

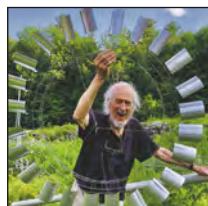
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The Lakeville Journal

lakevillejournal.com

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 \$3.00

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

Celebrating a century of ski jumping at Satre Hill



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The 100th annual Jumpfest put snow sports on full display the weekend of Feb. 6-8. Friday night began with a bang, featuring the Human Dogsled Race and a dazzling fireworks show. Saturday morning's events got underway before weather forced the postponement of big hill jumping to the following day. The Salisbury Invitational and the Eastern U.S. Ski Jumping Championships were held back-to-back on Sunday, capping the weekend with an action-packed day of competition. See more on Pages A9 and A10.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Kent after-school program reinstated for another year

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — The Park and Recreation Commission voted Tuesday, Feb. 3, to restore funding for staff salaries for the after-school program at Kent Center School, ensuring the after-school program will continue for another year.

The commission reinstated \$9,722 in salary funding after reversing a decision made last month to eliminate the program as part of its proposed 2026-27 budget. Following nearly two hours of discussion, commissioners voted 4-2, with one abstention, to restore the funds.

The issue became a point of contention when the commission voted last month on a budget proposal that would "do away with the After-School Program," according to the meeting minutes.

The move prompted several letters to the commission, including one signed by 34 residents, expressing deep concern.

"This announcement was made without prior communication to families who would be directly impacted by such a change," the joint letter read. "This denies our town and families the opportunity for collaborative problem-solving about how to ensure that a stated priority of many residents—attracting and keeping families in



PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN
Kent Park and Recreation Commission Chairman Rufus de Rham, left, and Park and Recreation Director Matt Frasher confer during the Park and Recreation Commission's meeting Tuesday.

our community—is also reflected as a financial priority of the town's services.

"Additionally, reports that these reductions may be used to support administrative restructuring, including promotions or new positions, without clear explanation of how such changes would benefit working families, further undermines trust."

In her own letter, resident Andrea Schoeny said, "It was shortsighted for the commission not to consider the impact" of such a move.

Parent Ginger Blake, whose son attends the program daily and who

was at the meeting, said she was unaware that its closure was being considered. She was one of the 34 signers and found it disturbing that there was no response to the letter. "The lack of interest in what we want is stark," she said.

Resident Cinda Clark, whose daughter also attends the program, said she understands it is not economically sustainable in its current form but noted that new families are expected to use it in the future. "It's important to consider the broader public value. This is big for all of us. I consider it a program,

See AFTER-SCHOOL, Page A10



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway learns from 7th graders at Cornwall Consolidated School about the story of Robin Starr, a man who bought his freedom after serving in the Revolutionary War.

U.S.A. 250

Cornwall honors former slave and war hero

By Riley Klein

CORNWALL — Nearly 245 years after he purchased his freedom, Robin Starr — a formerly enslaved Revolutionary War veteran — was officially recognized last week when the Town of Cornwall proclaimed Feb. 8 as Robin Starr Day.

Starr, who served in the Revolutionary War, is the subject of a research project undertaken by the 7th-grade class of Cornwall Consol-

idated School. He was a veteran of many battles, including the Battle of Stony Point and the Battle of Yorktown, and he was a recipient of the Badge of Military Merit (an early version of the Purple Heart).

Pippa Cavalier, a 7th grader at CCS, explained Starr earned the medal "for being wounded twice in battle. And he was also the first Black soldier to get that award."

On Feb. 8, 1781, Starr became a free man by purchasing his freedom. He later owned land in Cornwall and Sharon, as verified by census data and meeting minutes

See ROBIN STARR, Page A10



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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.

Assault arrest

On the afternoon of Feb. 1, troopers were dispatched to a Route 44 address in Lakeville for the report of an active physical altercation. After investigating, officers arrested Christopher Race, 48, of Lakeville for three counts: disorderly conduct, third degree assault and second-degree strangulation/suffocation. No injuries were reported. Race was released on a \$2,500 cash bond and was scheduled to appear in Torrington Superior Court the next morning.

"Failure to pay" charge yields hefty bail

On the afternoon of Feb. 2, Justin Demaraies, 44, of North Canaan turned himself in to Troop B on an active warrant for his arrest. He was taken into custody on the charge of failing to pay for a home improvement job, and was subsequently released on a \$10,000 non-surety bond. He is scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court on Feb. 17.

Car strikes snowbank

At around 6:30 a.m. on Feb. 3, Kaelyn Brennan, 37, of Sharon was driving east on Mudgetown Road when his Honda Accord ran off the road and struck a snowbank. Brennan was uninjured but his car was towed from the scene. He was issued a warning or failure to maintain lane.

Year old larceny, forgery warrant

On Feb. 5, the Department of Corrections transported Francis Corcoran, 67, of Bridgeport to the G.A. 18 holding area for Troop B officers to present their active warrant. Corcoran was processed for fourth degree larceny and third-degree forgery relating to an incident dated Feb. 19, 2025 on Bruey Road in Norfolk. Corcoran was held by the DOC on a \$2,500 non-surety bond and brought to his arraignment

the same day.

Disorderly conduct arrest

On the evening of Feb. 5, troopers were dispatched to an East Main Street address in North Canaan on the report of an active physical dispute. After investigating the scene, troopers arrested Francine Wabshinak, 58, of North Canaan for disorderly conduct. After processing, she was released on a \$1,500 non-surety bond and was scheduled to appear at Torrington Superior Court the next day.

Route 44 construction zone accident

At around 5 a.m. on Feb. 6, William Zygmunt, 18, of Colebrook, was driving west through a single-lane construction zone on Route 44 in Norfolk when he turned on his hazard lights and pulled to the right to enter a driveway. A trailing Subaru B9 Tribeca, driven by Jefferson Muymuy, 23, of Queens, New York, then attempted to pass and collided with Zygmunt's 1994 Ford Ranger. Neither driver was injured but Muymuy's Subaru had to be towed. He was also found to be driving with only a learner's permit and was issued infractions for driving without a valid license and unsafe passing.

State line collision

On the afternoon of Feb. 6, N V Bulzacchelli, 89, of Millerton, was driving east on Route 44 over the state border from Millerton to Salisbury when a Subaru Forester pulled out in front of him from Stateline Car Wash, causing a collision. The driver, Rolando Cucchio, 23, of Lakeville, was found to be at fault for the incident and was issued infractions for operating a vehicle without a license and failure to grant right of way. Neither driver was injured, but Cucchio's Forester and Bulzacchelli's Chevrolet Malibu both were towed from the scene.

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

'People and Places of Kent' series highlights Thrift Shop on Feb. 18

KENT — Three long-time volunteers from Kent's Quality Thrift Shop will share stories of the shop's founding and evolution during a "People and Places of Kent" program co-sponsored by the Kent Senior Center and the Kent Historical Society on Wednesday, Feb. 18, at 11 a.m. at the Kent Senior Center.

Gloria Hill, Melinda Keck and Carolyn DeVita have stories to tell — about the shop's founding in 1989 in the lower level of the parish house be-

hind the First Congregational Church of Kent, its move to the parsonage next to the church in 1995 and its exemplary generosity in providing funds to local nonprofits. Hundreds of dedicated local volunteers have staffed the shop since its founding.

Discover Litchfield Hills magazine cited Quality Thrift Shop in 2024 as a "hidden gem," one of the eight best thrift shops in Litchfield County. Treasure hunters come from near and far to visit and local residents find

Housatonic Valley FFA chapter donates to area nonprofits

By Kellie Eisermann

FALLS VILLAGE — On Feb. 5, the Housatonic Valley FFA Chapter donated a total of \$1,200 to six local nonprofits, with each organization receiving \$200.

The recipients included Kent Food Pantry, Cornwall Food Bank, Fishes & Loaves in North Canaan, The Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville, the Sharon Food Bank, and the Jane Lloyd Fund — which provides financial support for cancer patients — in Salisbury.

Holly Kempner, who accepted a check on behalf of the Corner Food Pantry, said she was impressed by the FFA donation and the activities of the members.

