away on Sunday, July 20, 2025, at the age of 72. A force of energy, laughter, and love, Audrey lit up every room entered and left a lasting impression on everyone she met.

Born in Newfoundland, Canada, Audrey had a zest for life that was impossible to ignore. Whether dancing and singing in random outbursts, telling stories that made you laugh until you cried, or offering a helping hand to anyone in need, Audrey lived with unmatched passion and kindness.

She was never afraid to live boldly — playing bingo, spontaneous trips with her husband, and embracing every moment with joy. Audrey was the person who turned ordinary days into adventures and made everyone feel like family.

A devoted Wife, Mother, and Nanny. Audrey gave love freely and fiercely. Her legacy lives on in the many lives touched, the laughter shared, and the countless memories made along the way.

Audrey is survived by her husband, Ronald Watson, Rene and Rob Haskell, Jody Watson, Reneisha and Jonathan Vielman, Robert

Haskell, Richard Johnson, Tatyana and Sam Watson, Christian Haskell, William and Nell Haskell, Kenya and Miguel Castillo, Daja and Mike Vecchio, Shan and Josh Thompson and all her great grands that she showered with endless love, her siblings, nieces, nephews and a community of friends who became family.

We will remember Audrey’s vibrant spirit, generous heart, and the sparkle that never faded. While our hearts are broken, we find peace in knowing that Audrey truly lived fully, fearlessly and with boundless love.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. at Faith Bible Chapel, 222 Silver Mountain Road, Millerton, NY. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate. In honor of Audrey Lillian Watson, please come as you are, wear bright colors and bring a memory to share. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance, 14 Pennsylvania Plaza, #2110, New York, NY 10122, a cause close to Audrey’s heart. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com



Margaret Heck

NORFOLK — The community lost a bright light on July 7, when Margaret (Peg) Heck passed away peacefully at her beloved cottage on Doolittle Lake in Norfolk. Her optimistic, cheerful disposition will be greatly missed.

Peg was born July 15, 1944, in Greenwich, Connecticut, and grew up in New Canaan with her family, including two brothers, David and Robert. She was the daughter of Germain A. Hubby and Margaret Fisher Hubby. Mr. Hubby died when Peg was 11. Mrs. Hubby remarried Arthur Knox who became her devoted stepfather.

Mrs. Heck graduated from the New Canaan Country Day School, St. Timothy’s School, Briarcliff College, and Boston University (’65) where she majored in History of Art. After graduation she spent a summer in Liverpool, England where she worked with the Winant Clayton Volunteers doing social work and incidentally earning a blue belt in judo. Later, she sometimes reminded Dave that she had that skill.

Peg and David Heck were married at the Congregational Church in Norfolk on July 15, 1967. The couple lived in Hingham, Massachusetts for seven years, during which the first two of their three sons were born; Timothy in 1970 and Daniel in 1972. She proved herself successful at managing her home as an airline pilot’s wife. The family moved to Lakeville in 1975 where they resided for 30 years at 56 Sharon Rd. before settling in Taconic. Matthew came into the family in 1981.

Peg was an outdoor person; a dedicated naturalist and teacher. She taught various subjects for 30 years at

the Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, leaving a legacy of respect for nature to hundreds of children. During special assignments around the state she was affectionately referred to as the “Bug Lady.” She loved skiing, fly fishing, birding, travel, and various racquet sports ending in later years with a passion for pickleball. Music was always a great part of Peg’s life, whether singing in choral groups or attending rehearsals and performances at Tanglewood.

She was involved in many church committees and community organizations including the former Women’s Support Services (now Project SAGE), Crescendo, The Corner Food Pantry and others. She was devoted to her Labrador Retriever, Cody, and loved walking him on some of her favorite trails. Above all, Peg took great joy in being with her grandchildren Joey and Will.

Mrs. Heck was predeceased by her father, Germain A. Hubby, her mother Margaret Fisher Knox, and her stepfather Arthur Knox, Jr.

She is survived by her husband David, sons Timothy, partner Dustin of Clearwater Florida, Daniel, wife Gillian of Lenox, Massachusetts, and Matthew, wife Morgan, of Maynard, Massachusetts with their two children Josephine and William.

Remembrances can be sent to nOURish BRIDGEPORT, PO Box 1859, Bridgeport, CT 06601, a faith-based mission for which Peg had a special passion.

A celebration of Peg’s life will be held at the Salisbury Congregational Church, Sept. 6, at 2 p.m.



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OBITUARIES

Scott Drew Thornton

SHARON — Scott Drew Thornton, 68, of Sharon, passed away on Friday, July 18, 2025, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, New York, with his wife, Rebecca Carlson Thornton by his side, after a long and heroic battle with cancer.

Born on April 6, 1957, in Middletown, New York, he was the son of the late Charles J. Thornton, Jr. and Jeanne Coddington Thornton Schwager of Wassaic, New York.

Upon graduating from Webatuck High School, he attended college for law enforcement and later earned his coaching certificate. His career took him to positions at Digrazia Vineyards, Kilson Construction, the Kent Greenhouse, and South Kent School until his retirement. Following retirement, he worked part-time for his son-in-law Jeff Haab.

His biggest joy was his family, especially his wife Becky, and his two daughters and their families; Sawyer Thornton Haab and her husband, Jeffrey Haab, of Salisbury, and Paxton Thornton, and her fiancé Scot Leith, of Kent. He felt very blessed when his very first grandson, Carter Haab, joined the family in 2021, followed by three more grandsons, Bryson and Braxton Haab, and Luka Leith.

As an avid sports fan and talented athlete, his second biggest joy was coaching sports. He spent many years coaching youth soccer, basketball and softball, travel teams and high school basketball. He loved not only to teach them how to play the game, but more importantly, to also love the game. He helped shape many young lives with his gift of patience, inspiration, and motivation, as he helped build self-confidence, good sportsmanship, and that you never give up. Things that made a lasting impact on their lives.

At six feet five, he was larger than life, with a quick wit and great sense of humor, his kindness, and his willingness to help anyone out at any time. If you met

him, you quickly became his friend as he wrapped you into the fold called his family. He was a kid magnet, and every child he met was drawn to him for his sense of fun and adventure. He had a big smile, and an even bigger heart. He had a unique ability to touch people's lives and their hearts in a way that mattered deeply. He also loved animals, especially his dogs Preston, Brewster and Daisy, who could be seen riding in the back seat of his truck as they went for their weekly trip to the transfer station. And he traveled to many places with his wife over their many years together.

Following his years of playing slow and fast-pitched softball, basketball and bowling, he became an avid golfer golfing regularly in a league at Hotchkiss.

In addition to his wife, daughters, sons-in-law, grandsons, and mother, he leaves behind three brothers; Charles Thornton and his wife, Marcia Judson, of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, David Thornton and his wife, Janet Davidson, of Mattituck, New York, and Douglas Thornton, and his wife, Julie Harbold of Bryan, Texas. He is also survived by his in-laws, the Carlson family, who quickly adopted him as one of their own, and his many nieces and nephews, whom he loved dearly.

In addition to his father, he was predeceased by his younger brother, Gary Thornton.

Calling hours will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 24, 2025 at Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY.

A celebration of life will be held at a date yet to be determined in August or September. Contributions in memory of Scott can be made to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center at (giving.mskcc.org), or to Precious Pound Pups (www.preciouspoundpups.org) in Hillsdale, New York. For directions or to send the family a condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.

Francis Henry Sand Rossire

SALISBURY — Francis Henry Sand "Sandy" Rossire Jr., born April 2, 1949, age 76, passed away peacefully on June 20, 2025, in Syracuse, New York, due to complications from Parkinson's disease after 30 years.

Born in Leonia, New Jersey, to Francis Henry Sand Rossire and Doris Miner-va Pape Rossire, he and his family moved to North Wales Farm in Salisbury, Connecticut and summered on Twin Lakes for many years. He was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying taking care of the farm animals living on the farm and living on Twin Lakes. In his later years he became a private pilot.

He was a science teacher at Kent Center School for over 30 years and coached girls softball. Perhaps the

most important thing to memorate him is the fact he was the most kindest loving person to whomever he met.

His caregiver was the kindest, most caring caregiver to him for two and a half years, and treated him like he was her own father, and she loved him dearly. And, I will always be eternally grateful to her.

He is survived by his loving wife, Karen Rossire, his daughter, Jennifer, his sister Jeanne and multiple cousins, nephews and nieces. His older sister Mary Suzanne Rossire McLaughlin passed before him and he loved her dearly. A private memorial service will be held at his plot in Salisbury at a future date. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

SHARON — Melinda Moore Sweet, 86, of Sharon, Connecticut, passed peacefully at her son's home in Alpharetta, Georgia, on July 19, 2025, surrounded by her loving family after a brief battle with cancer.

Melinda was born on Jan. 31, 1939, in Akron, Ohio to Esther (Noonan) and James Howard Moore.

Melinda attended the Old Trail School in Akron followed by Sweet Briar College and graduated from Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York with a degree in political science and government. She loved Sarah Lawrence and some of her favorite classes were taught by Joseph Campbell, the author of "The Hero with a Thousand Faces." Melinda went on to Hofstra University Law School, earning a JD in 1974, thereafter embarking on her long and distinguished legal career.

Melinda's first marriage was to Howard Clinton Sweet Jr, a Brown University graduate, captain in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and University of Virginia law graduate. She had two children with him, Elizabeth and Howard Sweet. Melinda married her second husband, Barry T. Held, in 1980 and they were happily together for 34 years until Barry predeceased her in 2014.

Melinda built a success-

ful legal career in New York City with early legal roles at the National Labor Relations Board, CBS and as the Assistant General Counsel at Macmillan Publishers. Her career culminated in an 18-year tenure at Lever Brothers (the US division of Unilever) where she was hired as Assistant General Counsel and promoted to General Counsel – the first female elected to serve in this position. In another first for a woman, Melinda was also appointed to serve as Director of Environmental Affairs for Lever Brothers. She reported directly to Lever Brothers President & CEO, contributing significantly to plastic bottle recycling and sustainability initiatives, reflecting her long-held passion for climate preservation.

