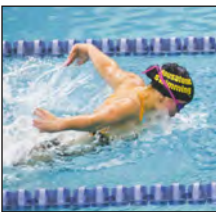




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The Lakeville Journal

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

Winter costs mount as snowstorm blankets the Northwest Corner

By Christian Murray
and Patrick Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — A powerful winter storm dumped more than 18 inches of snow in parts of the Northwest Corner of Connecticut Sunday, Jan. 25, testing town highway departments that were well prepared for the event but already straining under the cost of an unusually snowy season.

Ahead of the storm, Gov. Ned Lamont declared a state of emergency and urged residents to avoid travel as hazardous conditions developed Sunday and continued into Monday.

Parts of the region were hit with more than 18 inches, according to the National Weather Service, with heavy, persistent bands falling all day Sunday and continuing into Monday morning. Schools, municipal offices, churches and numerous community events were canceled or postponed through Monday as plowing operations continued and temperatures dropped into the single digits overnight.

Despite the severity of the storm,



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Sidewalks were buried, requiring a deep dig to clear a path on Monday morning, Jan. 26.

local officials said preparation efforts helped keep roads passable and emergency services operating — though many towns acknowl-

edged the financial toll of repeated storms this winter.

See SNOW, Page A7

Amesville cyclist reflects on 2,700-mile ride from Canada to Mexico

By Mia Barnes

SALISBURY — Last summer, local cyclist Alan Lovejoy pushed far beyond familiar Northwest Corner roads, embarking on a 2,700-mile international bike trek that took him from the Canadian Rockies to the U.S.-Mexico border.

Lovejoy set out to complete the Great Divide Mountain Bike Route, the longest off-pavement cycling route in the world. The trail begins in Alberta, Canada, and ends in Antelope Wells, N.M., tracing the Continental Divide through two Canadian provinces — Alberta and British Columbia — and five U.S. states: Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico.

On July 31, 2025, Lovejoy, a resident of Amesville and a retired teacher at the Housatonic Valley Regional High School, rode out from the northern terminus. Seventy days later, on Oct. 9, he

Alan Lovejoy, former teacher and current track and field coach at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, at the start of his international cycling journey.



PHOTO PROVIDED

crossed the finish point in Antelope Wells, completing the journey, which draws cyclists from across the globe.

The combination of long-distance cycling and camping is known as “bikepacking,” which requires riders to strap gear directly to their bikes and improvise overnight accommodations. Campsites ranged from forest service campgrounds to right beside an interstate highway.

Lovejoy had sampled the route in 2016, when he completed a section of it with a friend, and said that experience made planning for the full ride relatively straightforward.

Packing, he said, required strict discipline: only multi-functional items that could compress to a small size were brought along. In addition to his gear, Lovejoy carried a journal, making a point to write at least a few sentences each day to

See LOVEJOY, Page A12



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

State Sen. Stephen Harding, R-30, visited South Farms in Morris to speak with fourth-generation farmer Ben Paletsky, who is concerned about Connecticut farmland tax hikes and the state's methodology for assessing farmland.

Harding sounds alarm on farm tax hikes; Lamont halts reassessments

By Debra A. Aleksinas

NORTH CANAAN — Concerns mounted last week across the state and Northwest Corner that proposed farmland tax increases could threaten the future of working farms. In response, owners of large agricultural tracts warned that higher property tax assessments would make it impossible to continue operating under the same rules as residential development.

Those concerns — echoed by farmers who traveled to Hartford to testify and amplified by local lawmakers — prompted Gov. Ned Lamont to order an immediate halt to steep increases in farmland property tax assessments that critics said could push land out of agriculture and into more intensive use.

The 2025 revised land-use values were compiled by the state Office

of Policy and Management, in coordination with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture using landowner survey data collected as part of the five-year update process — a methodology farmers and assessors later said produced distorted results because of low participation and uneven data.

Lamont's action followed a Jan. 15 press conference at the State Capitol organized by Connecticut Senate Republicans, where lawmakers stood alongside farmers to call attention to sharp valuation increases proposed under the state's farmland tax program.

Senate Minority Leader Stephen Harding, R-30, whose district includes much of the Northwest Corner, played a leading role in bringing the issue to the forefront,

See FARMLAND, Page A12

Medical experts underscore regional needs in senior and low-income care

By Patrick L. Sullivan

NORTH CANAAN — Rising insurance costs and persistent economic hardship are reshaping local healthcare, Community Health and Wellness Center CEO Joanne Borduas said, describing the landscape as “shifting” at a town hall event Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the Colonial Theatre.

CHWC, a Federally Qualified Health Center based in Torrington, opened a facility in North Canaan

in June 2024.

Borduas said since opening, the North Canaan center has served 2,417 unique patients for primary care, behavioral health, pediatrics, chiropractic care and nutrition services.

The towns served are North Canaan, Cornwall, Falls Village, Norfolk, Kent, Lakeville, Salisbury and Sharon. (Lakeville is part of Salisbury.)

See HEALTHCARE, Page A12



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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.

Three snowy slide-outs

On the morning of Jan. 17, Elliot Aguilar, 43, of West Cornwall was driving west on Calkinstown Road in Sharon when he slid off the road, striking a mailbox and tree. He was uninjured and his Subaru Outback remained functional. He was issued a warning for traveling too fast for conditions.

An hour later the same day, John Bolus, 60, of Litchfield was traveling east on Millerton Road in Sharon when he also slid off the road and struck the wooden post guardrail. A tow was required to get his GMC Sierra Denali unstuck. He was issued a warning for traveling too fast for conditions.

An hour after that, Darren Smith, 52, with a Lakeville P.O. Box was driving a USPS mail truck east on Lime Rock Road in Salisbury when the vehicle slid off the road, striking the wooden post guardrail. Smith was uninjured and no tow was necessary, but he was issued a warning for traveling too fast for conditions.

Main Street crash

At around 11 a.m. on Jan. 19, Carol Gribble, 68, of Millerton was driving east on Main Street in Salisbury when another vehicle, a Honda Pilot driven by Haohao Zhou, 43, of White Plains, New York, pulled out into the roadway and collided with her Ford Escape. There were no injuries reported and both

vehicles sustained minor damage. Zhou was issued a warning for failure to grant right of way.

Commercial truck and DOT vehicle fender bender

On the morning of Jan. 22, Glen Curtis, 57, of Bantam, Connecticut was in a state Department of Transportation Ram 1500, stopped at a flashing traffic light on Route 44 in Norfolk, when a freight truck ahead of him backed into the front of his vehicle. The driver, Jean Luc Zirimwabagabo, of Greely, Colorado, was issued an infraction for unsafe backing.

Single vehicle crash under investigation

Just after 6:30 a.m. on Jan. 23, troopers were dispatched to a location on Route 126 near the intersection with Johnson Road in Falls Village on the report of a single vehicle accident. Upon arrival, the driver, Kameron Jenkins, 33, of Waterbury, was absent from the scene but had left a note saying the vehicle would be towed later in the day. The incident is still under investigation.

Protective order violation arrest

On the morning of Jan. 23, troopers arrested William Linkovich, 41, of North Canaan on a warrant for violation of a protective order. He was released on a \$25,000 surety bond and was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on Jan. 26.

The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Send mail to P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or email editor@lakevillejournal.com

Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office warns of officer impersonation

The Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office issued a statement warning residents that scammers are impersonating deputies and soliciting money.

The statement said perpetrators tell victims they failed to report for jury duty and demand money, claiming the payment is necessary to avoid prosecution.

The sheriff’s office offered the following guidance for county residents:

— Strangers making contact and asking for money are often attempting a scam.

— Strangers making contact and asking the matter be kept secret are often attempting a scam.

— Spelling and grammatical errors in text messages and emails, and messages received at odd hours are often scams.

— Legitimate law enforcement would never promise to avoid prosecution in exchange for money.

— Strangers making contact about a family emergency or a family member in crisis are often attempting a scam.

Northwest Corner students make WCSU Dean’s List

DANBURY — Western Connecticut State University has released its Dean’s List for the fall 2025 semester, recognizing several students from towns in the Northwest Corner.

From Kent, honorees include Daniel Alexander Agostinho, a psychology major, and Savannah Michelle Wright, who is studying musical theatre.

From Norfolk, Dahlia Mae Alexander earned recognition while studying music with an emphasis on

audio and music production, along with Leif Allistar Johnson, a music major with a concentration in classical vocals.

From Sharon, Janay Ruelle Gregory, a communication major, was named to the list.

Dean’s List recognition is awarded each semester to full-time, matriculated students who complete at least 12 graded semester credit hours and achieve a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher, with no incompletes at the time grades are processed.

Kent considers solar power opportunities, incentives

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — Saturday seemed an opportune time to talk about solar power as residents were facing bone-chilling temperatures and the threat of a foot or more snow.

The Kent Sustainability Team and Kent Memorial Library teamed up to present a program at Town Hall titled “Here Comes the Sun.”

The event began with a video podcast of Bill McKibben, founder of the climate justice organization 350.org and Third Act, and Chris Hayes of MS NOW discussing McKibben’s new book, “Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization,” which was published in August 2025.

In the book, McKibben examines the accelerating impacts of climate change and argues that solar and wind power offer a viable path forward.

He described how the sun — nearly 93 million miles



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

The panel at Saturday’s program on solar energy in Kent consists of, from left: Bill Colonis of Connecticut Green Bank, Mark Scully of PACE, State Rep. Maria Horn of the 64th District, resident Jody Lampe and moderator Lynn Mellis Worthington.

from Earth — has long sustained life through light, heat and photosynthesis, and is now increasingly central to global energy production.

McKibben cited rapid advances in renewable energy in developing nations, while criticizing resistance to clean energy in the United States under President Donald Trump.

He said President Joe Biden made strides to help the U.S. catch up to China, but

emphasized that meaningful progress will continue to depend on action at the state and municipal levels.

“Renewal energy is less of a commodity than human brain power,” McKibben said. “We can have a resource for everyone in the world.”

Despite progress, McKibben warned that climate change is accelerating and that continued reliance on fossil fuels carries dire health consequences, estimating that air pollution from those fuels contributes to roughly nine million deaths globally each year. He said the transition to solar and wind must happen quickly to avert worsening outcomes.

McKibben said he titled his book “Here Comes the Sun,” drawn from George Harrison’s song, “for the deep and gentle optimism it embodies. The subject is not just about something progressive and economical, but something beautiful.”

A panel discussion followed, moderated by Lynn Mellis Worthington, chair of the Kent Sustainability Team. Panelists included Bill Colonis, associate director of homeowner engagement at the Connecticut Green Bank; Maria Horn, D-64; Mark Scully, president of People’s Action for Clean Energy; and Jody Lampe, a Kent resident who recently installed solar panels.

Worthington opened the panel by sharing data from Kent’s latest energy profile compiled by PACE. According to the report, Kent residents spend about \$15.9 million annually on energy — roughly \$5,245 per person. The town has 128 solar installations producing 8.21% of its electricity, 170 heat pumps serving

12.12% of buildings, and 103 electric vehicles, accounting for 3.92% of all vehicles. Greenhouse gas emissions total approximately 32 tons annually, or 10.4 tons per person.

Panelists were asked to reflect on McKibben’s remarks. Colonis said he was struck by McKibben’s optimism and his call for residents to educate themselves.

Scully described the presentation as “profound,” noting how energy systems shape social and economic structures.

Horn said she was reminded how quickly change is possible, adding that Connecticut’s high electricity costs “don’t have to be.”

Lampe said she found inspiration from how many countries are doing more than the United States when it comes to energy renewal programs.

The discussion also touched on the phase-out of incentives for residential solar installations, lingering municipal barriers, and challenges related to taxing solar systems, even as commercial incentives remain in place.

Lampe shared that she was fortunate to receive her solar panels at no cost.

Colonis told the audience that if solar doesn’t work on their property, there are other options to help reduce energy consumption, such as availing themselves of energy audits and use of insulation. He also said there may be loans available for some programs.

Worthington said the Kent Sustainability Team plans to hold additional public programs in the coming months focused on energy and sustainability issues.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

The home at 126 Sharon Road sold quickly in December for close to asking at \$980,000.