"We serve a lot of people, including New York state and Massachusetts," she said. "So we really appreciate it."

For more than a decade, the Housatonic Valley FFA Chapter has supported local organizations, including the food pantries in Region One. These donations are made



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Housatonic Valley FFA students raised funds at the holiday store earlier this winter. On Feb. 5, Holly Kempner accepted a donation from the FFA on behalf of the Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville.

possible through the chapter's Holiday Sale. The sale and class unit not only allows FFA members to give back to the community, but also provides valuable, hands-on experience in business management, marketing, communication, and teamwork.

Community members interested in supporting local food banks are encouraged to contact these food banks directly, as they are always in need of food donations and volunteer support.

Kellie Eisermann is the FFA Reporter for the 2025-

26 school year. She is a junior and lives in Lakeville with her parents, Jonathan Eisermann and Aubrey Murphy. She plans to go into the family business, Four Seasons Pool Service in Millerton, and go to community college after graduation.

U.S.A. 250**Genealogist explains challenges uncovering Revolutionary-era records**

By Patrick L. Sullivan

Genealogist Jane Sellery guided seven researchers through the challenges of tracing Revolutionary War-era Salisbury residents during a program at Scoville Memorial Library on Thursday, Jan. 29.

The session was the second in a series tied to Salisbury READS, a community reading program centered on "Revolution Song" by Russell Shorto. The program is sponsored by the library and the Salisbury Association Historical Society.

Participants researched individuals whose gravestones are located in the cemetery behind Salisbury Town Hall, uncovering firsthand the complications that often arise in historical records.

Tracy Flynn of Salisbury researched Jacob Davis — who was also known as Jacobus Davis — and found that even basic identification can be difficult. In addition to variant spellings, Flynn discovered what appeared to be two men with the same



Jane Sellery, left, and Karen Vrotsos discussed genealogy practices at the Scoville Memorial Library Thursday, Jan. 29.

name, likely father and son. One Jacob Davis lived from 1737 to 1797, while the second lived from 1762 to 1841, spanning the Revolutionary War period and beyond.

Sellery said such confusion is common. Birth and death dates can be hard to read on worn gravestones, and even when legible, the dates do not always match written records.

Census records present additional challenges.

Sellery noted that the 1900 census is often off by one year, depending on whether a person was born before or after June 1. Wordings also matter: a record stating someone was "in the 68th year" means the person was 67 at the time.

The 1890 census is largely unavailable due to a warehouse fire in St. Louis that destroyed most of the records.

Other obstacles include inconsistent name spellings — such as "Hayes" and "Hays" — difficult handwriting, and records written in foreign languages or alphabets. Sellery said artificial intelligence can help in some cases, such as translating images of documents written in the Cyrillic alphabet.

Addressing immigration records, Sellery said the popular belief that officials routinely Anglicized immigrants' names is largely inaccurate. Facilities such as Ellis Island relied on passenger manifests from incoming ships, which did not always match later naturalization records.

"It wasn't, 'Okay, we're going to make you Green,'" Sellery said.

She added that some immigrants intentionally changed or concealed their identities, while others adopted American-sounding names to assimilate. In the 1920s, name changes became more common amid fears of prejudice, a trend that reversed in the 1930s and 1940s.

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Gubernatorial candidates to attend Kent Republican Town Committee dinner

KENT — The Kent Republican Town Committee will host a dinner at Bull's Bridge Inn on Sunday, Feb. 15, from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Several candidates in this year's election will be in attendance, including three vying for the gubernatorial seat, three seeking the U.S. Con-

gressional 5th District and the state treasurer. Tickets are \$75 per person or \$140 per couple. For reservations, email kentctrct@gmail.com.

Our Towns

Salisbury Board of Selectmen reviews tunnel proposal

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Town officials discussed a proposed pedestrian tunnel beneath Route 44 at the Board of Selectmen's regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 2.

First Selectman Curtis Rand said the underground walkway, which would connect Salisbury School's main campus with its athletic fields, must be owned by the town because Route 44 is a state highway, under requirements from the state Department of Transportation.

Rand said the town's attorney is working with the DOT and the school to draft a legal agreement. Salisbury School would be responsible for all construction and ongoing maintenance costs.

Budget

Rand said he has begun work on the 2026-27 budget with Comptroller Joe Cleaveland and noted that the town's Grand List has been completed.

He also said the Town

of Salisbury will be accepting grant funds from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Sustainable Materials Management grant program, not to exceed \$266,692, on behalf of the Salisbury/Sharon Transfer Station. The funds will be used to investigate, develop, and implement a process to expand food waste/organic separation and possibly implement a solid waste Unit-Based Pricing — commonly known as Pay As You Throw — program within the towns of Salisbury and Sharon.

Ordinance review

Kristine Simmons, Jada Wilson, Emily Egan and Lorraine Cleveland are continuing work on updating the town's ordinances. The revised ordinances will be presented and voted on at a future town meeting.

The selectmen also appointed John Harney to fill a vacancy on the Board of Assessment Appeals for a four-year term that expires in Nov. 2029.

Magician pulls back curtain on history of his craft

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — Magician Jon Brunelle made a pencil levitate and hypnotized the president of the Salisbury Forum during "Illusory Magic: A Personal History of the Craft in Pictures, Words and Trickery," a Salisbury Forum event at Salisbury School Friday, Feb. 6.

Between tricks and illusions, Brunelle provided a brief history of magic, and of his own career.

He said he was primarily active in the 1970s and 1980s, and showed a clip from Japanese television of him causing hard round coins to pass through a pack of playing cards and into a coffee mug. "Notice my '80s hair," he said.

Brunelle said that in medieval Europe magicians had to be alert to charges of witchcraft.

They incorporated religious references into their acts to stave off such accusations, to the extent of a beheading illusion featuring John the Baptist.

The familiar "cups and balls" sleight of hand routine is old enough to have been satirized by painter Hieronymus Bosch in the 16th century.

His own introduction to

the craft came at age 9, via a book advertised on a bubble gum wrapper: "Practical Magic," by David Robbins.

Eventually he was able to make a living at it. One source of revenue was performing at industrial trade shows.

He developed a performance art act in the 1980s that combined surrealism and absurdism with elements of magic.

As to how the tricks work, Brunelle said successful magicians are students of psychology. They understand human perception, and how to "control the delivery of information."

"Eye contact, hypnosis, clothing — it's all misdirection."

This was how he was able to "hypnotize" Salisbury Forum president Sarah Tennyson, while the audience laughed.

He also touched on how artificial intelligence is changing how people perceive reality.

He cited the time the early-20th century magician and escape artist Harry Houdini was bound and jumped off a bridge through a hole in the ice of the frozen Detroit River.

Houdini was down below the surface for quite a while, and the spectators feared the worst.

He reappeared, and subsequently claimed he freed himself quickly but was swept away by the current. Houdini said he made his way back to the hole, sucking in air from pockets in the ice.

The miraculous escape was passed along from newspaper to newspaper, and gained national attention.

"Even though the riv-



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
Jon Brunelle, magician, performs at Salisbury School Friday, Feb. 6, at the Salisbury Forum.

er wasn't frozen that day," Brunelle said.

If something similar happened today, it would be all over social media and be chalked up to "AI, the deep state, the Second Coming."

Asked specifically about the effect of AI on magic, he

said "it's going to ruin everything."

"I don't think that anyone will believe photographic evidence."

On the other hand, "if everybody distrusts what they see online, we'll see more live performances."

Salisbury keeps current telecom tower rules in place to preserve local input

By Alec Linden

SALISBURY — Salisbury will retain its decades-old telecommunications tower regulations for now, citing the value of local input even as the town acknowledges it has limited authority over tower siting — a concern that arises because towers are typically placed on high ground, where they can be visible to residents.

The telecommunications regulations were set to be eliminated as part of a broader update to the town's zoning regulations that was under consideration during the Planning and Zoning Commission's Feb. 2 regular meeting. The edited document was intended to fix textual inconsistencies, update terminology and eliminate "obsolete references and regulations," including the telecommunications regulations, explained Land Use Director Abby Conroy during the meeting.