In addition to her career achievements, Melinda made a significant impact on her communities of Sharon, Connecticut and Sheridan, Wyoming. Melinda and Barry bought a home in Sharon in 1978 and she was an active member of the Land Trust Board, SVNA Board, and, most recently, the Sharon Playhouse Board. Melinda was a founding Chairman of the Sharon Housing Trust and is remembered for preserving key pieces of land in this beautiful community. She was appointed as a Director on the board of the Yellowstone National Park



Ruby Peterson

SHARON — Ruby (Crawford) Peterson passed away Wednesday, June 25, at Sharon Hospital.

Ruby was born in Ocie, Missouri in 1938 and moved to Connecticut when she married the late John (Pete) Peterson. She loved her Connecticut home and family but kept a special place in her heart for her Missouri home place, calling family and visiting as often as possible.

Ruby's favorite pastime was gardening, and she spent many happy hours making a place of beauty. She loved to quilt, sharing beautiful pieces we will treasure. We hope that the items shared from her flower beds will provide lasting memories to her friends.

Honestly, we just think Mom felt that being away from Dad for 11 months was simply enough. She was wrong, but as usual, there

was no arguing with her.

Ruby is survived by her two daughters; Lynn Kent and her husband David, Lesa Tennant and her husband, Michael, her two grandchildren, Laura and Jessica, and her three sisters, Joanne, Deida and Linda.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Ambulance Fund - Sharon Fire Department, PO Box 157, Sharon, CT 06069.

The family would like to express their overwhelming gratitude to the Ambulance crew of the Sharon Fire Department for their support.

Special gratitude and appreciation to Linda and Peter Blasini and the other members of our family who took special care of Mom, she loved you all.

All services are private. The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



For more obituaries, see Page A4

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

34 Year Memory of Michael Lamay

July 23, 1991

So much time, so much pain, so much heartache with the pains that came with losing you so soon, that came when all our plans were ruined of making memories with you. But time goes on and we fight through, all these years imagining who you'd be what you'd become, we know you're not the only one, taken from this world so young, but you were such a special one. You left a lasting mark and we are grateful for the time we shared, and that you knew how much we cared about you and the dreams you had. Just know that we're forever glad that we can reminisce with joy You were a truly special boy.

We love and miss you Michael,
Your Aunt Ruth
Your cousins
Bobbie-Jo and Ruthanne

Melinda Moore Sweet

Foundation and held that position for ten years. As a board member, Melinda was responsible for installing recycled plastic lumber around Old Faithful Geyser in the Park. Additionally, she is honored for her work to create a new visitor education center, raising millions of dollars for the project. Her time on the Yellowstone board cemented her love for the west and conservation of this beautiful part of the country which prompted Melinda and Barry to build a home in Sheridan, Wyoming in 2000.

Melinda will be remembered for her vivacious and passionate spirit – always the life of the party. A fierce political advocate, she will also be remembered for her lovable quirks; her devotion to self-help books, to singing, which she did every Sunday in the choir and her closet full of J. McLaughlin shirts. She and her late husband Barry were avid world travelers, spending time in France, Italy, Anguilla, Spain, Turkey, Croatia and even exploring Antarctica together. Long time residents of the upper east side, Melinda and Barry enjoyed spending time with

family and friends, particularly at the University Club in New York and the Sharon Country Club.

Melinda was a devoted mother, stepmother, loving grandmother and loyal friend to many. She is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth Sweet Dowling and her husband, Tim; her son Howard Sweet and wife Lisa; stepdaughter Patricia Grunebaum, and her husband, George; and eight grandchildren, Emily and Grace Dowling, Adam and Lila Sweet, Jackson, and Sebastian, Annabel and Charlotte Grunebaum.

Hours of visitation will be at The Kenny Funeral Home, 41 Main Street in Sharon, CT on Monday, July 28, 2025 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

A memorial service and celebration of life for Melinda will be held in the fall of 2025 at the Hotchkiss Chapel in Lakeville, CT followed by a reception at the Sharon Country Club.

Contributions may be made to the Sharon Land Trust or Yellowstone National Park Foundation in the name of Melinda Sweet.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Worship Services

Week of July 27, 2025

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

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Cruel Calculus

Reconciliation bill proves an intentional tool to deny healthcare

The reconciliation bill signed into law on July 4th — paying for tax cuts by slashing healthcare access — represents a cruel and devastating blow to rural America. For the 17 towns where northwest Connecticut meets New York’s Greater Harlem Valley, these cuts aren’t abstract policy debates. They’re a direct threat to our neighbors’ survival.

In our 17-town region, the stakes are deeply personal. Based on statewide enrollment patterns, we estimate that roughly 32% of residents across our 52,000-person community — approximately 17,000 neighbors — depend on Medicaid coverage to stay healthy. This includes an estimated 8,000 children, representing about two-thirds of kids in our region. I’m talking about the cashiers at our local market, the home health aides caring for our elderly parents, the restaurant workers serving our families. What’s particularly striking is that 73% of the adults on Medicaid are working — they’re just caught in jobs that don’t offer decent health benefits.

When federal Medicaid funding — \$6.6 billion annually in Connecticut and \$62.4 billion in New York — gets cut, rural communities like ours face a perfect storm of healthcare collapse.

Rural healthcare operates on razor-thin margins. When Medicaid reimbursements drop, the domino effect is swift and merciless. Community health centers that serve regardless of ability to pay suddenly can’t meet payroll. Emergency departments become overwhelmed as uninsured residents seek primary care there, the most expensive setting possible.

For families scattered across our 17 towns, the nearest hospital might be 30 minutes away on a good day. When facilities close due to funding shortfalls, that distance becomes life-threatening. Transportation services currently provided by healthcare and social service organizations — often the only way elderly and disabled residents reach medical appointments — disappear overnight.

School-based health centers will likely be among the first casualties of healthcare cuts, and our communities will feel this loss acutely. Connecticut’s Region One School District and New York’s Webutuck Central School District have seen tremendous community support for bringing healthcare directly to students during school hours.

These programs aren’t luxuries, they’re necessities born from reality. When Foundation for Community Health began serving this region in 2003, we discovered that 60% of third graders had never received preventive dental care. Not because families didn’t care, but because the nearest dentists were hours away, requiring unpaid time off work that many couldn’t afford.

Over two decades, we’ve learned that preventive dental care correlates directly with overall health outcomes. Yet in February 2025, Community Health & Wellness indefinitely suspended dental services due to Connecticut’s

GUEST COMMENTARY
NANCY HEATON

inadequate Medicaid reimbursement rates. While other providers across the state may have quietly cut services too, ours was the only publicly announced suspension, a troubling sign that rural communities bear the brunt of funding shortfalls first and most visibly.

Healthcare cuts don’t just affect those who lose coverage, they devastate entire communities. When working families can’t access preventive care, we see sick children in classrooms, spreading illness and hampering learning. Healthcare costs will increase for everyone as emergency departments become primary care providers.

While Connecticut recently raised Medicaid reimbursement rates, the increase falls short of covering actual cost of care. Healthcare providers face rising wages, workforce shortages, and increasing procedure costs, while reimbursements remain inadequate. The math simply doesn’t work.

For rural providers serving large geographic areas with limited patient volumes, these financial pressures become existential threats. When the nearest alternative provider is hours away, losing even one clinic can leave thousands without access to care.

While the Medicaid cuts won’t take effect immediately, the reconciliation bill demands our urgent response now. The next two years present a window of opportunity to make our voices heard — and protect access to care — before these devastating reductions become reality. We still have the infrastructure and services that these cuts will eliminate, but only if we act.

This means reaching out to our representatives with the specific stories of healthcare access challenges in our region — the real experiences of families who drive long distances for routine care, or who delay treatment until conditions become emergencies. We need to share how working families in our 17 towns depend on Medicaid coverage, and amplify the voices of those already harmed by inadequate healthcare funding, like the families who lost access to dental care when Community Health & Wellness suspended services.

This is not the time to be quiet. Rural communities have always been resilient, but we cannot survive the deliberate dismantling of our healthcare infrastructure. Every resident of our 17-town region has a stake in this fight.

The overall health of our community depends on each of us demanding accessible healthcare for all.

Nancy Heaton is the President and CEO of Foundation for Community Health, serving northwest Connecticut and New York’s Greater Harlem Valley. She has over 30 years of experience in public health and has led FCH for 21 years.

Opinion



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Drunk on the Trump Kool-Aid?

Signs that you may be drinking too much of the Trump Kool-Aid are:

- 1) You’re okay with him being an “honest liar.” Is there such a thing?
- 2) You’re suffering from amnesia when you believe he keeps his promises.

Trump made lots and lots of promises during his campaign. Here are 4:

End inflation starting Day One, Aug. 9, 2024 / Bozeman, Mont. (Oops, inflation YTD 2.3%)

Get the price of gasoline below \$2 a gallon, Sept. 5, 2024 / Economic Club of New York (Oops!, national average of gas is currently \$3.14)

End the war in Ukraine in “24 hours” once he is in office, May 11, 2024 / CNN town hall (big Oops!)

Bring about “peace in the Middle East,” Nov. 1, 2024 / Dearborn, Mich. (Oops! But he will transform Gaza into the new Riveria ... another promise!)

Oh, and the bromance between Elon and Donald has ended. The two children are now calling each other

names on social media. Very presidential.

There should be a warning label on drinking Trump’s Kool-Aid. “Causes Amnesia.”

3) You like that Trump talks a lot. But does he make sense? (not much of the time).

Highly recommended reading Time magazine’s April 22, 2025, interview with Donald Trump and the accompanying Fact Check article. Reading it may act as an antidote to the Kool-Aid.

Other signs you’re drinking too much of his Kool-Aid.

4) You echo many of Trump’s false claims, demean the other side, brag about how they have been outsmarted, and focus on their flaws while oblivious to the character flaws of your favorite Kool-Aid dispenser.

5) You’re blinded by all the good TV. The old status quo is out. Ethics, morality, empathy and honesty are for wimps. You’re okay with your president enriching himself by selling NFTs, meme coins, Bibles and cryp-

to. Have you made money on any of these? Trump certainly has.

Data from Chainalysis shows that the creators of the TRUMP token made \$320 million in fees while retail investors lost money. Source: CoinDesk, May 9, 2025.

You may want to look in the mirror in about 6 months and see if you are really better off.