December real estate sales in Salisbury

By Christine Bates

SALISBURY — The end of 2025 was busy in Salisbury with 14 property transfers, including 11 single family homes, two pieces of vacant land and another two garages at Lime Rock Park.

The trailing 12-month median price in December fell to \$825,000 – the low for the year down from a high in May of \$1,350,000. During the year, 52 single family homes were sold with 16 above \$1,000,000 and 11 below \$500,000.

As of Jan. 24, 2026, there were 19 homes listed for sale with a median listing price of \$1,495,000.

Transactions

341 Housatonic River Road — 4 bedroom/3.5 bath home on 0.84 acres sold by Eric Schnall Trustee, Norman D. Schnall Revocable Trust to John Osterholt and Monti Deandre Lawson for \$730,000.

2 Ledgewood Drive — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 1.3 acres sold by Susan S. and Walter E. Demelle Junior to Kevin M. and Susannah M. Gorey for \$765,000.

126 Sharon Road — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 1.75 acres sold by Paul David and Elaine H Watson to Daniel C. and Andrea Hubbard for \$980,000.

76 Washinee Heights Road — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 4.36 acre sold by Lynn M. and Richard W. Reifsnnyder to Alan and Maryann Snyder for \$984,000

21 Route 7 — 4 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 3.01 acres sold to David J. Schillingford and Catriona L. Pike for \$1,525,000.

50 Millerton Road — 2 bedroom/2 bath ranch on 1.12 acres sold by Ryan G. Flynn to Diane Houslin for \$550,000.

38 Undermountain Road — 2 bedroom/1 bath home on 0.33 acres sold by Maureen A. Danisi to Diana and Ethan

Gee for \$337,000.

353 Twin Lakes Road — 6.05 acres sold by David J. Fox, Christopher H. Stone and Douglas J. Fox to Stones Throw LLC for \$550,000.

60 White Hollow Road — Garage Unit 17 sold by LRP Garages LLC to Miller Racing LLC for \$250,000.

1 State Line Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath raised ranch on 2.65 acres sold by Fat Boy Farm LLC to Jody West for \$625,000.

60 White Hollow Road — Garage Unit 20 sold by LRP Garages LLC to SMF Universal LLC for \$250,000.

11 Cleveland Street — 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home on 0.41 acres sold by Susanne A. Lambert Estate to George Henderson for \$205,000.

2105 South Undermountain Road — 2.7 acres sold by Penelope Bloodworth to James Davies and Olivia R Scanlon for \$70,000.

145 Taconic Road — 4 bedroom/4.5 bath home on 19.03 acres sold by TR LLC to Salisbury School Incorporated for \$2,000,000.

* Town of Salisbury real estate transfers recorded between Dec. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025, provided by the Salisbury Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Market information from CT MLS and infosparks. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

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

Check them out inside.

- Salisbury Winter Sports Association
- AARP
- Life Line Screening



Still some tickets left for the Winter Warmer!

There’s no better way to beat the winter blahs (and storms) than an evening out with friends and friends to be in a relaxed, fun gathering with great food and beverage.

Even before you dig out from Sunday’s storm, go to jumpfest.org (Celebrating 100 Years) to order your tickets.

Tickets are priced at \$50 per person for the Saturday, Jan. 31st event, which includes heavy hors d’oeuvres and a beer and wine bar courtesy of Norbrook Brewery and Salisbury Wines at the home of Susan and Salisbury First selectman Curtis Rand, 106 Canaan Road, Salisbury. It will run from 5:30 - 8:00 pm.

Gina Young from Manna Catering Company will provide the food.

This will be the third time the Winter Warmer has been held over the past decade and has been a much anticipated social gathering in the past.

The event celebrates SWSA’s 100th Anniversary and primes everyone up for Jumpfest 2026.

See you at the Winter Warmer!

SCAN ME



Our Towns

Sharon Hospital
sees bright future
with Northwell

By Alec Linden

SHARON — Nearly nine months after Sharon Hospital became part of the Northwell Health system, one of the nation's largest healthcare networks, hospital president Christina McCulloch said the transition has been largely smooth, even as the facility navigates rising patient demand and broader uncertainty facing rural hospitals.

McCulloch said the transition has been “going very well,” with roughly 60 integration teams working to align Sharon Hospital's departments and services with those of Northwell. She said the approach has focused on coordination rather than a wholesale restructuring of how the hospital operates.

The integration teams are “really focused on understanding how the entities work independently and how to work together effectively,” she said.

The operational changes have come as the hospital enters one of its busiest periods of the year. McCulloch said respiratory illnesses typically increase this time of year, and the current season has followed that pattern as flu rates rise nationally. She said the emergency department has experienced higher patient volume, leading to increased inpatient admissions, but described the situation as “manageable.”

The hospital reports that it has been averaging about 1,000 patients per month with approximately 12% of those requiring an overnight stay.

Last year proved eventful for Sharon Hospital. Nuvance Health, which has operated the hospital since 2019, merged with Northwell in May, while December saw the future of the hospital's emergency response services come into question.

The hospital ended its relationship with Northern Dutchess Paramedics in December and has since begun building its own emergency medical response service.

At the same time, broader concerns have emerged amid proposed Medicaid cuts tied to President Trump's budget bill and continued financial strain on rural hospitals nationwide. McCulloch

said the hospital has not yet experienced direct impacts from potential Medicaid reductions, but said the issue is being considered as part of future planning.

“The hospital is committed to providing care to all patients in our community, regardless of changes to Medicaid,” she said.

She added that being part of a larger health system provides some protection against funding instability.

“Certainly, if we were a standalone hospital, this would be of even greater concern, but the benefit that we have from being a part of a larger system allows us to continue to operate and offer the services that we do,” McCulloch said.

Despite the changes, Sharon Hospital received a five-star rating from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in 2025, its sixth consecutive year earning the designation. It was the only hospital in Connecticut to receive the rating.

McCulloch said the partnership with Northwell has supported continued investment in services the hospital has previously been recognized for, including recent upgrades to the radiology department. A new CT scanner was installed to replace older equipment.

“We do a little over 7,000 CT scans every year, so upgrading our equipment allows us to be more efficient and see more patients in a timely fashion,” McCulloch said.

“The partnership has been really beneficial to Sharon Hospital in the way we were able to expeditiously stand up those radiology services and ensure that there's high quality, safe care,” she said.

The hospital has also expanded a training program that brings family medicine residents to Sharon to gain experience in rural healthcare settings, in partnership with New Milford Hospital.

In addition to clinical services, Nuvance Health offers community education classes on topics ranging from CPR to mental health first aid, many of them free. A full schedule is available on the provider's community education webpage.



SCREENSHOTS FROM ZOOM

Scenes from Satre Hill's ski jumps were shared in the Zoom meeting Jan. 22 that was led by Ariel Picton Kobayashi, author of the recently-published “Ski Jumping in the Northeast: Small Towns and Big Dreams.”

Author turns historian's eye
to northeastern ski jumping

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Long-time followers of the Salisbury Winter Sports Association's ski jumps will remember a youngster named Ariel Picton, who started ski jumping in Salisbury at age nine.

Now married with two children and living in New Hampshire, Ariel Picton Kobayashi is the author of the just-published “Ski Jumping in the Northeast: Small Towns and Big Dreams.” Kobayashi held a Zoom talk Thursday, Jan. 22, sponsored by the David M. Hunt Library.

She recalled her introduction to the sport as a child, and her work as a coach for SWSA some years later.

The first section of the book is based on her senior project as a history major at the State University of New York — Purchase.

She noted that SWSA is celebrating its 100th year of ski jumping.

The year it all started, 1926, is when ski jumping was becoming popular in the northeastern United States. The original name of SWSA was the Salisbury Outing Club.

There were dozens of small towns with jumps in the Northeast. Colleges had jump hills, and sponsored winter carnival events.

Excursion trains ran from big cities such as New York and Boston, taking urban skiers to the rural towns.

She cited SWSA's Larry Stone remembering that in the 1950s, Salisbury had eight or nine jumps, including jumps in back yards. Children took to ski jumping the way they did to baseball

in the summer.

But over time the clubs faltered and by the 1970s most of the ski jumping venues closed down.

Kobayashi said that one factor in the decline of ski jumping was the famous “Agony of Defeat” television clip that showed a ski jumper in a spectacular crash. This clip was used every Saturday in the intro to ABC television's “Wide World of Sports.”

“It was shown over and over again,” she said.

Another blow came in 1981, when the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) dropped ski jumping as a sanctioned college sport.

“This had a ripple effect all

the way down to the local level,” she said. Young jumpers no longer had a “clear college pathway,” and the number of jumpers continued to drop.

SWSA was one of the few clubs to survive the decline, which Kobayashi attributed to the strong ties between SWSA and the community as a whole.

“I was lucky to have SWSA.”

The book contains a section on hill preparation. “It's not glamorous, it's not about individual performance,” she said.

“It's about everyone working for a common goal.”

The book also addresses women in the sport. Kobayashi said the first docu-

mented female ski jumper was Paula Lamberg, an Austrian countess who competed in 1911 wearing a long black dress (and set a record while she was at it).

She said a long-standing myth persisted, that ski jumping was bad for girls because it had a negative effect on their ability to have children.

Things started to change for the better in 2009, with the popularity of alpine skier Lindsey Vonn, and finally, in 2014, female jumpers were allowed in the Olympics.

Kobayashi said this happened because of “persistence, community, showing up when the system isn't designed for them.”

Cornwall selects manufacturer
for new fire trucks

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — At the recommendation of the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, on Jan. 20 the Board of Selectmen voted to move forward with the purchase of two new trucks.

Greenwood Emergency Vehicles, located in North Attleboro, Massachusetts, was chosen as the manufacturer. Of the three bids received, Greenwood was the lowest bidder on the desired trucks: a mini pumper and a rescue pumper.

CVFD's Ian Ridgway sat on the truck committee and said Greenwood was not just chosen for the price, but also for the design of each vehicle. He said their models had a shorter wheelbase and more ground clearance, as well as extra storage space on board, compared to the next best bid.

After \$100,000 in discounts offered by Greenwood, the combined purchase price for both vehicles was shown to be \$1,200,408. The delivery time was estimated at 15 months.

CVFD raised \$600,000 during its recent fundraising campaign, of which \$500,000 will be given to the town to buy the trucks. That figure will be paired with \$720,000 in town truck fund reserves. The additional donated funds will be used to outfit the trucks with equipment and tools.

“I want to praise the town of Cornwall,” said CVFD President Dick Sears. “We're able to buy these beautiful new pieces of equipment courtesy of the tremendous citizenry of this town.”

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U.S.A. 250:

Revolutionary figures RSVP to Washington’s Birthday Ball

By Ruth Epstein

NORTH CANAAN — As part of the yearlong celebration marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, North Canaan will kick off its observance with a Washington’s Birthday Ball on Feb. 21.

The town is deeply rooted in Revolutionary-era history, and the spirit of several notable figures from that period will come alive at the event.

Kathryn Boughton, the town historian and director of the history center, introduced several of the characters who will attend the ball during a talk at Douglas Library Wednesday, Jan. 21.

North Canaan, as well as other Northwest Corner towns, played a pivotal role in the Revolutionary War, remnants that still can be found today.

Among the figures Boughton highlighted was ironmaster Samuel Forbes, who provided munitions for the war effort. He and his wife, Lucy Pierce, had a daughter Abigail, who married John Adam, a principal in the successful Forbes & Adam company.

Forbes “established a powerful iron-producing dynasty in East Canaan and the family operated rolling and slitting mills, naileries and were involved with ore mines, creating a significant industrial complex,” said Boughton.

In 1762, Forbes and his brother Elisha partnered with Ethan Allen to establish a blast furnace in Lakeville, until Elisha was killed in an accident and Allen left for

Vermont. In 1775, Gov. Jonathan Trumbull commandeered the furnace after Richard Smith, who was operating it, was charged with being a loyalist and fled to England. Forbes was drafted to return as ironmaster at the furnace which was producing extraordinary amounts of cannons and huge cast iron kettles for soldiers’ meals, among other items.