After a brief public hearing in which several commissioners and members of the public advised against getting rid of the regulations, P&Z ultimately voted to pass the amended regulations draft but with the telecommunications section left intact. The remainder of the changes, which were largely minor corrections, will be adopted as the Commission and Land Use Office continue an extended push to rework and modernize the town's regulations as a whole.

The telecommunications regulations were established when Connecticut's municipalities still had the authority to govern the location of wireless cell and internet infrastructure.

the statement of purpose of the zoning code, found in "Section 1000 — Communication Towers" of Salisbury's regulations, the regulations were meant to "protect the aesthetic quality of the Salisbury skyline and ensure the safety of the community" — concerns that residents say remain especially relevant in a town defined by its hills and long-distance views.

The telecoms regulations were established when Connecticut's municipalities still had the authority to govern the location of wireless cell and internet infrastructure.

This power is now ceded to the Connecticut Siting Council, affirmed by the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996. The elimination of the town's regulations on the topic was meant to correct a redundancy, Conroy said, given that P&Z doesn't wield any regulatory authority over locating this type of infrastructure anymore.

Conroy also read a statement into the record that was submitted by B. Blake Levitt, communications director at the Berkshire-Litchfield Environmental Council. The letter argued the town should keep the regulations as they give the town the only voice it has left in tower siting discussions, which can have significant impacts on viewsheds, watersheds and ecology — particularly in elevated areas where towers can be visible for miles.

Levitt's statement was also published as an opinion piece in the Feb. 5 issue of this newspaper.

"To have no telecom regs can weaken a town's rights to protect environmental, scenic and historic assets," she wrote, describing telecom-

munications regulations as "the lowest hanging fruit any town can possess in case it's needed."

During the Feb. 2 public hearing, she added that while P&Z commissions may no longer govern where these facilities are located, having regulations at least enables the town to join the conversation which otherwise may be held solely between state officials and private companies.

The regulations "enable you to intervene when you have something you want to accomplish through the Siting Council," she said, explaining that such a town code enables P&Z commissions to legally enter telecommunications siting deliberations. "It's really the only way to get their attention — to file for intervenor status."

Residents Lorry Shepard and David Bright shared similar concerns. "We have very special viewsheds as well as water sources and watershed," said Shepard, while Bright maintained that "this is just another way for the community to stay involved in issues that have been part and parcel to, excuse the expression, the character of Salisbury for a very long time."

After some conversation, the Commission ultimately voted unanimously to keep the regulations intact for the time being.

Levitt, Conroy and several commissioners agreed that the antiquated language and concepts will require rewriting, though, as today's wireless landscape has evolved significantly from the time when the regulations were first adopted.

FALLS VILLAGE — Wednesday, Feb. 4 was Read Aloud Day at Lee H. Kellogg School. Members of the community made their way into the school and milled about in the library, enjoying coffee and breakfast pastries, and brushed up on the books they were going to read.

A little before 9 a.m., students appeared to escort the readers to the various classrooms.

Andrea Downs read "Restart" by Gordon Korman.

She confessed she hadn't finished the book, "but Ms. Blass is going to let me take



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
Andrea Downs reads to students at Lee H. Kellogg School for Read Aloud Day Wednesday, Feb. 4.

it home to finish."

The readers were Michelle Hansen, Meg Sher, Caitlyn Robbins (from National Iron Bank), Emily Peterson, Becca

Malone (from Community Health and Wellness), Dave Barger, Liz Ives (owner of the Off the Trail Cafe) and Downs.

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PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

A 12-acre lakefront home at 430 Milton Road, which sold for \$2.69 million, was the most expensive property sold in Goshen outside Woodridge Lake in the past 10 years. The 5,000-square-foot house features two ponds, an in-ground pool with an infinity waterfall and three fireplaces.

Goshen home prices hold steady

By Christine Bates

GOSHEN — Single-family home prices in Goshen were largely flat year over year.

The 12-month median home price for 2025 was \$645,000, based on 36 sales, only slightly above the 2024 median of \$642,500, which reflected 46 transactions. December activity included six single-family home transfers, two of which closed above \$1 million, neither located in the Woodridge Lake area.

While median prices showed little movement, the average price per square foot increased to \$315 in 2025, a 13.7%

rise compared with 2024. Inventory remains constrained.

December Transactions

110 Bentley Circle — 2 bedroom/2 bath home built in 1999 sold by Donald Calkins Jr. to Rodney Zander for \$150,000.

430 Milton Road — 7 bedroom/7 full bath/2 half bath home built in 1930 with two parcels of land sold by Robert Siegel Dynasty Trust to Daniel Kahn for \$2,690,000.

15 Tyler Lake Heights — 2 bedroom/2 bath home on .21 acres built in 1953 sold by Launa Goslee to Andy and Kristy Santiago for \$450,000.

109 East Street North — 4 bedroom/2 bath home sold by Estate of Concetta Kincaid

to Vivian and Matthew Hall for \$760,000.

455 Milton Road — 3 bedroom/3.5 bath home on 2.57 acre sold by Andrew Roraback to 455 Milton Parking LLC for \$1,650,000.

127 School House Road — 2 bedroom/1 bath home on 3.3 acres sold by Keith and Annette Tillman to Michael and Meghan Bennett for \$340,000.

* Town of Goshen real estate transfers recorded as sold between Dec. 1, 2025, and Dec. 31, 2025, provided by Goshen Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from Smart MLS. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag closed sales by

a number of days. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

OBITUARIES

Dennis John Parsons

ANCRAM — Dennis John Parsons, 73, a lifelong area resident died peacefully on Saturday, Feb. 7, 2026, at Columbia Memorial Health Center in Hudson, New York. Mr. Parsons worked for ten years at the Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Ancram Mill, in Ancram, New York, as a manufacturing operator prior to a work injury that sidelined his career.

Born Dec. 7, 1952, in Sharon, Connecticut, he was the son of the late William Parsons, Sr. and Elizabeth A. (Milton) Swartz. He was educated locally and served his country in the United States Army as a helicopter mechanic during the Vietnam War. He was honorably discharged following his service.

Mr. Parsons was an avid deer hunter who enjoyed hunting with his son Kyle and playing pool in his spare time. He liked classic hot rod cars in his younger years, especially his VW Beetle and his red 1954 International pickup truck. He very much enjoyed socializing and spending time in recent years with his family and many friends at his garage, a social hotspot in Ancram.

He will be dearly missed by his family and many friends.

Mr. Parsons is survived by his son, Kyle L. Burdick and his wife Melissa of Stanfordville, New York; three grandchildren, Jeremiah and Dylan Burdick of Elizaville, New York, and Dominique Burdick of Stanfordville; two brothers, William Parsons and his wife Rosie and David Parsons; two sisters, Pamela Miles and her husband Michael and Kathleen Sigler and her longtime companion Don Bird; his brother-in-law Michael DeWitt and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by two sisters, Donna DeWitt of Millerton and Lori Jean Parsons of Pine Plains and several beloved pets.

Visitation, funeral and Visitation, funeral and burial information may be announced at a later date. To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Dennis's honor please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

For more obituaries, see pages A5 and A7

Sharon Center School kindergarten registration set for Feb. 27, March 6

SHARON — Sharon Center School is inviting families with children born between Jan. 1 and Aug. 31, 2021, to register for kindergarten for the 2026-27 school year.

Children born between Sept. 1 and Dec. 31, 2021, are eligible to enroll in the school's Early Kindergarten program.