Maybe Trump will work miracles and make America great again, however you want to define it. However, there is one thing that is certain; if he succeeds it will all be because of him. If he does not, he will be sure to cast the blame wide and far, or maybe just move the goal post lower and admit he duped a lot of Americans (doubtful). One thing many Americans may agree on, when it comes to con artists, Trump is one of the best.

Recommended Reading: “On Tyranny,” by Timothy Snyder.

Joseph Geraghty
Lakeville

More letters appear on Page A7.

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

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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

IDF’s ‘Warning Shots’

My understanding of warning shots is that they are intentionally harmless, something whose purpose is to restore order or to drive a group of people (usually unarmed) in the direction you want them to go.

Why is it that hundreds of starving Palestinians are regularly dying and hundreds more are wounded by “warning shots”? It can’t be accidental or because the soldiers have bad aim. Just today, as I am writing this, 97 Palestinians were killed at a food distribution site.

The solution to chaos is not killing and maiming. According to UNICEF, the Gaza has the highest number of children amputees per capita anywhere in the world.

Given the massive scale of dead and wounded, as well as the destruction of homes, schools and hospitals it appears that the Israel’s goal is the decimation of the people and culture of the Gaza.

The absence of prophetic and moral voices at home and abroad at this time is astounding. The fact that munitions are sold by US arms manufacturers, to the Israeli Defense Forces only adds to this shameful and tragic situation.

More death and destruction will only lead to more death and destruction.

Shocked, irate and sad.

John Carter
Lakeville

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Viewpoint

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — July 1900
SHARON — Miss Fanny White will open an ice cream parlor and bakery soon in the northern portion of Mrs. G. Chase's house.

After October 1st the subscribers of the Sharon Telephone Co. will have a continuous service. This will be a great improvement, as it will do away with all extra charge for night service, and also the two hours, one in the morning and the other in the evening, during which time the central office is closed. This will of course necessitate a slight increase in the subscription tax, as another operator must be employed for night service. The company also intend on enlarging their office.

The different nations are not turning their swords into plow shares at a very fast rate. There are wars and rumors of wars, but let us give thanks that Kentucky is pacified.

From different parts of the state come reports of fierce black bears and dangerous wild men. The regularity of these reports about berry time gives cause for suspicion that they are originated for the purpose of scaring berry pickers away from the fields. As yet we have not heard of anyone being devoured.

The hot weather of the past week has brought out the city people in large numbers.

On Thursday evening a party of 20 of our young people took a ride in Martin's big bus through Sharon, Amenia Union, Amenia and home via Sharon. While in Amenia the party had refreshments, ice cream, etc. Three of Sharon's young people were taken into the load enroute. The trip was enlivened by songs, jokes and yarns of different kinds.

The hay is reported generally light, due to dry weather last fall and winter, so the wiseacres say.

J.S. Perkins has this week had his entire residence piped and fitted for the acetylene gas. A new gas lamp has also been placed in front of the house and that particular section of the street is now excellently lighted.

Geo. F. Hall's minstrels played in the Casino Tuesday night. They gave great satisfaction, but the air was too warm indoors for any enjoyment.

Robert Dufour's tonsorial parlor is undergoing a great improvement by the application of paper and paint. Robert intends to have one of the neatest shops in this

section. A third chair has also been added.

100 years ago — July 1925
A Studebaker car containing four occupants — Daniel Krasney and wife, Joseph Herman and Miss Esther Levine all of New York, crashed through the fence at the ore washer in Ore Hill last Saturday morning. The occupants were all quite severely injured. Krasney received broken ribs, Mrs. Krasney sustained scalp wounds, cuts and bruises, Miss Levine received a broken collar bone, cuts and bruises and Herman a broken collar bone and bruises. Krasney was driving and it would appear that something about the steering gear went wrong, at any rate the car after knocking over several posts of the fence which guards the spot, plunged down quite an abrupt bank and turned on its side, imprisoning some of the party. Dr. Bissell hurried to the spot and gave first aid to the injured after which they were hurried to the Sharon Hospital. State policemen Meade and Ringrose took charge of affairs. The car was badly wrecked.

ORE HILL — Mr. and Mrs. John Bianchi and son visited at Michael Moore's last Sunday. On July 29th Mr. Bianchi expects to sail from New York for Italy where he will visit his mother and sister, whom he has not seen in eighteen years. He expects to return early in September.

LOST — A rear license plate. Will finder notify Dutchess Auto and Supply Co., Millerton, or Journal Office.

John Garrity and his men are now constructing a new cement floor at the Hose House. The new floor will be six inches lower than the old one, in order to admit the new pumper outfit which is expected in the near future. While the change is being made the present apparatus of the company is being housed under the large shed at Roberts store.

Joseph Stanton has purchased the Sunday newspaper business of Vincent Stuart, and will conduct same at Levery's drug store, see his advertisement elsewhere in this issue.

Mrs. Madison Silvernale had the misfortune to fall from her wheel chair last Saturday and received bruises which have confined her to the bed since that time, but she is now improving.

50 years ago — July 1975
The Lawrence Perkins home on Farnam Road in Lakeville was struck by light-

ning Sunday at about 5 p.m. According to Mrs. Perkins the lightning left a 10-inch burn on the side of the building and knocked a telephone off the wall. The basement lights were also affected but no structural damage resulted, Mrs. Perkins reported. She added that a neighbor's television reception was also impaired.

25 years ago — July 2000
FALLS VILLAGE — Everyone is invited Friday morning to the dedication of the new accessible section of the Appalachian Trail, not just day-hikers, through-hikers, joggers and others who can easily negotiate the often hilly and root-strewn trails. This one-mile section of trail, half of which is actually on the AT, will be one of the first and only segments of the 2,160-mile-long hike running from Georgia to Maine that is accessible to everyone, including nature-lovers in wheelchairs or on crutches.

FALLS VILLAGE — If it is true that people and love make a house a home, then homes built by Habitat for Humanity may be the homiest homes of all. Those ingredients were there in abundance at the dedication Saturday of the newest volunteer-built structure, which will become the home of the Paul and Karen Bartomioli family later this summer.

CANAAN — A piece of prime commercial property long in need of capable business hands was sold during a foreclosure auction last Saturday. A 79-acre lot at the fork of Ashley Falls Road (Route 7) and Clayton Road was bought by Nicholas Mancini, owner of Mancini Construction in Waterbury, for \$135,000 in bidding that was long and lively, according to attorney for the sale Brian McCormick. The foreclosure action was brought by the town of North Canaan for back taxes owed by Peter W. Wood of Maine, formerly of Salisbury. A 1,069 square foot building there was last used as a gas station more than 10 years ago. Since then, former Canaan Diner operator Tom Tzelis rented the property and remodeled the building, with plans to open an ice cream parlor and miniature golf course there. That did not pan out and the pastel-painted building has sat vacant for several years.

Status Report

SALISBURY — First Selectman Curtis Rand said in early July he spoke with state officials about work on the bridge on Main Street (Route 44) by the Scoville Memorial Library, tentatively scheduled for 2027. Rand and selectmen Kitty Kiefer and Chris Williams all agreed that rehabilitation of the bridge is highly preferable to replacement. Also in July, the selectmen voted unanimously to add David Becker and Christopher Baetz to the Economic Development Committee.

Wake boats — nothing like ski boats

GUEST COMMENTARY B. BLAKE LEVITT

Recreating humans have come up with a new way to thrill ourselves at the expense of water environments by creating artificial waves high enough for surfing behind a boat on inland watercourses (in addition to oceans) without being attached to a tow rope, unlike traditional water skiing. Sounds innocuous, right? It's not.

The Lakeville Journal has done a yeoman's job covering the subject of wake boating on Lake Waramaug, which borders the towns of Kent, Washington, and Warren but "recreational wakes" concern all inland watercourses too, especially in the Northwest Corner where we have a unique strain of hydrilla infestations that permanently endanger the health of all inland lakes and rivers.

Wake boats are a direct conduit for invasives because their fundamental architecture is unlike anything seen in sports boating before. Wake boats employ internal ballast systems and wake-forming attachments like wake plates and wedges to shape waves that are typically 3-4 feet high. The ballasts are designed to take up water and weigh down the boat's stern much deeper into the water than a ski boat, while raising the bow far above the water line, making it difficult to see other boats/swimmers ahead. Ballasts can retain up to 23 gallons of water inside the ballasts and bilge even after being drained with electric pumps. Because ballasts are internal systems, no physical inspections are possible and sanitation must be extremely thorough using water with temperatures above 1400 F. (This alone will require new inspection infrastructure at every lake since the transport of contaminated water has already been known to spread Eurasian watermilfoil, spiny water flea, and zebra mussels between waterbodies. And invasives are just one concern.

Traditional water skiing boats skim the water's surface, create relatively superficial waves with little energy and do not destroy fragile lake ecosystems. But wake boats — new on the scene since 2010 — are specifically designed to displace huge amounts of water and sales have recently surged. As usual, the technology is in the field far in advance of our understanding its potential consequences.

Over 300 lakes in the country have banned or limited wake surfing; Wisconsin is in the process of passing statewide ordinances as is Vermont — all based on environmental concerns.

In a detailed report entitled "The Effects of Wake Boats on Lake Ecosystem Health: A Literature Review" by the environmental group "Wisconsin's Green Fire, Voices for Conservation" in 2024, they note serious environmental damage from wake boating besides invasives:

Wake boats produce wakes that are 2-3 times larger than motorized non-wake boats and transfer up to 12 times more power to shorelines, requiring more than 600 feet to dissipate.

Armoring shorelines with riprap to repair/reduce erosion has high environmental/financial costs, reducing biodiversity/habitat quality, exacerbating invasive issues, and increasing nutrient runoff into lakes.

Recreational wakes, propeller turbulence, and direct damage from deep hulls and

propellers can disturb/destroy aquatic plant communities, worsening erosion and habitat loss.

Native aquatic plants help secure shorelines and lake bottoms and are essential cornerstones of food webs and fish reproduction.

Enhanced wakes, noise levels, and turbulence can negatively impact wildlife, including near-shore nesting birds and fish.

Wake boats can resuspend lake sediments at deeper depths than other watercraft, reducing water quality and clarity. The resuspension of lake sediment can also reintroduce stored and previously inaccessible phosphorus back into the water column, fueling algal growth.