Isaac Lawrence is reputed to be Canaan’s second settler, arriving in 1739 and purchasing land on the banks of the Blackberry River. He was a prosperous farmer and land speculator. By the time he died in 1793, he had a massed 192 acres, including much of what is now part of the downtown. The state-ly house, built in 1751, and located on Route 7, is still owned by his descendants. In 1756, he opened a tavern on the southern side of the house.

Boughton relates that he appeared to be sympathetic to the Patriot cause, as were most of those in northwest Connecticut. The late James Lyles, a Lawrence descendant, said the tavern was a valued stop on stage lines coming into town. While the gentry made a stop at the tavern, “drivers and lesser folk would pass over High

Street to another inn located about where the Housatonic Railroad now has its yard,” said Boughton.

“Lyles said that a frequent guest at the tavern was a tempestuous Ethan Allen...a boisterous, obstreperous man, prone to brawling, who wore out his welcome in northwest Connecticut and moved to Vermont in the late 1760s,” said Boughton.

Much is known about Col. Charles Burrall because of an autobiography he wrote at age 80.

He came to Sheffield as a poor boy, who lost his father when he was young and was housed by his aunt who had married John Forbes, father of Samuel Forbes. There are descriptions of his being destitute and without clothes and shoes in wintery weather.

He was later allowed to live on a parcel of land purchased in the first division of Canaan by his stepfather, John Prindle, and his mother and became one of the wealthiest of Canaan’s early land speculators. He buried two wives.

“During all these years,” said Boughton, “he was growing in eminence, rising in rank in the local militia, until he achieved the rank of captain, serving as a selectman, justice of the peace, and

as a long-time representative to the General Assembly. He was one of the delegates in 1788, to ratify the Constitution of the United States. He became renowned as a patriot in the Revolutionary War, raising and commanding some 800 area men in the second wave of the 1775-76 Canadian expedition, commanding the 14th Regiment for the victorious Americans at the Battle of Saratoga and shepherding Hessian troops captured at Saratoga through Canaan on their long march south to Virginia.”

Boughton also spoke of other key figures, including Gershom Hewitt, who was part of the expedition to capture Fort Ticonderoga, and Nathaniel Stevens, a logistics officer for George Washington.

“These are only a smattering of the Canaan veterans of the Revolution, but their service is enough to illustrate the valor and independent spirit that helped to found this nation,” concluded Boughton.

The history center will host the Washington’s Birthday Ball planned for Feb. 21 at the Colonial Theatre. These balls became a fashion in the 1780s and continued until the late 20th century. Canaan’s ball will feature beer made from Washington’s own recipe, as well as other drinks enjoyed by founding fathers, food from Martha Washington’s cookbook, dancing and appearances by some of the prominent persons from that era.

Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased at the Canaan History Center or Douglas Library.

U.S.A. 250:

Kent’s ‘America 250’ committee prepares to change name

By Alec Linden

KENT — The town board formerly known as the America 250 subcommittee is to change its name due to a federal wordmark on the phrase. The recently discovered legal snag will also require the rebranding or discontinuation of any merchandise or fundraising materials bearing the title, announced subcommittee chair Matt Frasher during the Board of Selectmen’s Jan. 20 meeting.

The group, which includes town officials, cultural institution leaders and members of the public, was formed in 2023 to plan Kent’s participation in the national celebration of the country’s 250th anniversary this summer. Frasher explained that although the federal government had apparently copyrighted the name in 2019 — both with and without a

space in between “America” and “250” — that information did not reach many Connecticut commission chairs until an inter-committee meeting earlier that afternoon with other municipal chairs in the state chapter.

Frasher said that a slew of legal actions had sprung up across the country recently in response to America 250 merchandise being sold or distributed.

While programming and activities notices bearing the “America 250” title will be allowed via a sublicensing agreement that the BOS eventually voted to sign, any fundraising efforts or materials that use the phrase risk copyright infringement.

Frasher recommended the BOS change the name to “United States 250” or “250th,” while Selectman Lynn Harrington suggested “U.S.A. 250” instead, which Frasher said would work.



PHOTO BY GWYN FOLEY

IMS honors MLK

On Thursday, Jan. 22, Indian Mountain School students, faculty and staff gathered in the Qianxun Performing Arts Center for a special performance by Camerata Baltimore. The singers had the audience on its feet, clapping, swaying and singing along to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
LEGAL NOTICE
SALISBURY
HISTORIC DISTRICT
COMMISSION

The Salisbury Historic District Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 9:15am to act on an Application for a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Installation of an EV Charging Station at 7 Ethan Allen Street, Lakeville, CT, 06039. This Public Hearing will be held at Salisbury Town Hall, 24 Main Street, with Live Internet Video Stream and Telephone access available. The Meeting Link will be posted on the Town of Salisbury website: www.salisburyct.us/agendas/. The application is available for review by contacting the Salisbury Town Clerk’s office: www.salisburyct.us. 01-29-26

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing to amend the Town of Salisbury Zoning Regulations for the following purposes:

- 1. to provide that family child care homes and group child care homes, located in a residence, are allowed in residential zones, as required by Public Act 23-142;
- 2. to correct inconsistent spelling and formatting of terms;
- 3. to eliminate duplicative language; and
- 4. to remove obsolete

references and regulations, including the regulation of telecommunication towers that are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council.

The hearing will be held on Monday February 2, 2026 at 5:45 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 regulation 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 regulations 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
Robert Riva, Secretary
01-22-26
01-29-26

NOTICE OF ANNUAL
TOWN MEETING
TOWN OF SALISBURY
FEBRUARY 11, 2026
7:30 P.M.

The Annual Town Meeting of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in

town meetings in the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut, will be held both virtually and in person at Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury, Connecticut, on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. for the following purposes:

- 1. To receive and act upon the report of the Town Officers and to recognize the Town Report dedication.
- 2. To receive and act upon the audited financial report from the Chairman of the Board of Finance and Treasurer of the Town for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, which is available for inspection.
- 3. To adopt an ordinance pursuant to which the Town will become a member town of the Northwest Regional Recovery Authority.
- 4. To adopt an ordinance pursuant to section 240 of Connecticut Public Act 25-168 granting a limited real property tax exemption to residents of the Town who have served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force or Space Force of the United States and have been determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to have a service-connected total disability based on individual unemployment.
- 5. To do any other business proper to come before said meeting.

Copies of the ordinances described in items 3 and 4 above will be available for review in the Office of the Town Clerk at least seven calendar days in advance of

the meeting.

The Board of Selectmen will post a notice on the Town’s website (<https://www.salisburyct.us/>) not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the Town Meeting providing instructions for the public on how to attend and provide comment or otherwise participate in the meeting.

Join the Webinar
When: Feb 11, 2026 07:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Topic: Annual Town Meeting
Join from PC, Mac, iPad, or Android:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84482779679?pwd=NjM4ZkRlZlYyQjVH8trG8mHQq7aFl>

Webinar ID: 844 8277 9679

Passcode: 409930
Join via audio:
+1 646 558 8656 US
Dated at Salisbury, Connecticut this 16th day of January, 2026.

Curtis G. Rand,
First Selectman
Barrett Prinz,
Selectman
Katherine Kiefer,
Selectman
01-29-26
02-05-26

Notice of Decision
Town of Salisbury
Planning & Zoning
Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on January

20, 2026:

Approved—Site Plan Application #2026-0308 by William Grickis, to amend special permit #2021-0153 (for parking flexibility and satellite parking for low turnover restaurant and apartment per sections 703.8 and 703.7) to include an additional use of “Personal Service” or “Exercise or Dance Studio” finding that in accordance with section 803.5 of the Regulations, the additional proposed use does not materially alter the Special Permit. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor’s Map 49 as Lot 27-2 and is located at 9+9a Sharon Road, Lakeville. The Owner of the property is 9 Sharon Road LLC.

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

Town of Salisbury
Planning &
Zoning Commission
Robert Riva, Secretary
01-29-26

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
ESTATE OF AMEEN
STORM ABO-HAMZY
Late of Falls Village
(25-00515)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 13, 2026, 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:
Bader Abou-Hamze
PO Box 908
North Canaan, CT 06018
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
01-29-26

NOTICE TO
CREDITORS
ESTATE OF
AIDA A. HAMZY
Late of Falls Village
(25-00516)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 13, 2026, 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:
Bader Abou-Hamze
PO Box 908
North Canaan, CT 06018
Megan M. Foley
Clerk
01-29-26

LEGAL NOTICE

The Audited Financial Statements for the Town of Salisbury covering the period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 are on file with the Town Clerk and available for inspection

Kristine M Simmons
Town Clerk, Salisbury
01-29-26

OBITUARIES

Elaine Monty

EAST CANAAN — Elaine (Small) Monty, 85 formerly of East Canaan, died Dec. 27, 2025, at the Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Elaine was born Sept. 8, 1940, in Winsted, Connecticut, daughter of the late Morris Layton and Anna (Couch) Small.

Elaine worked for 23 years at the Becton-Dickinson Company in Canaan. During her time there she worked in many departments including Sterilization, Assembly, and Moulding. Elaine's greatest loves were her family and all animals especially her best friend, Harrison, her cat.

Elaine is survived by her daughter Rebecca Roth and her son Matthew Monty both of Canaan. She is also survived by her three grandchildren; Aaron and Dillon Roth and Kelly Monty.

Graveside services will be held in the spring at Hillside Cemetery in East Canaan. Memorial donations may be made to the North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corps PO Box 178 Canaan, CT 06018.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. Canaan, CT 06018.

James Cookingham

MILLERTON — James (Jimmy) Cookingham, 51, a lifelong local resident, passed away on Jan. 19, 2026.

James was born on April 17, 1972 in Sharon, the son of Robert Cookingham and the late Joanne Cookingham.

He attended Webutuck Central School.

Jimmy was an avid farmer since a very young age at Daisey Hill and eventually had joint ownership of Daisey Hill Farm in Millerton with his wife Jessica.

He took great pride in growing pumpkins and sweet corn.

He was very outdoorsy and besides farming, loved to ride four wheelers, fish, and deer hunt. He also loved to make a roaring bonfire.

He was a farmer, friend,

husband, father, son and brother. He will be missed by many.

He is survived by his father, Robert Cookingham, wife Jessica (Ball) Cookingham, daughters, Hailey Cookingham-Liodice (Matt), Taylor Ellis-Tanner (Jimmy) and sister Brenda Valyou, as well as many cousins, nieces and nephews.

He is predeceased by his mother, Joanne (Palmer) Cookingham.

His daughter, Hailey, will always keep his legacy alive by their father-daughter antics, such as their handshake, nicknames and making "quacking noises" at each other.

Services/Memorials will be held at a later date.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



George Martin Fischer

WINDHAM — George Martin Fischer, 70, of Windham, Connecticut, passed away peacefully on Jan. 15, 2026.

George was born in Velbert, Germany, to Elisabeth and Franz Fischer, and later grew up in New Jersey, the eldest of three brothers. He

attended college in New York City before returning home to learn the mason's craft under his father's guidance. That early training became the foundation of a life defined by skill, integrity, and pride in building things that last. George went on to own his own masonry company before transitioning into corporate sales in the commercial brick industry. In that role, he worked closely with architects and builders, helping construct iconic buildings across cities throughout the Northeast—landmarks he would often point out during family travels.

On Aug. 23, 1980, George married the love of his life, Gail Susanne Miner. Married for 45 years, they built a life rooted in devotion, hard work, and shared purpose. Together, they built their first home in Lakeville, and later lovingly restored and fully remodeled two historic homes, one in Newport, New York—where they raised their daughters—and one in Windham, Connecticut. Together, they brought new life to old spaces with the same care George brought to everything he touched.

Above all else, George was—by every meaning of the word—an extraordinary father. He was the proud

and joyful father of his two daughters, and those who knew him best often said they had never seen a man express such pure, unwavering delight in his children. His pride was constant, his love unmistakable, and his devotion absolute. Over the years, George also became a second father to many, offering wisdom and steady guidance through stories, humor, and an ever-watchful presence that was calm and steady, but never judgmental.

George is survived by his beloved wife, Gail; his daughters, Stefanie (and her fiancé, Thomas Moulton) and Victoria; his brother, Robert; and his nephew, Nicholas. He was predeceased by his brother, William.