A birth certificate and proof of current immuniza-

tions are required. Registration will take place Feb. 27 and March 6. Contact Justin Nadeau for info 860-364-5153 or email jnadeau@sharoncenterschool.org

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice of New Antenna Structure Registration for the Construction of Lattice Tower. Tarpon Towers III, LLC has applied for an Antenna Structure Registration for an new 170' Lattice Tower. The tower will not be lit, as required by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The tower is located at 161 Conrad Street, Naugatuck, Connecticut 06770 New Haven County. Interested persons may review the application online at www.fcc.gov/asr/applications by entering the Form 854 File Number A1353060. Request for Environmental Review with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC strongly encourages interested parties to file Requests for Environmental Review Online. Instructions for making such filing can be found online at www.fcc.gov/asr/environmental-request. The mailing address for interested parties that would prefer to file a Request for Environmental Review by paper copy is FCC Request for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

02-12-26

Legal Notice

The Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury will hold a Public Hearing on Special Permit Application

#2026-0307 by Amber Construction and Design Inc for vertical expansion of a nonconforming structure at 120 Wells Hill Road, Lakeville, Map 36, Lot 09 per Section 503.2 of the Salisbury Zoning Regulations. The Owners of the property are Joseph Edward Costa and Elyse Catherine Nelson. The hearing will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 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 application, agenda and meeting instructions will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/agendas/. The application materials will be listed at www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-meeting-documents/. Written comments may be submitted to the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, P.O. Box 548, Salisbury, CT or via email to landuse@salisburyct.us. Paper copies of the agenda, meeting instructions, and application materials may be reviewed Monday through Thursday between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM at the Land Use Office, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury CT.

Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Robert Riva, Secretary

02-05-26

02-12-26

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 February 2, 2026:

Approved - Special Permit Application #2025-0306 by Dana Rohn, for a detached apartment on a single family residential lot in accordance with Section 208 of the regulations. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's Map 39 as Lot 09 and is located at 120 Wells Hill Road, Lakeville. The owners of the property are Dana and Frederick Rohn.

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

02-12-26

Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Planning & Zoning Commission

Notice is hereby given that on February 2, 2026 the Planning & Zoning Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut approved amendments to the Town of Salisbury Zoning Regulations to be effective March 2, 2026 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

Paper copies of the approved regulations are available in the Office of the Town Clerk, Salisbury Town Hall, 27 Main Street, Salisbury CT. Additionally, copies of the approved regulations are available on the Planning & Zoning Commission page of the Town website at www.salisburyct.us/planning-zoning-commission

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

02-12-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF MARY ANN MARSCHAT Late of Canaan (25-00521)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 29, 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: Frederick S. Polhemus 15 Willow Drive Lakeville, CT 06039

Megan M. Foley Clerk

02-12-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF SARAH M. POLHEMUS Late of Salisbury (26-00014)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 29, 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: Frederick S. Polhemus 15 Willow Drive Lakeville, CT 06039

Megan M. Foley Clerk

02-12-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF SEAMUS S. BROWN Late of Sharon (25-00528)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 29, 2026, ordered that all claims must be

Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 22, 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: James D. Rohr c/o Linda M. Patz Drury, Patz & Citrin, LLP

7 Church Street

P.O. Box 101

Canaan, CT 06068

Megan M. Foley

Clerk

02-12-26

The financial is: DeWitt C. Brown c/o Barbara Ann Taylor Reid and Riege, PC One Financial Plaza Hartford, CT 06103

Megan M. Foley Clerk

02-12-26

NOTICE TO CREDITORS ESTATE OF RAFAEL A. PORRO Late of Salisbury (26-00026)

The Hon. Jordan M. Richards, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Litchfield Hills Probate Court, by decree dated January 29, 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: Hedwig Porro Wells c/o Emily D. Vail Vail & Vail, LLC

5 Academy Street PO Box 568

Salisbury, CT 06068

Megan M. Foley Clerk

02-12-26

OBITUARIES

For more obituaries, see Pages A4 and A7

Tim Prentice

CORNWALL — Tim Prentice, architect turned kinetic sculptor, died at home in Cornwall on Nov. 25, 2025, at the well-lived age of 95.

Born in New York City on Guy Fawkes Day in 1930, Tim was the son of Theodora ("Dody") Machado and architect Merrill Prentice. That same year, his parents bought a 150-year-old house in Cornwall, and Tim's connection with the town as his lifelong "spiritual home" began.

He attended Rumsey Hall in Cornwall Village, the Brooks School, and Yale College. While at Brooks, a field trip to the Addison Gallery in Andover proved quietly decisive: in the lobby hung a mobile by Alexander Calder, which moved in response to otherwise invisible air currents. Tim was riveted. Decades later, that moment would resurface as destiny.

Graduate school was postponed by four years of Navy service during the Korean War. Tim served as a bombardier navigator with the Sixth Fleet, flying off aircraft carriers on grueling eleven-hour missions and navigating using a demanding three-star fix, an experience that left him with a sailor's respect for wind, balance, and motion.

After the war, he returned to Yale, earning a Master's degree at the School of Art and Architecture. He studied with the modernist Paul Rudolph and took Josef Albers' famed color class not once, but twice.

In 1960, Tim married Marie Bissell in her parents'

Michael English

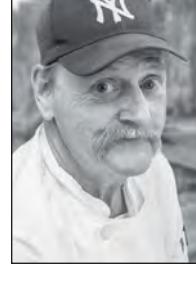
FALLS VILLAGE — Michael English passed away peacefully on Jan. 17, 2026.

Michael was born in Queens, New York, on Oct. 19, 1961, to Anita and Thomas English. Michael was in a hurry and he arrived a bit early with his red hair, big bright blue eyes, and a bit of a temper. He was the 6th of 9 children.

Michael spent his life trying to see where he fit in and was very happy living in Falls Village.

He had a big heart, an infectious laugh, and was happiest when cooking for others. He enjoyed working at Snack Shack and The Boathouse. He loved Thanksgiving and feeding all those who came together for community dinners at Pilgrim House.

He had two passions: the NY Yankees and playing golf. If he was watching Yankees



baseball, he would block out everything and everyone and cheer them on. As far as golf goes, he probably wasn't as good as he told everyone he was. He had the gift of gab.

You would think he kissed the Blarney Stone. Michael liked to tell stories with and without his (fake) Irish Brogue.

Michael was predeceased by his parents Anita and Thomas, and his brothers Brian and Stephen.

He is survived by his siblings; Kenneth, Maureen, Patricia Siantos (Apostolos), Donna Fanning (Mike), Christopher (Claudia), and Philip as well as 16 nieces and nephews. A memorial service will be held in the spring and Michael's final resting place will be at St. Charles Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York. Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Sara L. Swain

WATERFORD, N.Y. — Sara L. Swain, 79, of Fonda Rd. and formerly of Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, passed away at home, peacefully on Feb. 6, 2026. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late John Leslie James and Margaret Clayland Reichard.



animals (especially cats) and traveling. She also was very interested in archiving her family's genealogy, both immediate and extended.

Sara leaves her daughter, Carrie Swain of Waterford (Kurt) and was predeceased by daughter, Samantha Tyler (Bill). She also leaves her sister, Caroline James, her niece, Kristen Dudley, and her grandchildren Gus Gundlach, Seamus and Sophie O'Brien, and Sarah and Daniel Tyler.

A private graveside committal service will be held in Pittsburgh. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to Shriners Hospital: donate.shrinerschildrens.org

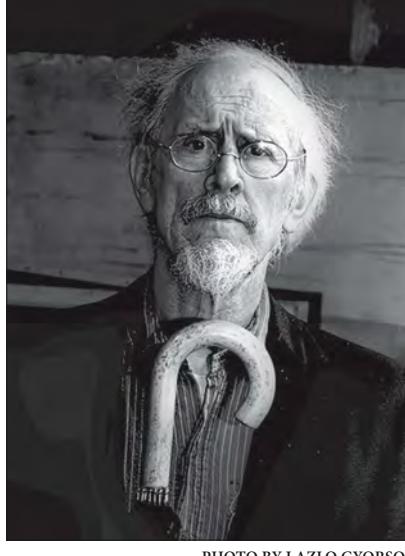


PHOTO BY LAZLO GYORSOK

backyard in Canton, Connecticut. Both were enthusiastic amateur folksingers. In 1963, they were sent by the State Department on a goodwill journey through Asia and East Africa, guitar and banjo in hand, sharing and gathering new melodies to carry home.

In 1965, back in New York City, Tim co-founded the award-winning architectural firm Prentice & Chan with Lo-Yi Chan from I.M. Pei's office. Among many projects, Lo-Yi designed middle-income housing for NY State, and Tim designed houses in Connecticut.