The latter is of particular concern to Lake Waramaug, which was the country's first whole-lake, non-chemical field experiment in algal remediation, partly funded by the U.S. EPA. In 1975, a group of concerned citizens formed the Lake Waramaug Task Force — now the Lake Waramaug Conservancy — to address the pea-soup-like conditions of the lake's water quality caused by intense algae blooms from phosphorus/nutrient accumulation in lake sediment from nearby dairy farms, old septic systems, and general lawn/upland run-off.

Over the last 50 years, via innovative limnology designs, education, in-lake zooplankton farms (zooplankton eats algae), precise year-to-year monitoring/reporting and many millions of dollars from a supportive community, the group was able to steadily increase water clarity from zero in 1968 when the lake was in a state of quickening eutrophication to depths of 19 feet by 2019. However, since 2020 that success has backtracked somewhat and coincides with the increase in wake boats (estimated to be 40+ now). But since (in science parlance) 'correlation does not equal causation,' a detailed study was commissioned by the Interlocal Commission via the LW Task Force and funded by the three towns. Terra Vigilis Environmental Services, a nationally recognized science/engineering group with a focus on protecting infrastructure and environmental ecosystems, was commissioned. Their work took months to com-

plete and included in-depth analysis during several seasons at numerous locations, supported by underwater and aerial drone technology. They created two highly detailed/critical analysis reports for the community that can be seen at www.lake-waramaug.org. The reports are decisive studies in underwater sediment disturbance as deep as 26 feet from the wake boat they employed in "normal use" conditions.

If ever there was a lake with scientific documentation to eschew wake surfing, Lake Waramaug — too small, narrow, shallow, and studied — is it. In the recent information meetings at town halls in the three towns, lakeside residents have reported significant shoreline erosion (repaired at private expense), plus damage to docks and moored boats. People report not sitting on their own docks on weekends due to waves rocking and crashing over them. There was one report of a child being slammed into shoreline rocks and numerous reports of capsized kayakers. (For perspective, Lake Tahoe, at 120,000 acres, has a 600 feet buffer for wake boats versus Lake Waramaug's 640 acres with an unenforced voluntary 200 feet buffer for all boats.)


Referendums are scheduled in the three towns on July 31 to vote on a proposed ordinance put forth by The Lake Waramaug Authority and endorsed by numerous environmental groups, including the Protect Lake Waramaug Coalition. (Check town websites for times and to read the ordinance.) It's a common sense proposal that bans wake surfing, not boats. It's been reviewed, edited, and approved by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), which has general jurisdiction over watercourses but partners with municipalities in which they are located.

Polluting for pleasure by a handful of wealthy residents, especially regarding dangerous whole-lake algae blooms, cannot be allowed to undo what the Lake Waramaug community has spent five decades to fix. Time for all voters to show up and protect the Commonweal. This is coming to a lake near you soon.

B. Blake Levitt is a science journalist who writes about how technology impacts biology. She is the Communications Director for The Berkshire-Litchfield Environmental Council and lives in Warren. years.


YOUR NEWS

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UCONN's Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group has compiled an informative report on both identifying invasive plants on your property and recommending the best practices for controlling them. I had no idea that there were so many threats, including Japanese Knot Weed, Multiflora Rose and Mile a Minute Weed to mention a few! So please go to cipwg.uconn.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/244/2016/12/Invasives_guide_2016_web.pdf to review this information. In addition, an easy way to identify invasive plants or anything in the natural world, please load up the iNaturalist app on your iPhone. By simply taking a photo, the plant, insect or animal will be identified. In addition, iNaturalist will connect you to a wider community of naturalists and scientists for further information and exploration!



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PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Attendees of the clambake helped shuck corn at Satre Hill Saturday, July 19.

Clambake supports victims of cancer

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Three hours before the official start of the annual clambake fundraiser for the Jane Lloyd Fund, Satre Hill was a busy place. Saturday, July 19.

Barbara Bettigole was helping Brian Bartram with the food scrap management. She started pulling apart a stack of five-gallon buckets, only to discover they still smelled like last year.

On the plus side, the labels designating the buckets for “food scraps only” survived intact.

Eliot Osborn was setting up the equipment for the informal group of musicians who regularly show up.

He rigged an umbrella to shield the public address board from the sun.

“This modern stuff, it doesn’t like heat and if it gets too hot it shuts down,” Osborn said.

Tanya Tedder, who didn’t need a PA system, shouted for cornhusking volunteers, and in short order eight or 10

people were hard at it.

The clambake professionals from Turners Falls Schuetzen Verein in Gill, Massachusetts, led by Ray Zukowski, lit the fire at 2:10 p.m.

By this point the band had been playing for 45 minutes and what had been a trickle of hungry ticketholders became a steady flow.

In addition to the lobsters, clams and corn in the fire, there was also a raw bar, clam chowder, burgers, chicken, ice cream and beer from the Norbrook Farm Brewery.

The clambake fundraiser is an annual tradition, now in its 18th year.

Jane Lloyd of Salisbury died of cancer in 2005. The Jane Lloyd Fund was established by her family to help families who are struggling financially with the costs of cancer treatment. It is an endowed fund within the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Lakeville Journal Intern Theo Maniatis contributed to this story.

North Canaan hears plan for new Dunkin’

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — The Planning and Zoning Commission held a public hearing Monday, July 14, for the proposed construction of a standalone Dunkin’ location at 14 E. Main St.

Martin Connor, planning consultant, and Alan Borghesi of Borghesi Building & Engineering presented the plan.

They described an 1,844-square-foot building with 15 parking spaces and a drive thru lane for up to 12 stacking vehicles. Town water and sewer will be utilized, native plants and a rain garden will be added.

Connor said the aesthetic design with be “in harmony with the neighborhood.” There will be an underground detention system for drainage that discharges to the rear.

“The proposed new Dunkin’ restaurant will replace the nearby existing Dunkin,’” Connor said, referring to the active location in the gas station across the street. “This location provides for much safer and easier access than the current restaurant.”

In response to neighbor concerns, a six-foot-high privacy fence was planned for the East side of the property. Additionally, two parking spaces will be designated for Bassett Heating & Air Conditioning next door.

Connor said the new location “should provide for improved traffic circulation and safety over the current Dunkin’ location.” No traffic study was presented with the application.

P&Z Chair Mike O’Connor said any approval the Commission grants would be

conditional on a traffic study by Connecticut Department of Transportation.

Nearby property owners spoke at the hearing in opposition to the plan.

Andrew Thieleman, owner of Cafe Gourmet Bakery & Catering at 18 E. Main St., questioned how traffic would be improved by moving closer to his business.

“I don’t think it would be very beneficial for my business,” Thieleman said. “There’s definitely plenty of other places and buildings that could use a Dunkin’. Maybe closer to town.”

Steve Christiansen, owner of 16 E. Main St., expressed issues with privacy and said although he “happy to hear about the fence,” six-feet in height would be insufficient for his concerns.

“My biggest thing is not getting any pictures taken from the driveway,” Christiansen said. “I have tenants that are ladies. I have daughters that are ladies. There are windows there that are within 25 feet.”

Pat Foley, owner of the farmland that abuts the rear of the property, requested the fencing be extended along his property line. He was also concerned about littering and drainage issues with the ditch at the back of the lot.

“You start putting in asphalt, I know it’s gonna go in the drainage duct, but that drainage has got to go somewhere,” said Foley.

After public comment, the hearing was closed. No action was taken.

P&Z planned to continue discussion at its August meeting, at which time Zoning Enforcement Officer George Martin may be back from medical leave.

Peace Corps alumni recall ‘the toughest job you’ll ever love’

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — Heeding the words of President John F. Kennedy when he urged citizens to ask what they could do for their country, five current residents joined the Peace Corps back in the 1960s and ’70s.

On Wednesday, July 16, they spoke about their experiences at a session of “People and Places” co-sponsored by the Kent Senior Center and the Kent Historical Society. Moderator was Marge Smith of the historical society.

Established in 1961, the Peace Corps is an independent US government agency that sends American volunteers to serve in communities overseas, working on projects in areas such as education, health, and economic development. They work at building relationships, exchanging cultures and contributing to sustainable development. A key aspect is to promote world peace and foster friendship and understanding between Americans and people of other countries.



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

Several Kent residents who served in the Peace Corps speak at the July 16 ‘People and Places’ session co-sponsored by the Kent Senior Center and Kent Historical Society. From left are Barbara Psarakis, Irene Coe, Denis Curtiss, Barbara Curtiss and Catherine Bachrach.

Each of the participants gave a glimpse into their time in the corps. Barbara Psarakis said in 1964, at age 24, she had been through college and “wanted to go overseas in the worst way. I’d never been out of the country.” Her first choice was Africa and she was fortunate to be sent to West Cameroon. She was assigned to teach four courses at a girls’ school and said, “I had a wonderful two years. The students were eager to learn.”

Living conditions were primitive, with electricity available only two hours a day. Kerosene was used for heat and there was cold running water. “The Peace Corps had a great influence on me. It was life changing. I got to take two long trips. I consider myself extremely lucky and was glad the Peace Corps was there when I wanted it.” She went on to be a social studies teacher and found that experience to be very helpful in her career.

Irene Coe had just graduated with a bachelor’s degree in education in 1973, but there were no teaching jobs in Hartford. So, she turned to the Peace Corps and chose Central America with a goal of learning Spanish. She was sent to Honduras, and was immersed in speaking Spanish, which she said was tough.

Her position was to teach science, but they needed someone to go to a small town to teach beekeeping, carpentry and sewing. “I was selected,” she said, “But that didn’t last long. My abode was broken into, so they moved me back.” She then traveled around to many

small towns teaching science, all the while speaking Spanish, in which she eventually became proficient.

When her stint was up, the Honduran Education Department asked her to stay another two years, which stretched into three. Then it was time to go home. “Within two weeks, I had a position teaching in Hartford because I could speak Spanish,” she said. She still returns to Honduras where she is very close to a family, who are like her own. She speaks lovingly of her “brothers” who have all done well.

“It was the best experience of my life,” Coe said emphatically.

The story of Barbara and Denis Curtiss was a bit different. They had been married for seven years in 1976, when he saw an ad for the Peace Corps that described it as

“the toughest job you’ll ever love.” They signed up and had two weeks to prepare. Their home for the next two years was Figi. She said the training part was difficult and they had to pass a language test or be sent home.