A memorial service will be held at Salisbury Congregational Church on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. Family and friends are invited afterward to a reception at The Interlaken from 2 to 5 p.m. to celebrate George's life. If you are able to attend the reception, please R.S.V.P. to his daughter, Stefanie, at Stefanie.Dianna.Fischer@gmail.com by Feb. 20. If you have stories you would like shared during the service (which his family warmly invites), or photos you would like included at the reception, please email Stefanie at the address above.

Although flowers are appreciated, donations in George's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society at donate.cancer.org.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Herbert Raymond Franson

SALISBURY — Herbert Raymond Franson, 94, passed away on Jan. 18, 2026. He was the loving husband of Evelyn Hansen Franson. Better known as Ray, within his family, and Herb elsewhere.

He was born on Feb. 11, 1931 in Brooklyn, New York.

When he was three years old, he emigrated to Sweden with his mother, Amy (Larson), father Carl Herbert and sister, Ruth. He was nurtured by members of his extended family. Being owners and managers of manufacturing plants in rural Sweden, they gave this curious "nuts and bolts kind of guy" access to machinery where he could satisfy his needs to repair and build parts for his kid-style projects. At 18 he returned to relatives in Marlborough, Connecticut who encouraged him to continue high school. He met classmate Evelyn, his English tutor and future wife, at East Hampton High School and they graduated in the class of 1949.

He joined the US Navy and served in the Mediterranean aboard the USS Midway and, during the Korean conflict, aboard the USS Pine Island. Upon discharge he attended Porter School of Machine and Tool Design under the GI Bill. He then apprenticed as a tool and die maker for Pratt Whitney Aircraft, then worked for Stirling Engineering, culminating as a mold engineer with Becton Dickinson, Canaan, Connecticut; much closer to his home on Twin Lakes. At B-D he was involved in molding technology and traveled to plants worldwide overseeing production of syringes used to deliver vaccines.

Along the way, he renovated and constructed three

homes in Marlborough and Salisbury and in Rangeley, Maine.

Ray and Evelyn retired to Rangeley in 1992 after living at Twin Lakes for 25 years. He joined the Rangeley Congregational Church just in time to coordinate renovation of the church's old barn into a community center. This led to the position of "clerk of the works" when the Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen's Association renovated and enlarged their clubhouse in Oquossoc. RRG&SA honored his dedication with a Lifetime Membership. He also volunteered driving the RRHAT van and coordinated meal deliveries for the Housing Development. He served on various boards of the church chairing buildings and grounds for many years. In his eighties, Ray turned to designing and building scratch built wood models including the Drottningholm (on which he had emigrated), the USS Midway and the steamship Rangeley to mention a few.

Ray leaves his wife of 72 years, Evelyn (Hansen), his sister, Astrid F. Harrison of Cromwell, Connecticut, brother, Carl B. Franson of Lime Rock, son Kenneth and wife Christine of Wolfeboro, New Hampshire and Rangeley, Maine, daughter, Jean F. Bell and husband Rick of Salisbury. Grandchildren Kayla J. (Bell) Johnson and husband Brett of Salisbury, and Cody J. Franson, wife Maria and great granddaughter Francesca Evelyn Franson of Rangeley, Maine.

In lieu of flowers, monetary remembrances may be made to the Rangeley Congregational Church, PO Box 218, Rangeley, ME, 04970.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Donald Harry Earl Weaver

MILLERTON — Donald Harry Earl Weaver III, 59, a lifelong area resident, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, Jan. 21, 2026, at Sharon Hospital in Sharon from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Mr. Weaver worked for seventeen years at Flood's Sanitation Service in Millerton, as a truck driver, and for eighteen years at Taylor Oil, Inc. in Dover Plains, as a plumber and service technician prior to his retirement.

Born Jan. 2, 1967, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Donald H.E. Weaver, Sr. and Alice (Funk) Weaver. He attended Webutuck High School in Amenia. On Aug. 22, 1988, in Millerton, he married the love of his life Diann Lynn Duprey. Mrs. Weaver survives at home in Millerton. Mr. Weaver was a fantastic guitar player and played with the Fender Bender Traditional Country Music Band locally for many years, and he also collected guitars. He was an avid hunter and fisherman and enjoyed collecting and tinkering with classic cars, trucks and tractors. Mr. Weaver served his community for several decades as a member of Ancram Volunteer Fire Company in Ancram, New York, where he was awarded life membership status for his many years of dedicated service.

In addition to his wife Diann, Mr. Weaver is survived by three sons; Justin Weaver and his companion Monica Hiserodt of Ancram, James

Weaver and his fiancé Taylor Hall of Pine Plains, and

Joshua Weaver and his wife Emily of Copake; four grandchildren, Jacob, Waylon, Weston and Lianey Weaver; his sister, Donna Smalls of Millerton; his mother-in-law Elinor Duprey of Millerton and sev-

eral nieces and nephews and many friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his infant brother, Donald H.E. Weaver II and his father-in-law, Robert C. Duprey.

Calling hours will be held on Thursday, Jan. 29, 2026, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. A funeral service will take place at 3:30 p.m. during visitation. The Ancram Fire Company will conduct a fire department service at 3:45 p.m. followed by a closing prayer offered by Pastor Jan Brooks. Burial will take place privately at Amenia Island Cemetery in Amenia, New York, at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Ancram Volunteer Fire Company, P.O. Box 8, Ancram, NY 12502 or the Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Donald's memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.



Moses A. Maillet, Sr.

AMENIA — Moses A. "Tony" Maillet, Sr., 78, a longtime resident of Amenia, New York, passed away on Monday, Jan. 19, 2026, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie, New York. Tony owned and operated T & M Lawn and Landscaping in Amenia.

Born on March 9, 1947, in St. Alphonse de Clare, Nova Scotia, he was the son of the late Leonard and Cora (Poirier) Maillet. Tony proudly served in the US Army during Vietnam as a heavy equipment operator. On May 12, 1996, in Amenia, he married Mary C. Carberry who survives at home.

Tony was a life member of the Amenia Fire Company with 51 years of dedicated service, actively driving fire trucks until his illness in Nov. of 2025. He was charter member of the Red Knights Motorcycle Club NY Chapter 33 in Pleasant Valley, New York and a member of the American Legion Post # 178 in Millerton, New York.

In addition to his loving wife, Tony is survived by a

son, Moses A. Maillet, Jr. of Waterbury, Connecticut, and two brothers, Mark Maillet of New Port Richie, Florida and Bernard Ross of Cambridge, Ontario. He is also survived by two grandchildren, Moses A. Maillet, III and Jacob Maillet; a great-granddaughter, Mary Lillian Maillet and several nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Tony was predeceased by three brothers, Theodore Poirier, Donald Maillet and Edward Maillet.

A memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31, 2026, at Immaculate Conception Church, 4 Lavelle Rd., Amenia, New York with Rev. Andrew O'Connor officiating. Military honors and firematic services will follow the memorial mass at the church. Memorial contributions may be made to the Amenia Fire Company, 36 Mechanic Street, Amenia, NY 12501. For directions or to send the family a condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneral-home.com



 Worship Services Week of February 1, 2026	
Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. <i>Transitioning through prayer</i> 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 <i>Offering companionship along the Way</i> 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) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC <i>Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people</i> 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, February 8 at 10:30 a.m. SCIENCE and RELIGION: Is there a connection? For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoio@gmail.com All are Welcome
Congregation Beth David <i>A reform Jewish Synagogue</i> 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 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	St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality
All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us	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 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!

Send obituaries
to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

EDITORIAL

Truth and evidence depend on the right to observe

The fatal shooting of Alex Pretti, and before him Renée Good, by federal agents in Minnesota is not just a tragedy; it is a warning. In the aftermath, Trump administration officials released an account of events that directly contradicted citizen video recorded at the scene. Those recordings, made by ordinary people exercising their rights, showed circumstances sharply at odds with the official narrative. Once again, the public is asked to choose between the administration's version of events and the evidence of its own eyes.

This moment underscores an essential truth: the right to record law enforcement is not a nuisance or a provocation; it is a safeguard. As New York Times columnist David French put it, "Citizen video has decisively rebutted the administration's lies. The evidence of our eyes contradicts the dishonesty of the administration's words."

Separately, law enforcement agencies across the country are expanding their capacity to watch the public. Here at home, as we've reported, Dutchess County's Real Time Crime Center brings together feeds from automated license-plate readers, including systems provided by Flock Safety, allowing police to track vehicles across jurisdictions in real time. These tools collect detailed movement data on vast numbers of people who are not suspected of any crime, often with limited public discussion of safeguards or oversight.

When citizens document state power, they are told to step back or trust official explanations. When the state documents the public, continuously and at scale, it is framed as efficiency. One form of observation is treated as suspect; the other as routine.

What magnifies the alarm in the Minnesota shootings isn't just the loss of life, but the response that followed. Federal force was used against members of the U.S. public, and officials responded not with clarity or accountability, but with statements that collapsed under visual evidence. That willingness to lie, and to do so reflexively, signals a deeper problem: an administration increasingly willing to treat truth as an obstacle rather than an obligation.

A democratic society depends on shared facts. The right of citizens and journalists to observe, record and document matters because it anchors truth in evidence, not authority. That right is not a threat to public safety. It is among the few remaining tools the public has to insist that power remains answerable to the truth.

Military hardware as a signpost

It is hard not to equate military spending and purchasing with diplomatic or strategic plans being made, for reasons otherwise unknown. Keeping an eye out for the physical stuff can often begin to shine a light on what's coming. – good and possibly very bad.

Without Congressional specific approval, the Pentagon has awarded a contract to Boeing for \$8,600,000,000 (US taxpayer dollars) for another 25 F-15A attack fighters to be given to Israel. Oh, and there's another 25 more of the F-15EX variant on option, free to Israel as well.

Meanwhile, many European countries have switched their purchases of the F-35 fighters to the French Rafale or the Joint European Fighter as well as Saab's advanced concept fighter Gripen. Turkey and Airbus, meanwhile, have sold the Hurjet trainer to Spain and other countries over the US trainer. And France is about to begin laying the keel for a new aircraft carrier (though that will take almost a decade). Meanwhile, Airbus is now, since 2024, the primary supplier to all EU countries for military helicopters... Saab is making GlobalEye airborne aircraft for France, Italy and Germany... France's Rafale Company is making and delivering Iron Beam high-energy laser weapons... Airbus has ramped up delivery to all its new EU customers of 18 new C295 tactical transports.

Some may wonder why EU leaders as well as the UK, have been so soft tongued when it comes to this Administration's recent diplomatic transgres-

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE PETER RIVA

sions over Greenland (oops, Iceland?). The reason is simple: For decades the US has been the cheapest and best supplier of the finest military hardware – planes, tanks, weapon systems, and defense capability. What every nation understood was that the US held the controls of the safe operation of those aircraft. For example, the electronics of every F-35 can be controlled remotely from the US. Go against us? We can pull the plug. That was never an issue before, where we had trust and mutual goals. The current rush to re-prioritize local EU manufacture and longer term self reliance in the EU is a direct consequence of this Administration's changing of priorities and allied trust.

It is true that DJT can take credit for EU and UK increased military budgeting and preparedness, his actions have forced them to that reality. It is also true that his long term damage to American jobs and industry are just now becoming evident as less of our hardware is attractive to foreign buyers and our military oversight will be slowly eroded to a position where nations no longer feel the need for diplomatic or industrial reliance on America.

Peter Riva, a former resident of Armenia Union, New York, now lives in Gila, New Mexico.

What's with Greenland?

As I noted here in an article last spring entitled "Hands off Greenland", the world's largest island was at the center of a developing controversy. President Trump was telling all who would listen that, for national security reasons, the United States needed to take over Greenland, amicably if possible or by force if necessary. While many were shocked by Trump's imperialistic statements, most people, at least in this country, took his words as ill-considered bluster. But he kept telling questioners that he had to have Greenland (often echoing the former King of France, Louis XIV who famously said, "L'État c'est moi!").