During this time, Tim also became a member of MOMA's Committee on Architecture and Design and President of the Municipal Art Society, where he helped lead a successful campaign to save Grand Central Terminal from demolition.

In 1975, Tim left the firm to pursue his new career in sculpture in the living room of his apartment and, on weekends, in a century-old ice shed on their farm in Cornwall. He taught architecture at Columbia and continued to design and remodel houses in the Cornwall area — over 60 all told.

His architecture balanced international modernism with a deep affection for the plainspoken New England barn and, often, a wry sense of humor.

Tim's big break came in 1976 with a nearly three-year commission for AT & T. More than 150 commissions followed throughout the U.S. and the world. Ranging from the 230-foot-long 'Red Zinger' in Hartford's Bradley Airport to a set of turning circles for Renzo Piano's Aurora Place in Sydney, Australia. He also made dozens of smaller sculptures that sold like hotcakes at local shows and exhibits.

In the mid-1980's, Tim co-founded the Cornwall Housing Corporation (CHC), organized the annual House Tour benefit, and designed several houses for the CHC's parcel program. Additionally, he spearheaded an unsuccessful but passionate effort to save the Greek Revival Rumsey Hall building in Cornwall Village, which, prior to demolition, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Lucille C. Nelson

SHARON — Lucille C. Nelson, 93, of Sharon Valley

passed away Feb. 1, 2026, at Sharon Hospital after a short illness. Her loving family was at her side. She was the wife of the late Edwin O. Nelson.

Lucille was born Nov. 28, 1932, in Vergennes, Vermont, the daughter of the late Eldred Cunningham Sr. and Lilah LaRose Cunningham.

She graduated from Vergennes High School in 1950.

In 1953, Lucille married Eddie Nelson while he was home on medical leave from the United States Army where he was actively serving during the Korean Conflict. The young couple moved to Connecticut in 1960.

In 1970 they bought their home in Sharon where Lucille would reside for the next 55 years.

Lucille began her career at The Hotchkiss School in 1966. Over the years, she held many positions within the school, including work in the mail room and serving as secretary to the Head Master. From 1987 until her retirement in 2006, she served as the Gifts Manager in the Alumni and Development Office, where she was responsible for processing gifts to the school. In recognition of her dedication and service, Lucille received the Independent School Support Staff Distinguished Service Award in 1992 from the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) of Wash-



PHOTO BY NICK JACOBS

In 2012, Tim and long-time associate David Colbert formed Prentice Colbert, Inc., to continue the adventure of making large-scale site-specific pieces.

A monograph, *Drawing on the Air*, was published in 2012. Tim received the Connecticut Governor's Arts Award in 2014 and was honored in 2021 with a solo exhibit at the Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield.

In the 1990's, Tim developed macular degeneration, but he never stopped working as his eyesight diminished. In 2024, the American Macular Degeneration Foundation's Vision & Art Project premiered a film about his life, aptly titled *The Air Made Visible*.

Whimsy, playfulness and music were an important part of Tim's life. For decades, he created an annual calendar for family and friends and was a frequent illustrator for the Cornwall

Chronicle, where his drawings tended to skewer local issues. The Prentice barn was legendary for everything but cows: instruments constructed out of plywood and PVC tubing, concerts, pic-

nics, weddings, art shows, memorials, anniversaries, birthdays, songfests, family reunions, raucous hootenannies, and even as a test site for a 'bolt-together' house.

He is survived by his two daughters, Nora and Phoebe, and by his adored grandchildren, Zeke and Zed Homer. His infinitely beloved wife, Marie, predeceased him in 2018.

One of Tim's favorite reflections captures the arc of his life:

The engineer wants to minimize friction to make the air visible.

The architect studies matters of scale and proportion.

The sailor wants to know the strength and direction of the wind.

The artist wants to understand its changing shape.

Meanwhile, the child wants to play.

Donations can be made to: The Cornwall Housing Corporation: P.O. Box 174, Cornwall, CT 06753

No memorial is planned yet.

Thank you to all of Tim's great caregivers.

Worship Services

Week of February 15, 2026

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon

9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Transitioning through prayer
All welcome to join us
860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

Trinity Episcopal Church

484 Lime Rock Rd, Lakeville CT
Offering companionship along the Way
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Livestream at 10:30 found at
www.trinitylimeroock.org

trinity@trinitylimeroock.org
(860) 435-2627

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC

172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
Worship services Sundays at 10 am
www.facebook.com/northcananacongregational
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

Congregational Beth David

A reform Jewish Synagogue
3544 East Main St., Amenia
SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM
Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg
(Calendar at congbehdavid.org)

ALL ARE WELCOME

Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
info@congbehdavid.org

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

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 Sharon United Methodist Church

112 Upper Main Street,
North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits

10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care

No Sunday School in Summer

The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634

sharonumc5634@att.net

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church

656 Smithfield Valley Rd.
Route 83, Amenia, NY
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.
www.themsithfieldchurch.org

21st Century Theology
in an Historic Building

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church

313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT
Vespers Saturday at 9:00 P.M.
Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
Special Services Online

Rev. John Kretz

860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

Sharon Congregational

25 Main Street, Sharon, CT
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Visit our website
sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services

Contact us at 860-564-5002 or
info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

Millerton United Methodist Church

6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812
Millerton, NY 12546
Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M.

518-789-5138

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!

EDITORIAL

About Compass

Beginning this week, readers will see a redesigned Compass section, focused on arts and lifestyle coverage from across the region. This update marks the first step in an expanded approach to arts and lifestyle reporting.

Compass covers the creative, cultural and everyday activity that shapes life here — the work people make, the places they gather and the ways communities express themselves. Arts and lifestyle reporting is part of the broader story of this area and an essential record of how people live.

New this week is the introduction of a regular community profile highlighting individuals who contribute to the region's cultural life through creative work, long-standing involvement in local institutions, or by simply making life here more interesting.

Arts and lifestyle coverage is not only about documenting what has already happened. Compass will continue to emphasize reporting on events and activities readers can take part in — performances, exhibitions, talks, festivals and outdoor activities.

We're also seeking new voices. We welcome story ideas, tips and pitches, and we're interested in working with writers and photographers who want to contribute thoughtful, independent arts and lifestyle coverage. Send inquiries to nataliaz@lakevillejournal.com.

We look forward to your feedback.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appreciation goes a long way to moderating speed

I write with regard to your article on speed cameras in the Northwest Corner, and specifically the atmosphere they can foment. Even the basic radar speed check devices seem to stir up ill-will or angst, judging by the number of times one near me has been 'dismantled'.

I thought it worth sharing an anecdote from a recent visit to the UK where the latest generation of similar devices can also display a

Ben Gore
Lakeville

Hayes saves SNAP

The federal SNAP program, or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, has existed for many years to help people buy food by putting money every month on a debit card. The program offers free education and job training. In Connecticut 10.5% or 391,200 people qualified for SNAP in 2024. Under the Big Beautiful Bill, states will be forced to absorb 57% of administrative costs and SNAP benefit costs by 2027. This bill includes new work requirements, even though most recipients already work. In fact, millions of Americans nationwide may lose their benefits. In this bill, recipients would receive benefits for no more than 3 months over 3 years, removing exemptions for the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities, veterans and youth raised in foster care. To apply it takes 30 days by mail and forms must be renewed.

Lizbeth Piel
Sharon

every 6 months. The situation is made more urgent because food banks have had a surge in demand nationwide as food costs have risen faster than salaries.

Fighting back, our Congresswoman, Johana Hayes, has introduced the Restoring Food Security for Families and Farmers Act, which would repeal shifting these devastating costs to states and reverse the cuts to SNAP.

As Representative Hayes said: "The Big Beautiful Bill implemented the largest cut to SNAP in history — putting the most vulnerable at higher risk of hunger. With the Restoring Food Security for American Families and Farmers Act, we can reverse the damage caused by this legislation and restore the nearly \$200 billion eliminated from SNAP."