They, too, had primitive living conditions, residing in a grass hut with no electricity or running water, “but we had the South Pacific out the door,” said Barbara Curtiss. At first, she was kept busy with the native women, but because men were essentially stripped of their duties, there wasn’t much for her husband to do. Eventually they were assigned teaching jobs at a high school on the main island (Figi had 300 islands), but she said boredom was a big problem. There were long periods with nothing to do.

They later moved to a place near an orphanage,

where they were embraced by 57 children and kept very busy.

“The Peace Corps changed our lives hugely,” Barbara Curtiss said. When they completed their time there, they spent the next 20 years teaching at schools around the world.

Catherine Bachrach joined in 1965 immediately after college. “It seemed like the most exciting thing to do,” she said. Her assignment was Turkey. Her training focused quite a bit on the cultural aspects of going to a Muslim country. She was dropped off by herself in a small town on the eastern shore of the Black Sea, which was just across the street from the school in which she taught.

She interacted mostly with women and children and had to dress and act conservatively. Hazelnut shells were the source of heat, she had a squat toilet, and two-burner gas stove, but no refrigerator. She, too, did a lot of traveling during her stay. “Echoing the others, she said, “It was a great experience. I gained as much as everyone else did.”

During the comment period, when asked what the citizens of the countries thought about Peace Corps volunteers, Barbara Curtiss said “We taught them so much about Americans and they taught us so much. The Peace Corps was not imposed on countries. They asked for us.”

Asked if they thought they did good, all responded in the affirmative. Several said their students flourished because of their influence.



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Our Towns

Explosive expression takes flight at Scoville

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Kyla DeRisi, the children’s coordinator at the Scoville Memorial Library, was taking no chances Thursday evening, July 17.

With an agenda that included exploding paint and small children, the evening’s art and dessert event was clearly destined for the out of doors.

But DeRisi, taking a cue from Rita Delgado, who regularly reads to small children at the library, went one step further.

She donned a sturdy black plastic garbage bag, with head and armholes cut out, to protect her dress.

Library volunteer Isabella Yoo, who has been helping out one way or another at the library since the age of eight, was decked out in shorts and a top and didn’t feel the need for the extra layer of protection.

The procedure was to pour a small amount of paint into a film canister, then add a bit of water and — this is the key — half an Alka-Seltzer tablet.

The canister is then closed and placed a prudent distance away on a large sheet



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
Kyla DeRisi and Isabella Yoo ran the exploding paint event at Scoville Memorial Library Thursday, July 17.

of paper.

As the antacid dissolves, it creates carbon dioxide.

In a person, this causes burps.

In sealed film canisters filled with paint and water, this causes the top to pop off and the fizzy paint to surge forth and get all over the paper.

At this point the artist takes over and manipulates the paint and paper.

Think Jackson Pollock after a heavy meal.

The first attempt blew to the top of the film canister off just fine, but the paint failed to flow.

After adjusting the water to paint ratio, subsequent attempts went more or less as expected, with appropriate expressions of glee and merriment from the youngsters.

A generous supply of cookies rounded things out.



PHOTO BY MIA DIROCCO
Bunny McGuire in her “Roaring 20s” outfit.

‘Roaring 20s’ party

By Mia DiRocco

NORTH CANAAN — The “Roaring 20s” came to North Canaan Friday, July 18, when Douglas Library hosted its annual 1920s-themed fundraiser.

The library was transformed into a Gatsby-era cocktail party with drinks and charcuterie. Glitzy guests arrived in century-old stylings for a jazzy evening.

According to Bunny McGuire, event organizer and library board chair, “The party

used to be part of Railroad Days, but since that moved it’s become our own event.”

The annual party is an opportunity to raise money for the library outside of its supplemental budget. Sponsors include Labonne’s Market, Canaan Country Club and State Line Pizza to name a few.

The board throws parties twice a year, one for the summer and one in early winter for the holidays as a way to support the library and its many community resources.

Brass on the grass in Falls Village

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The Berkshire Resilience Brass Band came to the David M. Hunt Library Thursday evening, July 17, and played for an audience of about 30 people under the trees on the library lawn.

The lineup is somewhat variable, but on this occasion the band was: Charlie Kiel, trombonium, Paul Uhry Newman, percussion, Sam Earnshaw, percussion, Eric Loffswold, baritone sax, Dathalinn O’Dea, alto sax, David Rogers, tenor sax, and the

father and son trumpet team of Shamu and Lev Sadeh.

Nancy Cunningham Hodgkins organized the show. She said she received a grant from the Born to Groove fund (managed by the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation) to provide music to day care centers, libraries and special events.

“This is the first,” Cunningham said.

Anyone willing to shake a leg could win a \$50 gift certificate for music lessons.

Hodgkins said anyone interested in hosting a similar event can call 860-248-0803.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
David Rogers plays tenor sax for the Berkshire Resilience Brass Band.

North Canaan welcomes new taqueria

By Jules Williams

NORTH CANAAN — This past Saturday, July 19, a new restaurant opened on Main Street.

Trackside Tacos had its grand opening midday. Co-owners and siblings Keisha and Keigen Kittle cut the ceremonial ribbon. They were joined by North Canaan First Selectman Brian Ohler and Events Committee Chair Jenn Crane to celebrate the occasion.

Located across from the Doughboy statue in a bright orange caboose, Trackside Tacos specializes in American-style tacos, quesadillas and bowls. The eatery offers five types of protein, including a vegetarian option, and a myriad of special sauces.

Hours are Thursday 4 to 8 p.m., and Friday through Saturday 12 to 8 p.m.



PHOTO BY JULES WILLIAMS
From left, Jenn Crane, Keisha Kittle, Keigen Kittle and Brian Ohler were at the ribbon cutting of Trackside Tacos on Main Street in North Canaan, July 19.

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Local Matters

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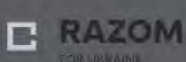
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WordsFromUkraine

CONSERVATION

Continued from Page A1

With the \$1.3M award from OSWA, the protection of the 108-acre Surdan Mountain parcel, which adjoins the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail corridor, will be accessible to all when the preserve opens to the public.

The property includes a dramatic scenic view stretching 20 miles to the summit of Bear Hill, the highest peak in Connecticut; to the peak of Mount Frissell in Massachusetts, and Mount Race in New York State.

The Colebrook Reservoir Conservation Easement was supported by a \$250,000 LEAP grant award. The 5,200-acre acquisition of a permanent conservation easement on this parcel protects Connecticut's largest remaining untapped drinking water reservoir, which directly feeds the designated National Wild and Scenic Farmington River.

"We are incredibly grateful to all our partners for helping to make these acquisitions possible, especially during a time of funding uncertainty," said NCLC Executive Director Catherine Rawson. "These acquisitions are a big win for our environment and communities."

A pair of grants in Cornwall

The Cornwall Conservation Trust earned two OSWA grants, one in the amount of \$122,200 for its 41.78-acre Cobble Forest project, and a second, \$195,000 grant for its 90-acre Furnace Brook Forest project.

The Cobble Forest property boasts a scenic ridgeline containing Heffers Brook, a high-quality cold-water stream that flows into Mill Brook, a tributary of the Housatonic River. The property rises 330 feet from Heffers Brook along its frontage, up to the rocky slopes of The Cobble. The purchase will create a 332-acre forest lock including Cornwall Conservation Trust's Day Preserve, Walker Preserve and the Housatonic State Forest.

Furnace Brook is a forested ridgeline parcel on the slopes of Dean Hill, across the road from Wyantenock State Forest. It links to the conservation trust's Furnace Brook Preserve, a 2018 OSWA grant. The Housatonic Heritage Area's Hou-Bike trail and Housatonic Covered Bridge trail pass along the property frontage.

Shelley Harms, executive director of Cornwall Conservation Trust, noted that the state's open space grant program makes it possible for local land trusts to purchase important conservation lands and for landowners to achieve their conservation goals.

"We are so lucky. We live in this beautiful area, and we have a state that invests in protecting our precious forests and streams and wildlife," said Harms. "With the help of these two state grants, Cornwall Conservation Trust is buying two properties upstream from the Housatonic River within a loop formed by the Mohawk Trail and the Appalachian Trail, part of a gorgeous scenic area and connected to other preserved land.

"People can admire those forested ridges from many

points in Cornwall," she noted, "and when the hiking trails are created, people can immerse themselves in nature and hike up to overlooks where they can enjoy the whole panorama."

Protecting Kent's agricultural history

The Kent Land Trust received a \$422,500 OSWA grant for its 62.2-acre Halsted Lovig Property project on Camp Flat Road.

The property in southern Kent bordering New Milford is iconic to Kent's agricultural past. For several decades it was a humus farm but has been vacant for the past quarter-century. The Kent Land Trust plans to create a recreational resource and protect its critical ecological functions.

The property is exceptional for recreation, nestled between two popular trail systems enabling trail connectivity along a roadway convenient to Kent's Center on the main route of the Western New England Greenway and Hou-Bike Walk Trails.

The property also contains diverse wetlands and spring-fed open pools, with data suggesting these habitats support at least seven avian species in great need of protection.

Grant targets Salisbury's Miles Mountain

The Salisbury Association, Inc., received a \$886,600 OSWA grant for its 163.59-acre Miles Mountain project. "Ours was one of the larger ones," said John Landon, committee chair for the Salisbury Association Land Trust. "We felt pretty secure," he said of the grant submission, "but it's official now."

The property on Weatogue Road is easterly of Tom's Hill, a previous Salisbury Association OSWA-acquired property. It is subject to a 57-acre conservation easement held by Trustees of Reservations, so the DEEP OSWA conservation easement will encumber 163.59 acres, which surrounds the already preserved parcel on three sides.

An LLC comprising community members had formed to protect Miles Mountain from development until the land trust could raise enough funds to purchase the land from the LLC.

Landon said OSWA will fund up to 65% of the purchase price, and he is optimistic that a Federal Highlands Grant will cover most of the balance, "very similar to the Tom's Hill scenario," which was also protected from development by a conservation-minded group of community members which formed an LLC to protect that land.