Since 1951, the U.S. has had a security agreement with Denmark giving it near total freedom to install and operate whatever military facilities it wanted on Greenland. At one point there were sixteen small bases across the island, now there's only one. Denmark's Prime Minister has told President Trump that the U.S. should feel free to expand its installations if needed. As climate change is starting to allow a future passage from the Pacific Ocean to the Arctic, many countries are showing interest in Greenland including Russia and China but this hardly indicates an international crisis as Trump and his subordinates insist.

Researchers believe that, buried beneath the mammoth glaciers covering most of the land are rich deposits of various rare earth minerals including those needed for modern batteries and other hi-tech devices. Trump has already made a deal with Ukraine to supply them more arms in return for rights to its underground "rare earth" deposits. Some have called this extortion but to Trump it was business as usual. Greenland's buried treasures could be a much bigger deal.

But perhaps Trump's lifelong obsession with size is the dominant reason he feels he must have the world's largest island; like his planned White House ballroom, for him this is essentially an ego trip.

The U.S. has lately lost moral authority in foreign

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER MAC GORDON

affairs by its illegal invasion of Venezuela and the kidnapping of its President; a military invasion and takeover of Greenland, a territory of Denmark, one of its staunchest allies, would place us in a category with Putin's Russia, an enemy of the Free World. And moreover it would encourage Russia, China or other authoritarian states to move against their neighbors in endless power grabs.

Greenlanders and Danes have made it clear from the beginning that they do not wish to become American and are not for sale, Trump's subordinates have tried to advance a scheme whereby Elon Musk might buy a majority of the individual Greenlanders' votes to sell their country to the U.S.; however Denmark has the last word and is not about to agree to selling Greenland to anyone.

Although Greenlanders have largely been in favor of eventual independence, since Trump's intemperate demands they have locked arms with Denmark. Recently, large demonstrations in both places have expressed anger, but even more, sadness that their staunch ally would turn against them.

The reaction of Denmark's NATO allies has been clear; at least eight, with likely others to follow, have denounced the U.S. stance and several have sent token national military forces to Greenland. This was immediately followed by Trump issuing severe specific tariff threats (even though the legality of even his existing tariffs is currently being adjudicated in the Supreme Court). All these actions could be a death blow to most current American alliances with Europe.

Other than Trump's appointees those who support the President's claim to Greenland are hard to find in the U.S. or elsewhere. While most Republican political leaders have avoided speaking out

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Include name, town and phone number. Keep letters to 500 words or less.



TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — January 1901

LIME ROCK — By reason of the overturning of a load of hay a few weeks ago, George Judd fractured his left arm. He is able to be around again.

100 years ago — January 1926

W.P. Bishop has been substituting as telegraph operator in Kent.

New fashion notes from Paris and other points of interest indicate that women's skirts will be still shorter. Everybody seems to be worrying but the ladies themselves. One thing seems rather strange and that is the shorter the skirt the longer its price seems to be.

The ice harvest has commenced, and 10-inch ice is being taken from the lake.

50 years ago — January 1976

Northwest Corner roads — and motorists — took a heavy beating from this week's sudden thaw and heavy rains. By Wednesday morning, waters had receded from all major roads except Route 7 south of Kent.

Dr. Armand Oppenheimer, chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Housatonic Audubon Society, warned again this week that it may be unsafe to eat fish taken from the Housatonic River and its tributaries because of concentrations of the toxic chemical PCB.

25 years ago — January 2001

The familiar red and white signs are up in Salisbury and in Canaan announcing the Salisbury ski jumps Feb. 10 and 11. What the signs don't tell people is that this is a very important year for the Salisbury Winter Sports Association — its 75th anniversary.

SALISBURY — Describing Sharon Hospital as "a frog in hot water," Dr. Fred Hyde believes there is a better way to solve its problems and keep it going than the sale to Essent Healthcare. If the deal goes through, this would be the first conversion of a non-profit hospital to a for-profit in the state.

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

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SNOW

Continued from Page A1

“In December, we had seen as much snow as all of winter last year,” North Canaan First Selectman Jesse Bunce said Friday, before the storm arrived, citing conversations with his highway crew. “Our salt budget is getting thin, and costs like this are tough. But we have to do it no matter what happens. Public safety comes first.”

Bunce said the town expected to exceed its snow-removal budget even before the weekend storm. Crews logged nearly 30 hours during the Jan. 17–18 weekend alone, he said, after back-to-back storms required repeated plowing and salting.

“A typical snowstorm might mean a four-hour route for our crews — three or four inches that stops overnight, allowing them to head out early in the morning,” Bunce said. “But when storms drag out, it really lengthens the work.”

North Canaan employs four full-time highway workers, with an additional employee on call for larger storms. Bunce said the town has some reserve funds and expects to shift money within the budget to cover overruns.

Falls Village First Selectman Dave Barger said his town is facing similar pressures. “We will be over budget,” Barger said Friday. “We have used more salt this season than we used all last year — and we’re only half-way through the winter.”

Several officials pointed to a recent rain-to-freeze cycle



PHOTO BY SIMON MARKOW

The covered bridge in West Cornwall was shrouded by heavy snowfall Sunday afternoon, Jan. 25.

as particularly costly, turning snow into inches of ice that required heavier treatment. Some towns adjusted their salt usage by mixing materials to conserve supplies. North Canaan, for example, has used a blend of roughly two-thirds salt and one-

third sand, Bunce said. Salt currently costs about \$120 per cubic yard, compared to roughly \$20 for sand.

Kent First Selectman Eric Epstein said his town entered the storm well stocked and operationally ready.

“The highway department

has been busy and has gone through a lot of material this year,” Epstein said Friday. “We’ve had deliveries, we’re well stocked, and the trucks are in good shape. There has been an increase in costs, but so far it’s within the budget. We’ll see if this pattern con-

tinues.”

Salisbury First Selectman Curtis Rand said Thursday that highway crews were prepared, while Sharon First Selectman Casey Flanagan also reported that his town had taken steps to be ready for prolonged snowfall and extreme cold.

Beyond road conditions, the storm triggered broader cold-weather planning at the state level. On Wednesday, Jan. 21, Lamont’s office announced that Connecticut’s Cold Weather Protocol would go into effect ahead of the storm’s arrival, activating coordination between state agencies and municipalities.

The protocol is designed to protect vulnerable populations during periods of life-threatening cold, including arranging transportation to warming centers and shelters when needed. Residents

seeking shelter were urged to visit 211ct.org or call 2-1-1 for assistance.

Municipalities also reached out directly to residents. The Town of Cornwall circulated an advisory email urging people to check on neighbors and vulnerable residents and reminding them of the town’s Storm Safety Check-In program, which provides advance notice of major weather events and wellness checks when necessary.

As crews continued plowing into Monday, local leaders said the storm underscored both the importance — and the growing cost — of winter preparedness.

“A year like this, with so much activity, it’s inevitable,” Bunce said. “We anticipate going over budget. But we’ll take it as it comes and keep the roads safe.”



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Above, a dog emerges from the snow. Below, an ambitious snow blower got started Sunday while snow kept falling.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Richard Tietjen, a sexton at the Salisbury Congregational Church, shoveled some 16 inches of snow from the church’s front steps Monday morning, Jan. 26.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Roadsides in Salisbury were covered in tall snow banks Monday, Jan. 26, as plows worked to clean the streets.



PHOTO BY SIMON MARKOW

Shovelers had their work cut out for them after the high snow accumulation.

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We should know the response of the parents of Alex Pretti:

“We are heartbroken but also very angry.

“Alex was a kindhearted soul who cared deeply for his family and friends and also the American veterans whom he cared for as an ICU nurse at the Minneapolis VA hospital. Alex wanted to make a difference in this world. Unfortunately he will not be with us to see his impact. I do not throw around the hero term lightly. However his last thought and act was to protect a woman.

“The sickening lies told about our son by the administration are reprehensible and disgusting. Alex is clearly not holding a gun when attacked by Trump’s murdering and cowardly ICE thugs. He has his phone in his right hand and his empty left hand is raised above his head while trying to protect the woman ICE just pushed down all while being pepper sprayed.

“Please get the truth out about our son. He was a good man. Thank you.”

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Our Towns

Music fills Canaan Union Depot

By Robin Roraback

NORTH CANAAN — Music lovers gathered for an open mic and sing-along held in the Community Music Room at the Canaan Union Depot on the afternoon of Sunday, Jan. 18.

Although the audience was small due to snow the day before, one audience member asserted, “It was quality, not quantity” that counted.

Host Paul Ramunni of the New England Accordion Connection and Museum, which is located downstairs in the Depot, explained the idea for the gathering came about last year. It is loosely based on “America’s Got Talent,” but without the judging.

The gathering is monthly, with the next one scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. All are welcome to sing and play. Those who just want to come and enjoy the music are welcome too, no need to perform.

Ramunni was first on the stage. He said he began playing at age 13 “when my mother introduced me to the idea that I should be playing the accordion.”

At the time, he said, his reaction was, “Anything but that!”

It was the days when Elvis was king and the accordion



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

Dan Whelan on Sunday afternoon, Jan. 18, in the Community Music Room of the old train station in North Canaan. In the foreground is one of many works on exhibit there by artist Sarah Davis Hughes that relate music, pattern and color.

was not, but he learned.

Ramunni played “Night in Paris” and “Moonlight Serenade” among others for the appreciative audience.

He was followed by his wife, Marcia Ramunni, on the autoharp and Sarah Davis Hughes on accordion. Marcia explained how to play the autoharp, saying it was fairly easy, labeled with the chords on one side, strings to strum or pick on the other. The autoharp is used in Bluegrass music and can be played on the lap or held vertically.

They covered “Ripple” from the Grateful Dead, with

the passing of Bob Weir, a timely tribute, and “The Impossible Dream” from the musical, “Man of La Mancha,” which was a new song for them.

Next was Dan Whalen, who was there to hone his performing skills and work on singing, something he has recently started to do. He played a banjo reel and some Irish Folk songs on his four-string tenor banjo before getting out his harmonica and guitar.

Whalen learned to play the harmonica at age eight, taught by Jim Dubois, his

neighbor on Grove Street in Salisbury. He played “Chattanooga Shoe Shine,” the first song he learned. Then he played folk songs, “The Thirty-Foot Trailer” and “The Skylark” on guitar with harmonica accompaniment, encouraging the audience to join the choruses.

The faces of the audience reflected their enjoyment of the music. Paul Ramunni said, “I’m convinced music is the language of heaven. Music brings people together.”

The recurring event is free, but donations are welcome.



PHOTO BY KELLIE EISERMANN

Elizabeth Eisermann and Gregory Drumm bought their Christmas tree at the FFA holiday store last month.

FFA holiday store raises \$115K

By Kellie Eisermann

FALLS VILLAGE — The Housatonic Valley FFA holiday store closed out 2025 with a profit of \$115,558.

A total of 643 Christmas trees, 462 poinsettias and 798 wreaths were sold, along with roping, kissing balls, centerpieces and dairy products.

Proceeds support local food banks and nonprofit organizations and help fund FFA leadership conferences, competitions and conventions.

All Housatonic Valley Regional High School students enrolled in agriculture education classes participated in the holiday sales and marketing unit. Each student was required to complete eight hours of work in the holiday store outside of class and to sell a minimum of \$100 in products.

Students learned to identify and care for Christmas trees and poinsettias, create

holiday products, operate a point-of-sale system, and assemble wreaths. Throughout the holiday sales and marketing unit, students developed career-ready leadership skills by managing real-world business operations, from inventory logistics to customer relations.

By the end of the unit, students had built communication skills, a strong work ethic, hands-on sales experience and a collaborative mindset.

Through the continued support of the Housatonic Valley Regional High School community — whether by purchasing items, donating greens or participating in production nights — the Holiday Store remains a cornerstone of the program’s success. The fundraiser not only supports the local FFA chapter, but also strengthens connections between students and the community while spreading holiday spirit.

Housatonic Camera Club unveils newest show

By Matthew Kreta

SALISBURY — The Housatonic Camera Club’s first exhibit of the year will run from Jan. 17 through Feb. 15 at Noble Horizons and will be open to the public on weekends from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The exhibit features the work of 16 Housatonic Camera Club photographers, presenting a diverse range of images that capture local landscapes, portraits, wildlife, architecture and cultural scenes. In total, 48 photographs are on display.