Let us hope that Congress will swiftly pass Hayes' bill.

Lizbeth Piel

TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

125 years ago — February 1901

Miss Muffins of Boston has come to reside with Mr. and Mrs. G.A. Selleck. Miss Muffins is a kitten of the Angora breed and is as odd as it is valuable. It is a gift to Mrs. Selleck from her brother, Mr. Frank Wolfe.

CHAPINVILLE — Mr. Bain of Falls Village has bought the MacNeil place of Watson Parmalee. Price \$4,500.

The Falls Village Inn had a very narrow escape from being burned Tuesday night, the ceiling catching fire over a lamp in the pool room.

Mr. John Cleaveland of Sharon is visiting at Mrs. Jane Cleaveland's. Mr. Cleaveland is a man of 72 years and made the trip from Sharon on foot last Saturday.

The west bound freight on Wednesday afternoon became stalled in the snow at Cook's Cut. As a result, the

5:25 o'clock passenger train was held at this station for two hours until the road was cleared. Some of the passengers remained in town over night.

100 years ago — February 1926

ORE HILL — The James Flint family have a new victrola.

A party of young women from Garden City, L.I., came up to enjoy the winter sports over the week-end, making their headquarters at Farnam Tavern.

50 years ago — February 1976

It was an anxious five days for the Aller family in Lakeville before members knew that Mr. and Mrs. Howard Aller Jr. and their party were safe in their vacation house in Antigua, Guatemala, after the devastating earthquake of Feb. 4.

Driver education will no longer be required at Housatonic Valley Regional High

School, the HVRHS board decided Tuesday night. The board agreed to offer both classroom training and on-the-road driver education as elective courses.

CORNWALL — The first

order of business at the Planning and Zoning Commission's Monday night meeting was to approve the Nestle Corporation's plan for a structure to house a 5000-gallon water storage tank. The 8 by 40 foot shed of cedar siding will stand on six existing concrete saddles located near the Nestle spring on old Route 4 in Cornwall Bridge. The company was recently granted a variance by the Zoning Board of Appeals to construct a tank for commercial use on the site, which is in a residential zone.

25 years ago — February 2001

The reaction in local towns was mixed yesterday to a proposal from Gov. John G. Rowland that the state purchase more than 15,300 acres of land from the Kelda Group, a regional water company, and its subsidiaries, Bridgeport Hydraulic Co. and Aquarion. Of those lands, which surround the utility's reservoirs, 1,668 are in Litchfield County. The largest parcel in the county is 1,123 acres in Falls Village. The second largest parcel is 428 acres in Salisbury.

On Tuesday, a small chemical spill occurred at Cornwall Consolidated School. Fortunately, classes had been cancelled for the day due to the weather and no children were present. The chemical, potassium hydroxide, was added to the boiler of the school as a water softener to prevent rust.

Mia Purcell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Purcell of Falls Village, has joined the staff of Audubon Expedition Institute in Belfast, Maine, as development director.

KENT — Navy Comdr. Kathleen M. Lindenmayer, daughter of Maureen and Tom Brady of Elizabeth Street, recently reported for duty at Naval Maritime Intelligence Center in Washington, D.C.

CANAAN — The Colonial Community Theatre Group, which is ready to move ahead with the purchase of the historic Colonial Theater it is trying to save, has hit an unexpected stumbling block. The owners have not acknowledged written offers or returned phone calls from the group. The theater closed four years ago this month with the sudden death of owner/operator Shirley Boscardin.

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

THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

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Volume 129, Number 28

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Mission Statement

LJMN Media, Inc. Publishers of

The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

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

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Christian Murray
Executive Editor

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Janet Manko
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Send to publisher@lakevillejournal.com
Include name, town and phone number.
Keep letters to 500 words or less.

The deadline for letters to the editor is 10 a.m. each Monday. You may email letters to publisher@lakevillejournal.com.



Moon shadows

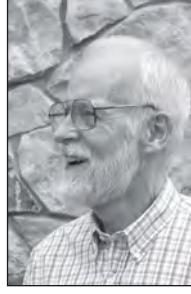
OBITUARIES

Charles Lemmen

CANAAN — It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Charles Lemmen, 87, of Canaan, on Jan. 1, 2026, after a long period of declining health.

Chuck was a loving father and husband with an inspiring and unquenchable work ethic. He gave much back to his community through his volunteering, including to the Canaan Historical Society, the Falls Village Library, and Music Mountain. He was a voracious reader, especially historical works, a hobby eclipsed only by his love for classical music which he exercised at every opportunity. He also loved to travel, a penchant that took him to Italy, Scandinavia, and as far afield as Antarctica.

Chuck was predeceased by his wife of 58 years, Barbara, his sister Gwendolyn Kraay, his brother Robert, and his grandson Kevin Whitley. He is survived by his daughters Barbara Lemmen (husband Geoff Nunes) and Nicola Whitley, his son



Stuart Lemmen (wife Jen Margo), and his grandchildren Hannah Whitley, Sidney Nunes, Alex Nunes, and Elijah Lemmen.

He was born in Holland, Michigan, May 19, 1938, to Benjamin and Lucille (Vander Werf) Lemmen, where he also grew up. He graduated from Hope College in 1960 and Case Western Reserve University in 1968.

Chuck was a philosophy and logic professor, an insurance agent, and then a computer programmer for Edward R. Hamilton Bookseller in Falls Village for over 40 years.

He was a self-taught roofer, carpenter, vegetable gardener and builder which helped to raise his family of five over so many years.

Arrangements were handled by the Cremation Society of New England. A memorial service will be held later this year.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Tanglewood or the Connecticut Food Bank.

Edwin A. French III

NEW PRESTON — Edwin A. French III passed away on Jan. 31, at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury after a brief illness. Born July 16, 1951, in North Adams, Massachusetts, he was the eldest child of the late Edwin and Barbara French II. He grew up in Greenwich and attended Greenwich Country Day, Rye Country Day, and Greenwich High School.

Ed served as a volunteer firefighter and later as a decorated Greenwich police officer, also playing bagpipes with the Emerald Society Police Band.

After retiring, he lived in Sherman, Kent and New Preston, Connecticut.



Independent and adventurous, he loved hunting, fishing, traveling, and sharing stories—especially of his motorcycle trip to Alaska. He was always ready to help friends and family.

He is survived by his sons; Steven (Francis) and Marc (Mary); his brothers David (Charlene) and Daniel (Cheryl); several grandchildren, nieces, and nephews; and his brother-in-law Steve Gerwin.

He was predeceased by his sister Faye Gerwin.

A private memorial will be held at the family's convenience. Donations may be made to the American Liver Foundation at liverfoundation.org

Karl Liebsch

NORFOLK — Karl Liebsch passed away unexpectedly in his home on Jan. 9, 2026, at the age of 72.

Karl was born on Dec. 2, 1954, in Hamburg, Germany, to Erich and Hedwig Liebsch. He later made his home in the United States, where he built a life grounded in family, hard work, and simple joys. He lived for many years in the village of Southfield in New Marlborough, Massachusetts, and moved to Norfolk, Connecticut in 2024.

Karl proudly served in the United States Air Force as a mechanic, a role that reflected his lifelong passion and talent for working with machines. He graduated from Mount Everett Regional High School in Sheffield, Massachusetts, in 1972.

Following his service, Karl dedicated over 30 years of his career to Becton Dickinson in Canaan, Connecticut, where he was known for his strong work ethic, mechanical skill, and reliability.

Karl had a deep love for cars and everything about them—tinkering, fixing, restoring, and talking about



them. He also found peace and pride in his gardens, nurturing flowers with the same care he gave to those around him. A big kid at heart, Karl enjoyed laughter, music, and the simple pleasure of a beautiful summer night spent by a fire pit with good music and good company.

Karl is survived by his daughter, Rebecca Liebsch and her husband Brian Cechinato; Rebecca's mother Gail Liebsch; his stepchildren, Michael Eichsted, David Streeter, and Chris Streeter; and his siblings, Ursula Bushey, Renate Heeder, and Eleanor Stowell. And many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his sisters Erica Liebsch and Anne Brooks.