"From large tracts of land to small pocket parks, this group of projects benefits a variety of communities across the state," said DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes, who noted that since the state's open space program began in 1998, more than \$190 million in state funding has been awarded to municipalities, nonprofit land conservation groups and water companies to assist in the protection of more than 48,000 acres of publicly accessible land.

CARNIVAL

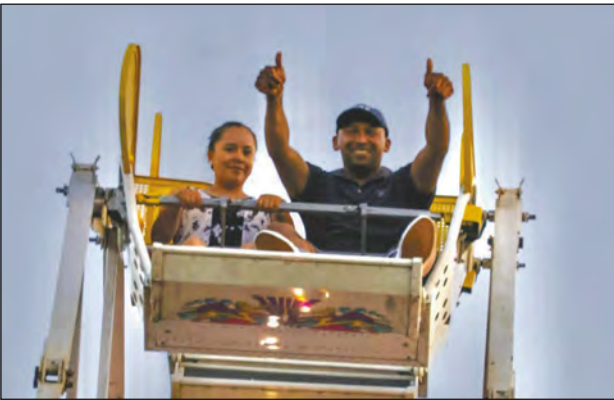
Continued from Page A1

Falls Village, Cornwall, Salisbury, and other regional departments paraded down Main Street in the Saturday evening sun. The town welcomed them with waves and applause. Shortly behind the rescue engines were local sports champions, tractors, racecars, trucks and "Ted's Comedy Wagon" with an endless supply of jokes.

After the sun went down, the crowd only got bigger. At around 9:30 p.m. the fireworks show began and everyone that was lined up for a ride or cotton candy turned to watch. The lucky few at the top of the Ferris wheel got the best view. The fireworks were a token of gratitude for the support of local businesses, vendors, the fire department and to parents carrying prize stuffed animals larger than the children that won them.



PHOTO BY SIMON MARKOW
Katelin Lopes and Tessa Dekker beneath the fireworks on Saturday, July 19.



PHOTOS BY SIMON MARKOW
Top, Christian Flores and Anita Espinoza on the Ferris Wheel. Middle, guests watch the show. Below, North Canaan Selectman Jesse Bunce rides the coaster.



PHOTO BY DAVID CARLEY
The fireman's parade featured vintage and new model vehicles.

SWIMMER

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN
From left, Anthony Ficalora, Phoebe Conklin and Elias Krukar qualified for the national YMCA swim meet.

meet: Elias Krukar of Goshen and Anthony Ficalora of New Hartford. Both are 17 years old and have been with the Lasers since 2016.

"They always push me, and they always encourage me to make sure I'm the best I can be," said Conklin.

Krukar will compete in the 50- and 100-meter freestyle and Ficalora qualified for the 100-meter backstroke.

"They're two rabbits for her to chase," said Steel, noting that three Florida-bound swimmers is a single-season record for the Lasers.

With nationals scheduled for July 28 to Aug. 2, the athletes were utilizing their remaining practice time to fine tune mechanics.

"The whole season we've been conditioning. Now towards the end we're doing more technique like hand placement in the water," said Ficalora.

"And how our bodies are moving through the water," Krukar added.

"We're all sprinters so we're at the point where it's like the tiny stuff we need to change about our race," Conklin explained.

Conklin graduated Salisbury Central School last month and is heading to Housatonic Valley Regional High School this fall. Her parents, Megan and John, both work at Salisbury Central and brother Hunter is a rising senior at HVRHS.

Megan Conklin, first grade teacher at SCS, said she was overjoyed when her daughter qualified for the national meet. "I was at The

Boathouse and John called me with her time. I had to go out in the driveway because I was sobbing. I was so excited," she said. "This has been her dream."

Northwest Connecticut YMCA Chief Executive Officer Brian Ohler congratulated the three swimmers on their accomplishments and praised coach Steel for the success of the program.

AWARD

Continued from Page A1

The proceeds benefit Project Sage, a nonprofit domestic violence agency serving Northwest Connecticut and the surrounding communities in New York and Massachusetts. She has also hosted events for local libraries, has been a supporter of the Falls Village Daycare Center, and Music Mountain. Five years ago, she started The County Mutt Show as a fund raiser for The Little Guild, which also has a 5K fundraising race named for her. Williams created an artisan's collective in Falls Village, 100 Main, that features the work of area artists and makers, and she was involved in the 2010 restoration of the Falls Village Inn, a landmark built in 1843.

According to Betsy Smith, Chair of the Jubilee, "Bunny is a force of nature! She has made a tremendous differ-

ence in this area, with her creativity and devotion to community, which is exactly what the Estabrook Award was designed to celebrate."

The award was inspired by Mary Lou and Robert Estabrook, who were owners of the papers from 1970-1986, and later, dedicated board members. Committed to public service, they believed that independent, quality news was only one way to serve the community, and they honored the efforts of their fellow townspeople who ran businesses, volunteered for non-profit work and were active in local government. During their tenure, the papers flourished and Robert Estabrook's local editorials were twice nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

Tickets will be available for purchase Aug. 1.

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Send news tips to editor@lakevillejournal.com

COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

BOOKS: OLIVIA GEIGER

Books and bites beckon at the upcoming Sharon Summer Book Signing

The 27th annual Sharon Summer Book Signing at the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon will be held Friday, Aug. 1, from 4:45 to 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 2, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Aug. 3, at noon.

Friday’s festivities will honor libraries and the power of the written word. In attendance will be 29 locally and nationally recognized authors whose books will be for sale. With a wide array of genres including historical fiction, satire, thrillers, young adult and non-fiction, there will be something for every reader.

The event will include a selection of hors d’oeuvres and drinks, followed by eight festive author dinners where writers will read and discuss their work one-on-one with attendees.

Saturday will feature a new Page to Plate program that merges

the literary and culinary worlds. Just as writing is a practice of patience and love, so too is the art of cooking. Cookbooks and food writing make cooking teachable to those excited to learn and celebrate the art of a perfect meal.

Through a combination of demonstrations and conversations, acclaimed cookbook authors and chefs will cover a variety of delicious topics. Highlights include a discussion with Chris Morocco, food director of “Bon Appetit” magazine and “Epicurious.” Sharon resident and chef Jessie Sheehan will demonstrate recipes from her cookbook “Salty, Cheesy, Herby, Crispy Snackable Bakes: 100 Easy-Peasy, Savory Recipes for 24/7 Deliciousness.”

With the combination of vetted recipes and thorough discussion from food experts, attendees are sure to



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE STANTON

Author and cartoonist Peter Steiner signed books at Sharon Summer Book Signing last summer.

leave knowing how to cultivate the ultimate act of service: the gift of a full stomach.

Sunday will be brunch at a private Sharon residence hosted by Graham Klemm and

Cody O’Kelly to celebrate author Carolyn Klemm and her cookbook “Culinary Collection: Favorite Country Recipes.”

For more information

and to purchase tickets, visit hotchkisslibraryof-sharon.org

All proceeds support the programs at The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon.

COMMUNITY: GRACE DEMARCO

Voices from Ukraine to America come to Stissing Center July 27

The spirit of Ukraine will be on display at the Stissing Center in Pine Plains on Sunday, July 27. Beginning at 5 p.m., the “Words to America from Ukraine” fundraiser is set to showcase the simultaneous beauty of Ukrainian culture and the war-time turmoil it faces, all the while fundraising in support of Ukrainian freedom.

“Words to America from Ukraine” aims to remind and spread awareness for the suffering that often gets forgotten by those who live in comfortable worlds, explained Leevi Ernits, an organizer for the event. “We are trying to make an attempt to remind people that we are human, and we are connected with human values,” she said. “With very few words, poetry can express very deep values.”

Sponsored by the Town of Stanford, Friends of Ukraine, L.E. Design LLC, Bartelby & Sage, Oblong Books and Borshch of Art, the fundraiser will host the recitation of war-time Ukrainian poetry. Readings will include the



PHOTO BY MICHAEL CHURTON

Ukraine Emergency Fundraiser at The Stissing Center in 2022 raised over \$120,000 for Sunflower of Peace.

works of Vasyl Sagaydak, Oksana Lutsyshyna, Serhiy Zhadan, Victoria Amelina, Marjana Savka, Ostap Slyvynsky, and Mariana Harahonych.

“Poems are fishhooks into our souls,” added Mark Lagus, another event organizer, explaining why poetry was chosen for the main event.

Guests will also enjoy a performance by Ukrainian Village Voices, a New York City- based band dedicated to preserving and promoting traditional Ukraining Folk music. The evening will also feature speakers Jed Sunden and Maria Genkin, along with a live auction. Food and drink will be provided by Bartelby & Sage, a sustainable, local and

female-owned company. All ticket proceeds, bids, and donations will go directly to Razom for

Ukraine, a U.S.-based nonprofit. Razom,

Continued on next page

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THEATER: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Grumbling Gryphons’ set to celebrate 45th anniversary with gala and summer theater

The Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children’s Theater is preparing to celebrate its 45th year — not with fanfare, but with feathers, fabric, myth, chant, and a gala finale bursting with young performers and seasoned artists alike.

The Gryphons’ 2025 Summer Theater Arts Camp begins July 28 and culminates in a one-night-only performance gala at Housatonic Valley Regional High School on Friday, Aug. 1 at 7 p.m. Founder, playwright, and artistic director, Leslie Elias has been weaving together the worlds of myth, movement and theater for decades.

“We’re a touring company that is participatory,” Elias said with her trademark storytelling cadence. “Even when there’s no pre-performance workshop, it’s still participatory. Always.”

Founded in 1980 “in a little basement apartment on the lower east side with co-founder



Celebrating its 45th year, the Grumbling Gryphons will perform at HVRHS Friday, Aug. 1, at 7 p.m.

Vanessa Roe,” said Elias, Grumbling Gryphons (recipients of the 2003 Connecticut Governor’s Arts Award) has long occupied a unique niche: part performance troupe, part educational outreach, part community ritual. Whether dramatizing Greek myths, Native American legends, or original tales about bees and bogs, the company’s ethos centers on inclusion, transformation, and hands-on engagement.

This summer’s camp offers children ages six

and up five fast-paced days of storytelling, acting, mask-making, and rehearsal. The first three days will take place at Elias’s own home studio — a tucked-away space filled with costumes, puppets, and instruments — before moving into full performance prep mode.