Photographers featured include Sarah Blodgett, Dawn Dingee, Steve Goldberg, Lazlo Gyorsok, Verne Henshall, Joan Hinchman, Heidi Hoeller, Jack Kearney, Mark Marshall, G.A. Mudge, Pamela Peeters, Silloo Peters-Marshall, Bert Schmitz, Paul Serbaniewicz, Sergio Cillaschi and Brian Wilcox.

The club was founded in 1956 by Edward Hutchinson, of Sharon, and is currently

led by President Dawn Dingee. Members participate regularly in photo competitions sponsored by the New England Camera Club and Photographic Society of America.

“It’s a local club with lots of heart,” said Pamela Peeters, the head of publicity at HCC. “This one was just ‘whatever you feel like,’ but I think it came together, really,” Peeters said. “To give maybe a moment of peace, which we all need. Peace in our hearts, and what’s better than to see things that are peaceful?”

Looking ahead, she added, “We have our next exhibit scheduled at the Scoville Memorial Library in Salisbury this March and April.” She noted the next exhibit is “more about emotions.”

The club’s 2025-26 season runs through June of this year.

For more information on the Housatonic Camera Club, visit www.housatonic-cameraclub.com



PHOTO BY LAZLO GYORSOK

Above, Pamela Peeters examines the photos on display at Housatonic Camera Club’s new exhibit. Below, the works can be viewed at Noble Horizons.



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA



PHOTO PROVIDED

Magnifier stand added to Hotchkiss Library

Mary Walters, former Hotchkiss Library of Sharon staff member, and her husband Art have donated a stand magnifier that will greatly enhance reading materials for low-vision residents. The ClearView Go HD Magnifier is available for use throughout the library, allowing patrons to magnify and read text. Walters requested it be lent to Town Hall for elections. Inquire at the Library’s circulation desk to learn how to use the ClearView Go.

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Jon Brunelle is a sleight-of-hand expert and performance artist who has plied his trade on stages from Hollywood’s Magic Castle to New York’s Dixon Place and PS122.

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FARMLAND

Continued from Page A1

warning that the reassessment threatened the economic viability of family farms across rural Connecticut.

Following pressure from Harding, local farmers, and a petition with more than 20,000 signatures, the governor agreed to pause the new, higher valuations and revert to 2020 levels.

At the press conference, Harding said farmers in his district and across the state were facing projected assessment increases of hundreds — and in some cases thousands — of percent under new land-use values developed by the state.

“This isn’t about tax avoidance,” Harding said at the time. “This is about whether family farms can survive when the rules change overnight.”

Farmers attending the event echoed those concerns, saying sudden jumps in assessed values could translate into tax bills they could not absorb while continuing to operate.

The most controversial proposal would have in-



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Farmland in the Northwest Corner, where family farms rely on Public Act 490 to keep land in agricultural use.

creased the value of swamp land from \$40 an acre to \$970 an acre. That increase was later eliminated following public outcry, although other land categories in the new revaluation remained subject to significant tax hikes.

“Unforeseen lack of data” to blame

Lamont said in a statement, “Due to an unforeseen lack of data in establishing assessment values for these lands as required, significant increases in valuations occurred for the tax years beginning with the 2025 grand list.”

Only about 4% of the state’s

farmers contributed survey data for the revaluation, according to state officials.

To address the problem, the governor directed OPM, in consultation with the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, to revoke the 2025 Recommended Land Use Values and Best Practices for farmland, forestland, open space and maritime heritage land, and reinstate the 2020 recommended land use values for these categories.

The governor also ordered immediate notification to all municipal tax assessors of the revocation and reinstatement, and mandated that a working group be convened in collaboration with the state department of agriculture, including representation from agricultural organizations, farmers, municipal leaders and assessors.

What triggered the concern?

The dispute centers on Public Act 490, the state law that allows farmland, forestland, and open space to be assessed for property tax purposes based on its current use rather than its fair-market value.

The law is intended to reduce pressure on landowners to sell to developers and to keep working landscapes intact.

Every five years, the state develops recommended land-use values that municipalities may use when setting assessments. In late 2025, updated values released by the Department of Agriculture and OPM would have significantly increased assessments in several farmland categories, prompting alarm from farmers and assessors alike.

Although the state revised the figures earlier this month after hearing concerns, many landowners said the updated numbers still represented dramatic increases.

In the Northwest Corner — where farms are often land-rich but cash-poor — farmers warned that higher assessments could limit reinvestment, complicate succession planning or push land toward subdivision or other non-agricultural uses.

Benjamin Freund of East Canaan said the proposed changes would have had a direct and immediate im-

pact on his family’s farming operation, which comprises 455 acres enrolled under Connecticut’s farmland tax program.

“It would have impacted us, as we have all of our acres — minus the houses — under PA 490,” Freund said. “We have every land classification, from tillable acres to swamp and woodlands. PA 490 is a critical tax relief program that allows us to farm large tracts and be taxed according to the use. We could not afford to plant corn and have the same property tax as a house lot.”

Freund said his family has operated for decades under PA 490 and described the pro-

gram as essential to keeping farmland in production in Connecticut.

“We could not farm in Connecticut without it.”

He said landowners are periodically surveyed to provide the raw data used to determine updated land values, but said low participation contributed to distorted results in the most recent valuation cycle.

“The Connecticut Farm Bureau recognized the issue and worked with the Department of Agriculture to address the concern.”

The third-generation Freund Farm, operated by Ben and Matt Freund, rents land and barns to Canaan View Dairy, operated by Ethan Arsenault, who owns the cows and grows the crops.

Jennifer Dubray, assessor for North Canaan, Kent and Sharon, said the governor’s action will not require changes to the current grand lists in those towns.

“The PA 490 values in those towns were all established using the latest values provided by the Office of Policy and Management at the time of their respective

revaluations,” Dubray said. “In North Canaan, the revaluation took place in 2022 and utilized the 2020 values. For Kent and Sharon, the revaluations occurred in 2023, so the 2020 values were also used.”

“Consequently,” she said, “it will not be necessary to make any changes to the 2025 Grand List for these towns.”

Farmers’ input sought

In addition to directing OPM to immediately notify municipal assessors that the 2020 land-use values are back in effect, Lamont also ordered the creation of a working group that will include farmers, municipal officials, assessors, and state agencies to review the valuation process and recommend improvements before the next five-year reassessment cycle.

Harding said the governor’s action was an important first step but emphasized that longer-term reforms may be needed to ensure transparency and predictability.

“This pause gives farmers breathing room,” Harding said. “Now we need to make sure the system going forward reflects real-world farming conditions.”

What is PA 490? and why it matters to local farms

Public Act 490, commonly known as PA 490, is Connecticut’s farmland, forest, and open-space tax law. Adopted in 1963, the law is designed to help preserve working farms and undeveloped land by taxing property based on how it is used, rather than what it could sell for on the open market.

Land enrolled under PA 490 is assessed according to its current use — such as farming, forestry, or open space — rather than its potential value for housing or commercial development. This typically results in significantly lower property taxes for landowners who keep their land in agricultural or conservation use.

Active farmland, forestland, open space and maritime heritage land qualify under PA 490. Homes and residential lots on farm properties are not included and are taxed at regular residential rates.

Without PA 490, farmland in rural areas — especially in regions like the state’s Northwest Corner — could be taxed at values similar to buildable house lots. Farmers say that would make it difficult or impossible to continue operating, particularly on large tracts of land.

Every five years, the state updates recommended land-use values that towns may use for assessments. Proposed 2025 values released late last year would have sharply increased assessments in several farmland categories, raising concerns about higher property taxes for farmers statewide.

Farmers and lawmakers say predictable, reasonable assessments under PA 490 are essential to keeping farmland in production and preventing conversion to more intensive development.

—Debra A. Aleksinas

HEALTHCARE

Continued from Page A1

Dental services will be added soon, she noted.

Borduas said that 36% of local households are classified as ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), and said the health center is helping residents meet basic survival needs. With grants and help from Becton Dickinson and other businesses, the center has distributed Stop & Shop gift cards and provided emergency heating assistance for struggling families.

Borduas noted that about 20% of Northwest Corner residents are over age 65. In response, CHWC has expanded transportation to and from the health centers and added a Geriatric Consultation Clinic.

Borduas said the healthcare landscape is also challenging, citing an 18% average increase in health insurance premiums this year and an ongoing struggle to maintain federal grants.

Joining Borduas on stage were Kristy Clark, a nurse specializing in behavioral health, Becca Malone, a nurse who splits her time between school-based health centers



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Joanne Borduas, CEO of Community Health and Wellness Center, speaks at a town hall event Jan. 20.

at North Canaan Elementary School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School, and Dr. Deborah Buccino, a pediatrician.

During the question-and-answer portion of the event, Borduas noted that CHWC can help patients navigate Medicaid and Affordable Care Act paperwork. For people with no insurance at all, CHWC has a sliding scale for payment, or payment plans.

The bottom line for CHWC, Borduas said, is “a person’s zip code should not determine their health.”

LOVEJOY

Continued from Page A1

document the journey.

For the first seven days, Lovejoy rode alone. After the first week, he met cyclists from England, the Netherlands, Germany and New Zealand. A community formed among these strangers, who then went on to spend days and sometimes weeks together.

Each morning over breakfast, plans were made about where they would camp the following night and subsequently how many miles that day would entail. While weather conditions were a factor, most days entailed an average of 50 miles.

Time on the route was split, riding for seven to 10 days at a time, followed by one rest day in a nearby town to grocery shop, do laundry and enjoy a meal other than packaged tuna and rice.

The majority of the route, around 2,100 miles, is comprised of unpaved roads, meaning the weather played a large role in the condition of cycling. Using paper maps and GPS apps, Lovejoy was able to navigate around trails that were unsafe or poorly maintained if rain had fallen the night before.

In New Mexico, the main challenge was what cyclists refer to as “peanut butter mud,” in which the traction on the road is sticky and can interfere with the mechanics of the bike.

For Lovejoy, New Mexico



PHOTO PROVIDED

Alan Lovejoy at the end of his international cycling journey.

also brought the most exciting wildlife.

One morning, a fellow cyclist was met with a road full of tarantulas, a sight Lovejoy was on the hunt to see for himself. He experienced the first snowfall on Sept. 23, two weeks before reaching the U.S.-Mexico border.

Riding each day from sunrise to sunset with no music, Lovejoy relied on the scenic views around him to pass the time.

Now that the journey has been crossed off Love-

joy’s bucket list, plans for new routes have begun to emerge. In retirement he remains the track and field coach for HVRHS, and he stated his main consideration when planning future rides is that the timeline does not interfere with the high school track season.

Lovejoy challenges himself to ride 3,000 miles each year. In the Northwest Corner, his typical route takes him from Amesville to the Massachusetts state line and back.

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To George Whalen IV, relationships are what build community, and lending is a tool that helps people make things happen. He’s seen it his whole life — the Bank of Millbrook working together with people like you, in this area that’s thrived from his great grandfather’s generation to his son’s.

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George T. Whalen IV
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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle



27 students will perform for The Hotchkiss School’s Young Artists Concert at Carnegie Hall on Jan. 31.

MUSIC: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Hotchkiss students head to Carnegie Hall

There’s an old adage that asks, “How do you get to Carnegie Hall?” The answer is usually “practice, practice, practice.” But for 27 Hotchkiss students, the answer will be boarding a chartered bus from Lakeville to New York City for the Young Artists Concert on Jan. 31.

The concert will be presented by Fabio Witkowski, the Joanne Eastman Sohrweide Chair and director of music at Hotchkiss, alongside Gisele Witkowski, instructor in piano and director of the Hotchkiss Piano Portals summer program. Together, they will showcase a wide range of student performances, highlighting the depth of musical study and artistic excellence cultivated at the school.

“Hotchkiss has a great reputation for strong academics and athletics, but not as many people know about our wonderful music and arts programs,” Witkowski said. “The generosity of Barbara and Amos Hostetter made so much possible here,” he added, referring to a major three-part gift from the couple in 2018 that significantly strengthened Hotchkiss’s music and arts programs.

“One thing that makes me so proud about this type of philanthropy is that people usually spend every dime on the bricks,” Witkowski said.