Karl will be remembered for his mechanical mind, gentle heart, and love of life's simple moments. He leaves behind many who will miss him deeply and carry his memory forward.

A private celebration will be held for family and close friends. In lieu of flowers, make a donation to your local VFW in Karl's honor!

For more obituaries, see Pages A4 and A5

VIEWPOINT

A question of profound consequence

Why and how the U.S. corporate news media ignore open-source history

GUEST COMMENTARY JOHN BREASTED

malpractice is so widespread, I suggested that readers consult the 1988 book "The Manufacture of Consent: The Political Economy of the Mass Media" by Noam Chomsky and Edward Herman.

That suggestion was too cryptic. "The Manufacture of Consent" is a thick book, which I think few readers will be likely to have the time or the inclination to read.

Here are three short ways in which Chomsky and Herman state their central thesis:

"Especially where the issues involve substantial U.S. economic and political interests and relationships with friendly or hostile states, the mass media usually function much in the manner of state propaganda agencies."

Their propaganda model for how U.S. corporate journalism works does not posit direct censorship or control over the news and opinion that is broadcast or printed, but explains:

"The raw material of news must pass through successive filters ... that fix the premiss-

es of discourse and interpretation, and the definition of what is newsworthy in the first place ..."

They add:

"The elite domination of the media and marginalization of dissidents that results from the operation of these filters occurs so naturally that media news people, frequently operating with complete integrity and goodwill, are able to convince themselves that they choose and interpret the news 'objectively'... [but] the constraints are so powerful ... that alternative bases of news choices are hardly imaginable."

For me, Chomsky and Herman's model explains well why mainstream corporate media coverage is so negligently incomplete about three vital current public issues, all of which have simmered for decades. Each one now threatens to erupt into a toxic boil, fatal not only to what we like to call democracy, but to human civilization as we know it.

1. The history of Israel's actions and the United States' lavish support for them since 1948 in Gaza and the occupied territories of the region formerly known as Palestine.

2. The history of relations between the United States and Russia since the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991 as essential context for under-

standing the development of the nearly four-year-old war between Russia and Ukraine and for international efforts to prevent its escalation into a nuclear war, which would destroy human civilization.

3. The chronically ruinous domestic economic effects of our country's 80-year addiction to preparing for and waging war. The history of the development of this economic malignancy has been completely ignored in the mainstream corporate media that I have read regularly since 1961.

In his 1946 essay "Politics and the English Language," George Orwell wrote "Modern English, especially written English, is full of bad habits which spread by imitation and which can be avoided if one is willing to take the necessary trouble. If one gets rid of these habits one can think more clearly, and to think clearly is a necessary first step toward political regeneration: so that the fight against bad English is not frivolous and is not the exclusive concern of professional writers."

Substituting the word "journalism" for "English" and "journalists" for "writers" in this passage creates a fitting conclusion to this commentary.

John Breasted is a member of The Kent Center School Class of 1961 and the HVRHS Class of 1965.

What's the Gateway project?

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER MAC GORDON

In 2014, President Barack Obama called it "the most vital piece of infrastructure that needs to be built in the entire country". In 2026, New York's Senator Charles Schumer said Gateway was "the largest public works project in America". Perhaps because of its decades long timetable (2022-2038) and its physically low-lying nature, it is not well known to Northwest Corner residents.

Begun in 2011 as a project to improve that crucial part of the Boston-to-Washington Northeast Corridor (NEC) rail system between Newark, NJ and New York, NY, the need for Gateway became considerably more apparent in 2012 with the damage to the "North River" pair of tunnels beneath the Hudson River. The two parallel single track tunnels opened back in 1910, suffered widespread damage from Hurricane Sandy and were in need of major repair and renovation as well.

The basic idea of the Gateway project was to build two new single track tunnels adjacent to the original North River ones, then rebuild the original pair and throughout the entire construction process attend to the myriad repairs and improvements to bring the whole area's rail service up to modern standards. The improvements are expected to double train capacity.

It took nearly a decade to line up both funding from federal agencies and the state governments involved and to complete regulatory filings. In 2021, the project was formally approved by the federal government and work officially began in 2023. The total cost was estimated (in August 2021) to be \$16.1 billion. The new tunnels are scheduled to be completed in 2035, the re-construction of the original in 2038.

The Gateway Project is the central, most congested portion of what is commonly known as the NEC which extends from Boston to Wash-

ington, DC (with plans eventually to extend to Maine and Florida). Each day Amtrak carries more than 750,000 passengers on its trains. Its tracks also carry eight commuter rail company lines and several freight lines. NEC has developed a program of high speed trains, one of which, the Acela reaches speeds of 160 MPH along parts of MA, RI, and NJ; trains only await funding for improved track beds for the faster trains.

The NEC, from Boston to Washington, of which the Gateway Project is the centerpiece, runs through nine states and the District of Columbia; all of which politically, are Democratic. All of the Federal funding for the project was legislated under the Biden administration's 2023 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. President Biden himself was a major supporter of rail travel. President Trump, never a fan of trains, has several times tried to block or reduce federal funding for Gateway. Under the funding agreements the states of New York and New Jersey each are responsible for a quarter of the overall costs with the Federal government paying for half of the cost. The Department of Transportation, under President Trump's direction has been withholding scheduled payments to The Gateway Development Commission over feeble excuses with the result that Gateway runs out of money by February 6th and must lay off its staff of over 1,000 workers and shut down the entire project unless Trump directs the Transportation Agency to continue funding the project forthwith. "As this lawsuit makes clear, President

Recently, the parts for two giant hole boring machines arrived from Germany and are in the process of being assembled near the point at which they will start their operations of digging down to and boring two enormous side-by-side tunnels beneath the Hudson River.

While the two new tunnels will be the centerpiece of Gateway, there is much more to this giant construction project. Penn Station in Manhattan and Penn Station in Newark are the ultimate destinations of the new tunnels, both some distance from the Hudson. Particularly in these extremely congested areas, constructing manageable train routes from tunnels to stations for both trains and passengers will be a formidable task.

Between the Hudson and Newark are more than a dozen rail bridges that

need revisions or repairs to be a functioning part of the overall system. And there are countless appurtenances and tracks that must be realigned. The above ground portion of the project is very large and includes storage yards for trains in New Jersey and Long Island.

Not only the smooth functioning of rail transportation along the Eastern Seaboard depend on the successful resolution of the Gateway project. So also does the modernization of the American railroad industry. Plans across the country for enormous improvements, including new modern routes, High-Speed trains and more are waiting for this "kick in the pants" that a project like Gateway can help provide.

On February 6th, The New York Times reported that President Trump was ready to make a deal with Senator Schumer to release the withheld funds for the Gateway project if Schumer would support re-naming Penn Station and Dulles Airport after Trump. (Would this even be legal?) Stay tuned.

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville.



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Mikaela Shiffrin, Gold medalist member of the US Ski Team competing at the Olympics quoted Nelson Mandela when asked her thoughts on the current divisive state of politics in our country:

"Peace is not just the absence of conflict. Peace is the creation of an environment where all can flourish regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, class, caste or any other social markers of difference."



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Our Towns

Kent takes ownership of two historic graveyards

By Alec Linden

KENT — The Town of Kent officially assumed stewardship of two long-neglected historic graveyards in January, resolving a years-long gap in ownership.

The small burial grounds, known as the Morehouse and Parcells cemeteries, had previously been owned and maintained by the Kent Cemetery Association, which disbanded in 2023. While it operated, the association oversaw the town's cemeteries, but its dissolution left several sites without an owner.

The town formed a Cemetery Committee in 2024 to take over maintenance of the burial grounds in Kent. When the committee's charter was drafted, however, the Morehouse and Parcells cemeteries were inadvertently left out, leaving them without established ownership for several years.

Lorry Schiesel, chair of the Cemetery Committee, said at a January meeting that the formal acquisition of the two plots — each roughly 25 by 25 feet — corrects that oversight. The Morehouse Cemetery, located just off Richards Road, contains three standing headstones. The Parcells Cemetery, which sits on private property within the St. Johns Peak development, has two.