“In the ideal world, we would have more time,” she laughed. “It’s a lot of pressure to be performing for the public after five days. But we’re going to do our best.”

The gala performance, she explained, is a kind of theatrical mosaic — scenes and excerpts from Grumbling Gryphons’ vast

repertoire, some showcasing seasoned adult performers and others giving campers center stage. The cast will include returning campers, newcomers, and guest artists drawn from the Gryphons’ decades-spanning circle of collaborators including mask maker and artist Ellen Moon.

“We’re still figuring out exactly what we’ll do,” said Elias, “but it’s kind of like a smorgasbord... a celebration. And it’s open — if anybody wants to get their kids involved, or even volunteer, we welcome you.”

Elias’s own theater background winds through early improvisa-



PHOTOS PROVIDED

tional schools, Viennese dance traditions, and experimental spaces like Henry Street Settlement. As a child on Long Island, she studied with jazz pianist Ivan Fiedel and dancer Rosalind Fiedel, eccentric mentors who nurtured her taste for the surreal and spontaneous.

“Mr. Fiedel was a character,” she recalled. “He would smoke a cigar... and take the cigar in his ear and the smoke would come out the other end. I don’t know how he did it.”

Elias built Grumbling Gryphons with this sense of magic — not as a traditional company, but as a living, evolving story in itself. Whether working

with preschoolers or middle-schoolers, audiences in botanical gardens or historic town halls, the Gryphons invite kids to become creators — to chant, to improvise, to embody archetypes from ancient lore or environmental parables.

And that’s what this summer’s camp and gala are all about. “It’s more than theater,” Elias said. “It’s myth, poetry, movement — it’s about building self-esteem, imagination. It’s about transformation.”

For more information, to register a child for the 2025 Summer Theater Camp, or to inquire about volunteering, visit grumblinggryphons.org

Rose Algrant Art Show returns Aug. 8

WEST CORNWALL — The 67th Annual Rose Algrant Art Show runs Friday, Aug. 8 through Sunday, Aug. 10 at the Cornwall Consolidated School.

The show exhibits artists from Cornwall and spans across painting, photography, ceramics, sculpture, carpentry, video and textiles. The show provides an opportunity to connect with local artists, view wide-ranging diversity in form and expression and contribute to the Cornwall community and cultural heritage.

Opening for free to the public on Friday, Aug. 8, the show hours will be 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, Aug 9 it will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Concluding on

Sunday, Aug 10, the hours will be 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Last year, with more than 50 artists participating, the show contributed \$3,700 to the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department. To continue the event’s tradition of supporting the local community, 15% of proceeds will be donated to the Cornwall Food and Fuel Fund, which contributes to the Cornwall Food Pantry, gives fuel assistance and aids in mental health services. The rest of the proceeds from sales go to the artists.

For more information visit rosealgrantartshow.org or follow @rosealgrantartshow on Instagram and Facebook.

Continued from previous page

...Ukraine

meaning “together” in Ukrainian, has the mission of “contributing to the establishment of a secure, prosperous and democratic Ukraine,” through “creating, inspiring, and collaborating on

initiatives that motivate people to think, partner and do.”

Tickets, donation opportunities, and more information are all available by visiting www.wordsfromukraine.org

INK: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Learning calligraphy by hand

Calligrapher Debby Reelitz came to the David M. Hunt Library to give a group of adults and children an introduction to modern calligraphy Thursday, July 17.

Reelitz said she was introduced to calligraphy as a youngster and has been a professional calligrapher and teacher for more than 25 years.

She said there is no age barrier to learning the basics. “Once children can hold a pen or pencil, they can do it.”

Reelitz said her 5th-grade teacher introduced her to the art.

Then her mother pressed her into service doing the lettering for “4-H certificates and gift cards.”

Reelitz handed out a sampler and blank

sheets of paper and then turned to the easel for demonstration purposes.

She noted that the letters (I, T, H, L, E and F) on the top row of the sampler were not alphabetically arranged.

Rather, they comprised a “latter family” of similar shapes.

Soon enough the entire group of six adults and three children were concentrating and turning out decent versions of the letters

Reelitz alternately demonstrated and encouraged the novices.

“Remember, this is not an instant gratification skill.”

Address your calendar entry to calendar@lakevillejournal.com by Friday at noon.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Attendees practice brushstrokes led by calligraphy teacher Debby Reelitz.

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THEATER: MATTHEW KRETA

Playhouse brings beloved ‘Annie’ to the stage

The Sharon Playhouse’s production of “Annie” is set to open on July 26, and will run until Aug. 10. The classic family musical is being directed by Playhouse Artistic Director Carl Andress, with choreography by Krystyna Resavy and music direction by Eric Thomas Johnson, the same trio behind last year’s Playhouse production of “The Prom.” The cast brings familiar and new faces to the Olsen Theater, including cast members from the recent national tour of “Annie” which concluded in May of this year.

The story of “Annie” takes place in the 1930’s during the Great Depression and follows the bright eyed and optimistic orphan Annie as she lives with and wins the heart of billionaire Oliver Warbucks. Carl Andress expressed his deep appreciation and love for this show, having seen the original production when he was only six years old. He also expressed his excitement in working with the same creative team as last year’s “The Prom.” “We really have a rhythm and a camaraderie, and we work together

well. It’s a wonderful collaboration,” he said. This will be the first time that “Annie” has come to the Olsen Theater. “What makes ‘Annie’ so unique is that it’s not only a heartwarming story for kids — it also carries a profound resonance for adults. Its humor and themes of hope, resilience, and the search for family speak to us all, regardless of age,” Andress wrote in a press release. Andress also said the Playhouse was honored to work with William Berloni, a renowned animal trainer who trained the original Sandy in the first production of “Annie.” Berloni has assisted with animal behavior and training on many stage and television productions. “It’s really wonderful to get to work with him on this production, and see him honored for his work with rescues and animals,” Andress said.

The Playhouse’s season will follow “Annie” with “Sylvia,” a comedic and heartwarming play by A.R. Gurney opening Aug. 29. Tickets and info available at www.sharon-playhouse.org



PHOTOS BY ALY MORRISSEY
Above, the full company of “Annie” at Sharon Playhouse.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
Bearrett Eliss-Odell, age five, examined a fossil dug out of a box of samples provided by North Carolina’s Aurora Fossil Museum during a paleontology event at the David M. Hunt Library Thursday, July 10.

BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Searching for fossils

A group of youngsters discovered their inner paleontologist at the David M. Hunt Library Thursday, July 10. The children were digging and sifting through boxes of samples from the Aurora Fossil Museum in North Carolina. The library’s Brittany Spear-Baron explained that she found the Aurora connection in a previous teaching job. The museum has a large shale deposit and within it there are fossils galore — shells coral, and occasionally something dramatic, like a shark tooth.

“If someone finds a shark tooth they get to take it home,” she said. The children dug right in. Bearrett Eliss-Odell, age five, found a piece of coral almost immediately. Pausing briefly to check with Spear-Baron for the ID, she set her treasure aside and resumed the hunt, tongue sticking out as she concentrated. Spear-Baron said in the children’s non-fiction sections, books on dinosaurs are very popular. “So many kids love dinosaurs. It’s a subject that captures the imagination,” Spear-Baron said.



Savannah Stevenson and Avery Hope in rehearsal for “Annie” at Sharon Playhouse



PHOTO BY CHARLIE GREENBERG

Moviehouse in Millerton screens independent film

MJ Alhabeeb, Ryan Manuel, Ava Hall and Jeff Brannon, members of the cast and crew of the independent film “Plight,” answer questions at a Q&A after a screening of the film at the Moviehouse in Millerton on Thursday, July 17. The movie was screened as part of its ten-city theatrical release this summer. Alhabeeb wrote, directed and produced the film; Manuel played the role of “Patrick Gerrard;” Hall played the role of “Samantha” and Brannon headed the film’s sound department.



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SHARON SUMMER BOOK SIGNING WEEKEND

SHARON SUMMER BOOK SIGNING
Friday, August 1 | 4:45-7:30 pm

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PAGE TO PLATE
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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

JULY 24

Berkshire Opera Festival: Behind The Curtain - A Presentation Exploring BOF's 10th Anniversary Season

Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass.

4 p.m. FREE, Reservations required.

Please join Berkshire Opera Festival for a presentation and discussion of BOF's upcoming mainstage production of Verdi's La Traviata. This free public preview event will be led by BOF Co-founders, Artistic Director Brian Garman and Director of Production Jonathon Loy, as they pull back the curtain on the history, story, and magic of this iconic opera.

Ingrid Freidenbergs: COLLAGE REDUX!

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

Exhibit: July 12 through August 8

Art Talk: Thursday, July 24, 5:30 p.m.

For her art talk accompanying the exhibition "COLLAGE REDUX!," Ingrid Freidenbergs will present "Cycles," a short film by her son, Paul Feder, who also co-composed the score with fellow musician Sam McCoy. The film presents the photography of Freidenbergs' late husband Jack Feder, whose photos appeared in "Life," "Newsweek," and "The New York Times." Freidenbergs said that the film is an important piece of the show. "This is my first show without Jack here. A way to bring Jack in is to show the film."

JULY 25

Photo Exhibit Opening

Sharon Hospital, 50 Hospital Hill Road, Sharon, Conn.

A photo exhibit featuring work by The Housatonic Camera Club will be on display at Sharon Hospital beginning July 25. An opening reception will be held 5 to 7 p.m. The public is welcome.

JULY 26

New Art at the Akin Free Library

Akin Free Library, 378 Old Quaker Hill Road, Pawling, N.Y.

Contemporary works by 12 regional women artists shown throughout the historic Akin Free Library.

Open: July 26-27 | Hours vary (most 1 to 4 p.m.)

Understanding AI

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

Starting on Saturday, July 16, from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Hotchkiss Library "Understanding AI: What It Is and What It's Not," is a beginner-friendly series that will separate fact from fiction about AI technology. Pam Doran, Digital Accessibility Coordinator at SUNY Empire State University, will present the program with a follow-up session Sept. 6 at 11 a.m. Register online at hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org.

"Around the Pond" Game and Story with DEEP

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

Saturday, July 26, 10:30 a.m.