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN
Fabio Witkowski, the Joanne Eastman Sohrweide Chair and director of music at Hotchkiss.

“But we used about half for the building and then half for programming. Now we really operate like a mini conservatory here.” Students who study in the music program have access to two lessons a week, orchestra, music history and theory. “And we have an amazing music series here,” he said. “We’ve had the Guarneri String Quartet, Emerson, Lang Lang and Midori. And the concerts are all free because they’re part of the endowment. That makes me very proud.”

To be chosen to perform at Carnegie Hall, students went through a competition process in December. About 20 students will have the opportunity to perform solo pieces, but to accommodate all the students, Witkowski arranged two pieces for small ensembles. “That way, everyone gets to play,” he said.

Annabelle Chu, from

Hong Kong, is studying percussion at Hotchkiss and will be playing “Brazilian Landscape” by Ney Rosauro for solo vibraphone. “Usually, I do a sport. So, during the spring and fall, I do track and cross-country, respectively. Last year I did swimming in the winter, but I switched to music, which was great. Now I’m getting a lot more practice time — like two hours every day, and then on weekends, I get like three or four.”

Chu has only ever been outside Carnegie Hall. “When I was just wandering around the city,” she said. Asked how she will feel when she walks out on stage, she said, “I think I’ll be very nervous, but at the end, hopefully I’ll be very proud of myself.”

Senior Emma Liu is a pianist and is in the process of applying to conservatories that have joint programs. She has been to Carnegie Hall

many times during her tenure at Hotchkiss and will be performing “Sonata No. 4” by Scriabin this year. Asked how much she has been practicing, she said, “Probably not as much as I should be, but I try to get in at least two hours a day.” Even though this will not be her first time at Carnegie Hall, when she walks out on the stage, Liu said, “Every time feels like the first time. I love being there with Hotchkiss students because it’s an incredible opportunity. I don’t think there’s any other place like Hotchkiss that does this kind of thing. So, yeah, we’re very, very lucky.”



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
Collage by Gabriel Thomen, grade 7.

ART: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Kellogg emerging artists show opens at Hunt Library

After a November 2025 meeting with Falls Village artist Vincent Incognilios, whose show “Face Time” was on exhibition at the David M. Hunt library, students at Lee H. Kellogg, under the eye of art teacher Madeleine Stern,

got busy with their responses. The results are now on display at the library.

“Lee H. Kellogg Emerging Artists Exhibition 2026” will be on display through Friday, Feb. 6, with 71 art works from Kellogg students in grades K through 8.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
Figure by Eli Sher, grade 6.



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PHOTO BY HEDI CHARDE

Poet Sharon Charde will be discussing her new collection of poetry, 'What's After Making Love' at The White Hart on Feb. 1.

BOOKS: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Poet Sharon Charde on grief, memory and 'What's After Making Love'

Poet Sharon Charde will appear at The White Hart Inn in Salisbury on Sunday, Feb. 1, as part of the White Hart Speaker Series, in conversation with poet Sally van Doren, to discuss Charde's new collection, "What's After Making Love." The event is free, with registration requested.

The book traces a woman's life from childhood through marriage, motherhood, and maturity, but its emotional core emerges from the death of Charde's son, Geoff.

“Life is no longer ordinary once one has experienced grief,” said Charde. After his death, she said, grief felt “like a heavy marble coat I’d been sentenced to wear — forever,” raw and invasive, altering every experience. When a friend’s child asked if she and her husband would ever be happy again, her answer was simple: “Not for a long time.”

The poems do not suggest grief fades. Instead, they reflect how it changes shape. “After some years — and this takes much work — I learned to carry grief differently,” said Charde, describing how support from family and friends, therapy, prayer and writing allowed her to keep going. Loss, she shared, made life more fragile but also more vivid, sharpening her appreciation for love, deepening her marriage, and making ordinary

moments more poignant. Poetry became a way to “take the inchoate and shape it into something outside myself — my poems, prayers for healing.”

The collection's title grew from a poem written many years ago, reflecting on love as both joy and risk. "Everything comes after making love," Charde said. The phrase became, for her, "an umbrella under which all could fall," a way to hold the whole of a life without simplifying it.

Memory, too, plays a central role in the book. Charde distinguishes between factual memory and what she calls the memory of the spirit, shaped by emotion and time. "Memory is unreliable," she said, but poetry allows it to be burnished into meaning. Writing, for her, remains a mysterious process: "I never know what will come when I sit down with paper and pen."

Charde will be joined by Sally van Doren, a longtime friend and colleague she first met at a poetry workshop in Squaw Valley in 1999. Their conversation will reflect years of shared literary community, teaching, creative practice and will include readings from the book and questions from the audience.

The event is at 2 p.m.
at The White Hart Inn,
15 Undermountain
Road, Salisbury.

Free; registration
requested at oblong-
books.com

ART: ROBIN RORABACK

Norfolk artist finds her voice through the seasons

A new exhibition at the Norfolk Library traces the artistic evolution of longtime resident and illustrator Katie Atkinson, showcasing decades of work that grew from children's book-inspired imagery into internationally licensed art.

"I put together the Norfolk Library show, 'Seasons of Painting,' to show my evolution as an artist through the years," she explained.

The show will be on display at the Norfolk Library from Jan. 31 to Feb. 25, with an opening reception on Feb. 1 from 4 to 6 p.m. On Feb. 15 at 3 p.m., Atkinson will give a presentation and answer questions about her work.

"I remember loving painting and drawing as a child. I knew that I wanted to be an artist in elementary school," Atkinson recalled.

After graduating from college, she lived in New York City, taking jobs in graphic design and advertising, but not feeling she had found her own style and direction yet.

She married and moved to Norfolk. “Once we had our sons and I was reading children’s books to them, it helped me to see the kind of expressive art I wanted to create.” She realized, “It was really about capturing and conveying a feeling more than about any technique.”

"It took 10 years before I was able to really have a consistent look and create my own art that felt natural to me, not trying to fit any particular market, and then the right markets came to me."

Her children loved winter, and that became a theme for her. "I felt the magic of winter as I saw it through my children's eyes," Atkinson remembered. She said one of her first paintings, "Winter Wonderland," was quickly licensed by an English greeting card company "as soon as I placed it in Illustration Source," the



PHOTO BY PAUL ATKINSON

Norfolk artist Katie Atkinson in her studio with her painting 'Tree of Hope.' Her show, "Seasons of Painting," opens at the Norfolk Library Jan. 31.



'Winter Wonderland' by Katie Atkinson

agency that represents her.

Around the same time, she went to the New York Stationery Show, where she showed her work to Good Source Greetings, which “bought five cards from the start.”

“These paintings were more universal, idealized and symbolic in theme, yet still with the expressive feel of children’s book illustration.” Her work was marketed worldwide by Illustration Source. “Finally, I had found two areas where I could create what I wanted, and my work was selling — often multiple times for uses and publications I wouldn’t have

found on my own.”

"One of my most exciting licensing deals was in 2004, when my art was published by the American Lung Association for Christmas Seals," Atkinson said.

That is when she felt she had finally found her way. “My ‘Tree of Peace’ and ‘Dove with Trail of Stars’ sold all over the world. I finally felt like I had my direction.”

“Then in 2007, Lands End called me to design their gift card and gift box for 2007. It was like a dream come true for me.”

While looking in a
Barnes & Noble one day,

Atkinson came across *Bookmarks* magazine. “I felt my art was in keeping with their look, and I actually painted a cover and sent it in an email to the art director.” Since then, Atkinson has since has painted more than 50 covers for the magazine, and “this has become my longest, steady, ongoing source of assignments over the past 15 years.”

"I hope this exhibit inspires other artists who have not yet found their niche to just keep on creating art, pursuing and refining what you love. It is worth the time it takes," Atkinson said.

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ART: ELENA SPELLMAN

Finding home after the fire

When artist Aaron Meshon arrived in the Berkshires with his family, the move followed a series of upheavals — a devastating fire, mounting financial stress and the COVID-19 pandemic — that ultimately led him to a quieter, more grounded life.

Meshon grew up in a small town outside Philadelphia, an only child raised around horses by parents he describes as “strict liberals.”

School was a struggle, but early on Meshon was impelled to translate words into pictures. “I would hear a story and automatically get an image in my head,” he said. He was accepted to every art school he applied to and chose the Rhode Island School of Design.

Meshon went on to become an award-winning children’s book author and illustrator. His first children’s book, “Take Me Out to the Yakyu,” was inspired by a deeply personal longing. After seven years of trying to have a child with his wife, who is Japanese, he imagined the story he would tell his future child about the differences between baseball in the United States and Japan. The book went on to receive multiple awards and wide recognition.

Japan itself became central to his life and work. His first visit left

a lasting impression. “I felt an intense sense of safety and tranquility,” he said. Another award-winning illustration, “The Public Bath,” was inspired by meeting his wife’s father for the first time — an introduction that ended up at a Japanese public bath. “Can you imagine?” Meshon laughed. “I just met my wife’s father, and the next thing I know, I’m naked with him.”

In 2012, Meshon received a gold medal from the Society of Illustrators for “The Public Bath.” He also earned an Ezra Jack Keats New Illustrator Honor for “Take Me Out to the Yakyu.” In addition, that book received multiple starred reviews, including from The New York Times Book Review, School Library Journal and Publishers Weekly.

Even before some of those accolades, Meshon said his illustration work had begun to slow.

By 2009, city life grew increasingly expensive, particularly after the birth of his son. “For the first time, I had to work just for money,” he said.

Over the following years, the stress mount-



PHOTO BY ELENA SPELLMAN

Artist Aaron Meshon

change.” Then, within a few days, everything did change.

While Meshon was at work, a friend called with shocking news: His Brooklyn apartment building was on fire — so big it could be seen from Manhattan. His first

thought was not about his belongings but his dog, Chubu. Firefighters could only access two apartments, and luckily, one of them was his.

They lost nearly everything. “I had to grow up at 45 and realize I have truly only myself to rely

on,” Meshon said. Shortly after that, the pandemic arrived. As New York City shut down, they packed their dog, son, piano and fish tank into the car and drove north. “It felt like the world was shutting down,” he said. “My wife and I looked at each other and knew that this was it, and we were never going back.”

Today, Meshon sells his artwork at the Railroad Street Collective in Great Barrington and at the local farmers market. He also teaches art at the School of Visual Arts in New York City. His Berkshire-inspired illustrations resonated immediately with the community. “It’s like being back in art school,” he said, describing the camaraderie of local artists supporting one another.

He credits nature and community with helping him heal. “Things happen, and sometimes you have no control,” he said. “You learn to accept that life is short and to be thankful for what you have.”

Elena Spellman is a recent Northwest Corner transplant. She is a Russian native and grew up in the Midwest. In addition to writing, she teaches ESL and Russian.



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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

JANUARY 29

Dine Out for History

Various locations

Jan. 18 to March 23, 2026

Seven Millerton restaurants will host Dine Out for History evenings benefiting the North East Historical Society, with 10% of proceeds donated on designated nights. Participating restaurants include The Millerton Inn (Jan. 18), Taro's (Jan. 29), Willa (Feb. 12), Oakhurst Diner (Feb. 22), Pasture Kitchen (March 5), Golden Wok (March 15, takeout only) and Round III (March 23). Diners are encouraged to mention Dine Out for History when ordering.

JANUARY 30

Sons of Astro Band

Norfolk Pub, 3 Station Place, Norfolk, Conn.

"Cosmic Americana" covers by Hank Williams, Dylan, Byrds, Buffalo Springfield, Grateful Dead, CCR, Rolling Stones, Uncle Tupelo and more as well as originals with Mike Cobb (guitar, vocals and harmonica), Matt Statler (guitar and vocals), Ben Herzog (bass and vocals), Rop Westmoreland (mandolin, guitar and vocals) and Charlie Shaw (drums and percussion). 6 p.m. No cover but tips are greatly appreciated. This will be the final concert at the Pub before it closes.