Explore outdoor spaces with DEEP through this interactive, life-size game at the library on July 26th at 10:30am! Participants will collect natural objects and answer questions to upcycle a t-shirt into something new as we explore what animals and life could be found "around the pond". Please bring a spare t-shirt.

This event is free and open to the public.

JULY 27

Words to America from Ukraine

The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.

Sunday, July 27, 5 p.m.

"Words to America from Ukraine" an experience to connect our Dutchess County community with the unwavering spirit of Ukraine. Every ticket, every bid, every donation directly supports Razom for Ukraine, providing critical aid and keeping Ukraine's fight for freedom in the hearts and minds of Americans.

And Still We Sing! - Litchfield County Choral Union

The Music Shed, Battell-Stoeckel Estate, 12 Norfolk Rd, Norfolk, Conn.

Sunday, July 27, 4 p.m.

The Litchfield County Choral Union presents its 126th annual concert, And Still We Sing! A Journey from Conflict Toward Compassion, conducted by Gabriel Löfvall. The program features Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass and works by Gwyneth Walker, Sarah Wuartel, and Elaine Hagenberg. Tickets available at litchfieldcountychoralunion.com or at the door.

'Let's Make Art' classes for Kids, Adults

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

Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, offers Let's Make Art classes for children (ages 7 to 18) on Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m.: July 27, Drawing Techniques and August 10, Tie-Dying.

Three Let's Make Art classes for adults take place Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m.: August 3, Drawing Techniques; August 24, Book-making and September 7, Marbling Paper.

The cost is \$5/session for children; \$10/session for adults

Tickets may be purchased at the door. To get more information contact cleo42002@yahoo.com or 917-539-2009.

JULY 29

Kids' Paint and Snack Workshop

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

On Tuesday, July 29, 3:30 p.m., come learn to how to make your own turtle painting with step-by-step instructions from artist Anne Pattison! Snack and paint your way to fantastic art in this fun art workshop. Registration heavily recommended — sign up today on our website or by contacting the library. Families and kids of all ages are welcome!

JULY 30

Meteor Shower Watch Party

Kent Farmer's Market Field, 37 South Main St. (Route 7), Kent, Conn.

Join the Kent Land Trust from 9 to 11 p.m. under the stars to watch the Alpha Capricornids and Southern Delta Aquariids soar. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets, enjoy the snacks and even learn how to improve your night sky photography skills. Registration is required at kentct.myrec.com/info/default.aspx. For questions, email parkandrec@townofkent.org or call 860-927-1003.

Last week's WotW

S	T	A	L	E
B	A	T	O	N
Y	A	C	H	T
T	A	R	D	Y
P	A	R	T	Y

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. Obstruct the airway
- 2. Milk turns sour
- 3. Natural exfoliating scrubber
- 4. Level of a building
- 5. Recent extreme weather

JULY 31

Book Release: Author Thomas E. Weber in Conversation with John Coston

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

On July 31 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., join author Thomas Weber and Lakeville Journal / Millerton News Editor at Large, John Coston, for a conversation about Weber's new book, "Cloud Warriors." Learn about weather-prediction pioneers and groundbreaking technologies that are transforming our ability to foresee and respond to deadly storms, wildfires, heat waves, and other weather events. Registration is required, and information is available at scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/14720599



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Left to right: Andy Stack, Kaia Dedek, Tai Bennett and Kristofer Ryan Wilson

Where The Mountain Meets the Sea

A Haitian father drives west with his pregnant wife; years later, his estranged gay son traces the route in reverse. The story, told through a back and forth monologue between father and son — played brilliantly by Bennett and Wilson — charts a cross-country journey

that spans generations, continents, cultures and emotional fault lines. With brilliant use of space, music, lighting and staging techniques, the audience was treated to an experience in which time stretched. This performance ran for two weekends at The Ancram Center.

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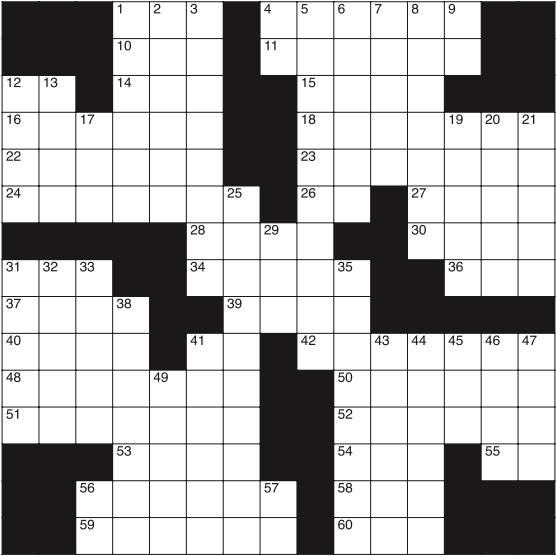
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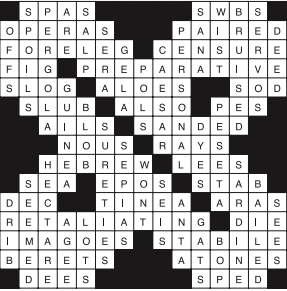
- CLUES ACROSS
- 1. Pacific Standard Time
 - 4. Extracts through heating and melting
 - 10. Express delight
 - 11. More curvy
 - 12. Expression of uncertainty
 - 14. Indicates before
 - 15. Daughter of Hera and Zeus
 - 16. Southwestern CA city
 - 18. Unified
 - 22. Less attractive
 - 23. Base of jellies
 - 24. A large and noisy party
 - 26. He was traded for Luka
 - 27. Wolverine genus
 - 28. "Happy Days" actress Moran
 - 30. Root of taro plant
 - 31. Student environmental group (abbr.)
 - 34. Silk garments
 - 36. Unique power
 - 37. Ray Liotta cop film
 - 39. Leak slowly through
 - 40. Notion
 - 41. Atomic #55
 - 42. Fixed in one place
 - 48. About heat
 - 50. Type of baseball pitch
 - 51. Seedless raisin
 - 52. Large wading birds
 - 53. Similar
 - 54. Time zone
 - 55. Atomic #34
 - 56. Program
 - 58. Old world, new
 - 59. Contrary belief
 - 60. "To the __ degree"



- 7. Published false statement
- 8. Adolescent
- 9. Junior's father
- 12. Aurochs
- 13. Not low
- 17. Boxing's GOAT
- 19. Short musical composition
- 20. Small immature herrings
- 21. Eavesdropper
- 25. Parcels of land
- 29. Anger
- 31. Irritations
- 32. Hindu holy man
- 33. Wicker basket for fish
- 35. Natural object
- 38. Transporting in a vehicle
- 41. A dog is one

- 43. Smaller portion
- 44. Sew
- 45. Belonging to a thing
- 46. Horsley and Greenwood are two
- 47. Scottish language
- 49. Producer
- 56. Exclamation of surprise
- 57. Russian river

July 17 Solution



Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

July 17 Solution

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



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Sports

Housatonic beats Shepaug in summer hoops battle

By Theo Maniatis

TORRINGTON — The Housatonic Valley Regional High School girls basketball team is riding a summer hot streak.

Housatonic extended its winning streak to five games with a dominant 28-19 win over Shepaug Valley Thursday, July 17. After the result, Housatonic sits in second place, one game behind Thomaston in Torrington Summer Basketball League standings.

Conditions were sweltering at the Torrington Armory, with the thermostat reading 88 degrees at the 7:30 p.m. tip-off. Housatonic struggled to find a rhythm early on, and Shepaug jumped out to an early lead.

On the sideline, Housatonic coach Jake Plitt's voice echoed around the court as he directed his players. Sisters Victoria and Olivia Brooks responded with strong performances on offense and defense.

When the halftime buzzer sounded, Housatonic narrowly trailed 13-12. Both teams stepped outside into cooler air, huddling together to adjust tactics and check who had tired legs.

At center court, the two referees took a moment to chat. These unsung heroes make \$40 for each 40-minute TSBL game.

It's hot, it's sweaty, and parents constantly contest calls. But the referees don't blow the whistle on everything — they aim to preserve the flow and spirit of the game.

"We don't care who wins," one referee explained. "We just want to keep the game under control."

As the second half got underway, Housatonic jumped out to an 18-15 lead and never looked back. Victoria Brooks contributed eight second-half points.

During the penultimate possession, up by nine



Olivia Brooks plays point guard for Housatonic. She scored 10 points in the game against Shepaug Valley.

points, Housatonic deliberately took a shot-clock violation to wind down the time. It may be summer league, but the team was playing like it is November.

HVRHS's rising seniors kept their cool and combined

for 26 points: Olivia Brooks scored 10, Victoria Brooks scored 10 and Maddy Johnson scored six. Carmela Egan scored two points.

Shepaug was led in scoring by Abramson with eight points and Thomas with five points.

"It's a summer league so you're going to see some good, you're going to see some bad," said Coach Plitt post-game. "We ended up playing a really good second half. I thought we really came together."

Housatonic's summer league record advanced to 5-1. The squad will look to keep their foot on the gas through its final regular-season game on July 31.

The top four teams make the TSBL playoffs, set to start the first week of August.



Maddy Johnson lines up a mid-range jump shot. She finished with six points against Shepaug Valley.

SWSA golf tourney in Copake Aug. 10

The Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) 18th Annual Golf Tournament and Pig Roast will be held Sunday, August 10 at the Undermountain Golf Course, 274 Under Mountain Road, Copake, New York.

The 18-hole, two-person scramble event is open to men's and mixed categories and is limited to 40 two-person teams (20 teams for each

flight).

There will be two shotgun starts one at 9 a.m. and the other at 2 p.m. Please arrive early enough before your tee off time to sign in, buy raffle tickets, etc.

The entry fee is \$110 per person which includes green fees, cart, on-course beverages, lunch, on-course contests, awards and a pig roast dinner provided by the Sunday in the Country Food Drive.

Register and pay in advance by calling Trish at Undermountain Golf Course at 518-329-4444.

On-course contests include longest drive, closest to the pin, "greenie" prizes and more. Pig roast dinner, awards and raffle after play concludes.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit SWSA youth ski jumping programs and activities.

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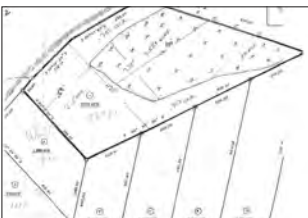
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