JANUARY 31

Spark! Season Launch Event featuring Rosanne Cash

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

Celebrate the opening of Stissing Center's season with a launch event featuring four-time Grammy winner Rosanne Cash, acclaimed singer-songwriter, author and cultural voice. Hailed by Rolling Stone as one of her generation's most ambitious and literary artists. 7 p.m. Tickets at: thestissingcenter.org

Winter Warmer

The Rand Residence, 106 Canaan Road, Salisbury, Conn..

The Winter Warmer will be held at the home of Susan and Salisbury First selectman Curtis Rand from 5:30 - 8 p.m. Tickets on jumpfest.org are priced at \$50 per person which includes heavy hors d'oeuvres and a beer and wine bar courtesy of Norbrook Farm Brewery and Salisbury Wines.

FEBRUARY 1

White Hart Speaker

Series: Sharon Charde

The White Hart Inn, 15 Undermountain Road, Salisbury, Conn.

Feb. 1, 2 p.m.

Poet Sharon Charde discusses her collection "What's After Making Love: Poems" in conversation with Sally van Doren. The book traces a woman's life through love, loss, marriage, motherhood and memory. Free; registration requested at oblongbooks.com

A Year in the Books: Reflecting on What We Read in 2025

Homegrown Cafe, 5 Railroad St. North Canaan, Conn.

Whistle Pig Books invites you to join us at Homegrown Cafe on Sunday, Feb. 1, at 3:30 p.m. for thoughtful conversations about the books you read in 2025—the ones you loved, didn't love, and couldn't stop thinking about.

Traitor or True Defender? Loyalists and the American Revolution

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

America who opposed the rebellion? Join us 4 to 5:30 p.m., and travel back in time with Tom Key to 1830 to hear the other side of history as told by a historical loyalist, Ezra Curruthers, who fought under Lord Cornwallis. We'll explore the complex political, economic, theological, and personal reasons why so many Americans risked everything to remain British.

www.scovillelibrary.org

SWSA Goes to the Movies

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.

A double feature showing of the Izzy Cohan directed "On the Hill and Downhill Racer" followed by a panel discussion of winter sports in Salisbury and SWSA's role in it at the Moviehouse in Millerton. There will be a raffle and SWSA merchandise for sale. Tickets - \$16.00. Details at jumpfest.org.

FEBRUARY 4

Mari Skarp-Bogli: In and Of the Land

CT State Northwestern Gallery, Founders Hall, Winsted, Conn.

An exhibition by Northwestern alum Mari Skarp-Bogli, featuring minimalist works that reimagine the landscape using earth pigments,

soil, and organic materials is on view Jan. 26–Feb. 25. Artist reception: Wed., Feb. 4, 3 to 5 p.m. (snow date Feb. 11). Free and open to the public.

FEBRUARY 5

No-Cost Home Energy Solutions Assessment

Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main St., Sharon, Conn.

Free public information session from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. to learn how to save money and energy on your home energy bills.

Essential Skills for Sustainable Landscape Care

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This intensive six-part virtual series through Innisfree is designed for gardeners and landscape stewards who want to go beyond surface-level advice and build durable skills for creating healthier, more resilient landscapes. Led by horticulturist Brad Roeller, each session combines structured teaching with generous time for Q&A—so participants can bring real site challenges, plant problems, and design questions into the conversation.

Pick and choose the sessions you'd like to attend—or sign up for the complete series at a discounted price. Register: www.innisfreegarden.org/essential-skills-for-sustainable-landscapes

FEBRUARY 6

First Friday Music

Congregational Church of Salisbury, 30 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.

The Congregational Church of Salisbury will present its monthly First Friday Music program on Friday, Feb. 6, at 12 p.m. The Meeting House will open at 11:30 a.m. This month's performance will be Mozart's "Requiem." There will be a 15-voice chorus of professional soloists accompanied on piano by music director, David Baranowski.

Last week's WotW

A	D	U	L	T
V	I	N	Y	L
L	E	V	E	R
S	O	L	V	E
G	L	O	V	E

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.

- Midday meal
- Having great weight
- Follows seven
- Robber, bandit
- Winter blanket's color

Take Your Child to the Library Day Saturday Story Hour

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

Join Miss Anna for a special Saturday story hour in celebration of Take Your Child to the Library Day at 10:30 am! We'll read several stories about families, do a special bookmark craft and enjoy a tasty snack together. All ages are welcome!

Illusory Magic: A Personal History of the Craft in Pictures, Words and Trickery

Salisbury School, 251 Canaan Road, Salisbury

An evening with magician and performance artist Jon Brunelle exploring magic history, sleight of hand, and what the psychology of magic reveals about today's attention economy. Free; registration required. https://bit.ly/49RbDIS

FEBRUARY 7

Take Your Child to the Library Day Saturday Story Hour

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

Join Miss Anna for a special Saturday story hour in celebration of Take Your Child to the Library Day at 10:30 am! We'll read several stories about families, do a special bookmark craft and enjoy a tasty snack together. All ages are welcome!

Black Bears in Connecticut

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall

Join Master Wildlife Conservationist Ginny Apple as she talks about black bears, focusing on the natural history of black bears in Connecticut, Saturday, Feb. 7, at 4 p.m. Registration required CornwallLibrary.org

Stand-Up Comedy

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

Headliner Ophira Eisenberg (NPR, The Moth, Comedy Central) brings her sharp, fast, relatable wit, joined by Jenny Rubin, Shawn Hollenbach and Will Purpura. Expect big laughs, punchlines that sneak up on you when you least expect them, and be reminded why laughing together matters. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at: thestissingcenter.org

FEBRUARY 8

All About Postage Stamps with Antonio Alcalá

Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn.

Find out more about the process of bringing a stamp to life with Antonio Alcalá, art director for the USPS. He will speak about the history of stamp making, the design elements involved, and his own journey that brought him to this work. Register at norfolklibrary.org/events

Jumpfest celebrates 100 years Feb. 6 to 8

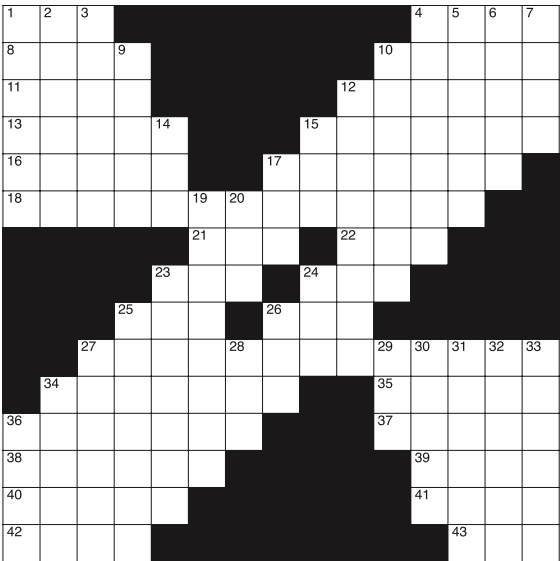
The 100th annual Jumpfest begins at Satre Hill Friday, Feb. 6, with Community Night. Gates open at 6 p.m. with free entry. Target jumping under the lights will be at 7 p.m., followed by fireworks, and the Human Dogsled Race at 8 :30 p.m. A day of ski jumping takes place on Saturday, Feb. 7. Junior competitions start at 9 a.m. Practice for the

Salisbury Invitational starts at 11 a.m. and the main event begins at 1 p.m. Saturday night will be the Snow Ball at the Lakeville Town Grove from 8 to 11 p.m. Entry is \$20 and the Steve Dunn Band will perform. Sunday, Feb. 8, will be the Eastern U.S. Ski Jumping Championships with practice starting at 11 a.m. and the main event starting at 1 p.m.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

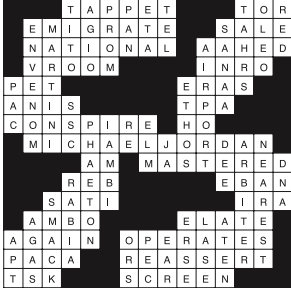
- Racket sport pros
- Make tea
- City South of Moscow
- Spanish bullfighting term
- Egg-shaped
- Could not remember
- French modernist painter
- Persons
- Painful intestinal obstruction
- Professions
- Is up to the task
- Wood or metal bolt
- Tax collector
- A way to save for the future
- Georgia rockers
- Midway between north and northeast
- High schoolers' test
- Does not accept responsibility
- One who prepares
- Gout-indicative deposits
- Place to play games
- Book of Genesis character
- Cleans oneself
- Unloaded for money
- Genus of flowering plants
- Take a puff
- Congressmen
- God of battle in Scandinavian mythology



- Milestone birthday
- Thyroid-stimulating hormone
- More (Spanish)
- Chicago ballplayer
- Leaves a place
- Cannot be found
- One's internal body parts
- Tell on
- North American peoples of southwest
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Extract used for jams and jellies
- Greek goddess of the dawn
- Old English letter
- A way to exaggerate

- Get up and leave
- "Boardwalk Empire" character
- More generous
- Hanging cloth used as a blind
- Ancient Greek sophist

January 22 Solution



Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

January 22 Solution

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



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Sports



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN

Swimmers make waves

Housatonic Valley Regional High School's varsity swim team hosted a meet against Shepaug Valley High School on Wednesday, Jan. 21. Shepaug's team was notably larger, putting forth four relay teams to HVRHS's one relay team. Individually, all swimmers competed with determination. The meet took place at The Hotchkiss School's pool with supporters cheering from the spectator area.



Kent vs. Taft begins with a tip off.



Alaina Joy leads a fast break for Kent against Taft Wednesday, Jan. 21.

Kent girls outscore Taft 43-38

By Lans Christensen

KENT — On Wednesday, Jan. 21, Kent School's girls basketball team defeated Taft School 43-38.

Both prep school teams play in the Founders League and entered the game with comparable season records: Kent was 4-5 and Taft was 3-5.

The game started with a quick score by Kaya Nuthall, who proved to be a driving force for Kent. The score went back and forth for the first quarter — never more than four points separating

the two teams.

The same story and pace of play kept the score tied 19-19 at the end of the first half.

Taft's first lead of the game came on a deep three-point-er by Sara Santimaw early in the third quarter. Taft maintained a one-point advantage entering the final quarter with the score at 31-30.

Aggressive and effective play by Kent's Alaina Joy, Agar Malek and Layla Torres swung the momentum back in their team's favor. Kent reclaimed the lead and hung on to win 43-38, bringing the season record to 5-5.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Kaya Nuthall drives around a screen for Kent.

Steve Blass Little League registration open through March 1

NORTH CANAAN — Registration for the Northwest Connecticut Steve Blass Little League spring season is open until March 1.

Boys and girls age 4 to 15 from Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon are eligible to register.

Contact league president Adam Karcheski at nwctl.pres@gmail.com with questions. Register online at leagues.bluesombrero.com/nwctsbll

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Berkshire School is seeking a highly creative, experienced, and results-driven Associate Director of Content. This role is central to developing and executing a communication strategy that authentically messages the Berkshire School experience and reinforces the school's mission by creating digital, print, and social media content that connects external audiences to life "under the Mountain," supports the Office of Admission in recruiting prospective families, and amplifies the Advancement Office's fundraising and alumni engagement initiatives. The ideal candidate will be a strong storyteller, a meticulous editor, and an innovative contributor to our social media strategy and execution.

Knowledge/Skills/Competencies:

B.A. degree required; a minimum of 5-7 years related experience in communications, marketing or public relations. Excellent written and oral communication skills; exceptional editing skills are essential Experience in all social media platforms, particularly Instagram. Familiarity with independent school culture or work within an educational setting is preferred. Position requires the ability to manage several multifaceted projects simultaneously, attention to detail, and a demonstrated ability to multi-task and meet aggressive deadlines. Exceptional interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively with students and adults and ability to build relationships with faculty, staff, and students. Ideal candidate will be an analytical and creative thinker and a persuasive writer, capable of synthesizing data into prose. A willingness to photograph and film campus events, some during the evenings and on weekends, is a plus. Position requires some evening and weekend commitments to capture and report on school events. 2-3x a month, on average throughout the school year. Excellent computer skills, fluent in Google Workspace and preferably Photoshop, Canva, and Adobe.

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Ability to perform the physical requirements of the position, including moving about campus and lifting equipment up to approximately 25 pounds, with or without reasonable accommodation.

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