With the acquisition of the Morehouse and Parcells sites, Schiesel said the committee is now eligible to apply for grants to revamp these cemeteries. The state Office



The town's Cemetery Committee plans to restore the overgrown Morehouse Cemetery off Richards Road, where a large fallen tree once grew directly from the graveyard.

of Policy and Management offers funding through its Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program, which supports small, unkempt cemeteries. Before the acquisition, the town did not own any qualifying cemeteries.

If the application is successful, Schiesel said the funds would be used for cleanup and maintenance of the two graveyards, neither of which has seen a burial in more than a century.

The primary focus would be on rehabilitating the Morehouse Cemetery, which not only has three standing headstones but may also contain additional burials obscured by invasive vines and a large fallen tree.

Little is known about those buried there, Schiesel said. However, Marge Smith, curator at the Kent Historical Society, located an old newspaper clipping identifying the graves as belonging to brothers Norman and Joseph Morehouse and their father, David Morehouse Jr. The sons died in 1837 and 1844, long before their father, who died during the Civil War period. He was buried between the two boys.

Smith said the clipping was donated to the historical society without a date or information about its original publication.

According to the article, both brothers died before the age of 30, and their epitaphs

are noteworthy.

Joseph's headstone reads: "How short the course our friend hath run, cut down in all his bloom. The race but yesterday begun, now finished in the tomb."

Norman's inscription is taken from William Shakespeare's self-written epitaph in England: "Good friend for Jesus' sake forbear, to dig the dust enclosed here. Blest be the man who spares these stones, and cursed be he that stirs my bones."

While details surrounding the deaths of the father and sons are unclear, Smith said the family has a long-standing legacy in town. "They've got tentacles all over the place," she said, including in

the once-iconic Main Street department store N.M. Watson.

"We all did our shopping there when we were kids... Everybody went to Watson's," Smith said, explaining that the store was opened by a direct descendant of Daniel Morehouse, brother to David Morehouse Jr., who is buried in the Richards Road plot.

Similarly little is known about those interred in the small, fenced-in Parcells cemetery, found on private property adjacent to a driveway.

Daniel Parcells died in 1905 at age 93, outliving his wife by 15 years. His low, flat, smooth stone appears far more modern than Martha's taller, weathered headstone. Town Sexton Brent Kallstrom said he is unsure why Daniel's stone looks newer

but speculated that it may have been replaced by family members at some point.

The Parcells family once owned a large farm on the mountain where the St. Johns Peak development now stands, and several descendants remained in the Kent area.

One of those descendants was Flora Louise Benedict, the daughter of Daniel and Martha Parcells, who became the victim of a grisly murder case that made regional headlines in 1922. A May 17 article in the Winsted Evening Citizen, published before a suspect was captured, ran under the subhead: "Sidney Ward, Addicted to Drink and in Spirit of Revenge, Kills Mrs. Flora Louise Benedict, Aged 81, and Shoots Her Daughter, Mrs. Cora Page, But Not Fatally."

The article identified Ward as a former farmhand of Benedict, who was also the widow of a South Kent farmer, German Benedict.

Smith said that she remembers Cora Page from her childhood in Kent, and that the murder was well known. "It's just a heartbreaking story," she said.

Lurid tales aside, Smith said she hopes the town takes good care of the little burial sites, given that they have so much history. "They've survived so long," she said.

Schiesel said the acquisition of the two historic burial sites helps fulfill the committee's mission of honoring Kent's past residents.

"None of us quite knew what we were getting into," she said of the committee's early days, "but it really feels like you're honoring people and the past."

Cornwall checks in on conservation, development goals at annual meeting

By Ruth Epstein

CORNWALL — Channelling former New York City Mayor Ed Koch's signature question, "So how am I doing?" the designers of the town's Plan of Conservation and Development gathered to assess how well its goals are being carried out.

Participants from the plan's four publicly selected focus areas attended a session hosted by the Planning and Zoning Commission on Thursday, Feb. 5. The four areas targeted for study are housing, natural resources, economic development and youth, community and cultural resources. Before participants broke out into separate groups, commission Chairman Anna Timell gave a brief presentation.

Timell explained that the state requires each town to develop a plan every 10 years outlining goals residents want to achieve to improve their community. Grants are tied to the submission of those plans, "so we take ours pretty seriously," she said, adding, "It's pretty remarkable what we've accomplished in the past five years."

She described the start of the process in 2019, which included informational meetings to gather public input and a town meeting to approve the document. She said interest was high, as reflected by strong attendance at those sessions.

Timell suggested that participants consider which goals have not yet been addressed, what obstacles remain and how progress might be approached differently.

At the housing table, Jill Cutler of the Cornwall Housing Corp. said one of the

plan's goals was to build 25 affordable apartments over the 10-year period, a benchmark that has not yet been met. Limited available land remains one of the biggest challenges, she said.

Cutler noted that the group is exploring a former brownfield site on Route 7 South as a potential location for housing, but said funding would need to be raised to acquire the property.

Rising housing costs, she added, are making it increasingly difficult for many residents to purchase homes or rent apartments considered "affordable."

She said the group could consider working with the Torrington Area Health District and the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection to allow for unconventional septic systems, noting there are some low-cost alternatives.

Another potential barrier is the town's three- and five-acre minimum parcel requirement in residential zones, though Cutler said there are differing views on whether that standard should be revised. Christine Gray of the Planning and Zoning Commission pointed out the regulations were altered to allow for one-quarter lots and five-foot setbacks in the West Cornwall business district.

Those at the economic development table discussed ways to attract businesses to Cornwall Bridge.

Bruce Bennett said businesses that support other businesses would be beneficial. "We need someone who can solicit businesses," he said, adding that having a chamber of commerce might be helpful. But Steve Saccardi said it's hard for a



Christine Gray, left, and Jill Cutler discuss housing at Thursday's meeting on the town's Plan of Conservation and Development.

town to seek out new enterprises. "You're asking people to take a gamble."

Mare Rubin said there are two distinct types of businesses: brick-and-mortar establishments that customers visit and tradespeople who travel to their clients. "We need awareness of both," she said.

Saccardi also attended the group discussing youth, community and cultural resources, where participants spoke of the need to develop

op more social programs for individuals who may feel isolated. They also said newcomers could be targeted to get involved in volunteer activities.

Brad Harding was at the natural resources table where the discussion centered on environmental groups sharing common goals. He said the Planning and Zoning Commission is already working with the Conservation Commission, which is having positive results.

Wassaic Project wassaicproject.org

2025-2026 Winter Exhibition
On view thru 3/14, Thurs-Sun, 12-5PM
11 artists in a 7 story grain mill

Foundation work requires dewatering area in Mill Brook

By Riley Klein

WEST CORNWALL — Crews will temporarily dewater a portion of Mill Brook to repair the rubble foundation walls of a house along Sharon Goshen Turnpike.

The Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Agency approved the application, submitted by Bruce Whiteford, at a regular meeting Tuesday, Feb. 3.

"There's holes under the concrete wall and it's scoured

out, so that's where they want to repair," said Chairman Bill Hurlburt. Flowable concrete will be used in the compromised areas.

Water will continue to flow downstream around the sand-bagged work zone and equipment will be lowered in. The project is expected to take two weeks, weather permitting.

Crews were asked to notify Land Use Administrator Spencer Musselman before work begins.

Public Conversations of Consequence

"A Public Conversation about Private Conversations"

How we manage our inner dialogue, the words we choose to speak, and social media across generations

Guest presenters:

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Eileen Epperson • Tate Collins

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30 Main Street

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Jumpfest

Skiers soar to Jumpfest podium

By Riley Klein

SALISBURY — Winter athletes competed in ski jumping and cross country skiing over the course of Jumpfest Saturday, Feb. 7, and Sunday, Feb. 8.

The longest distance of the weekend was jumped by Mitchell Penning, who soared 72 meters on Sunday.

There were three ski jumps active for varying age groups — the K20, K36 and K65 jumps. Nordic combined competitors also took part in 1- to 5-kilometer cross country skiing events.

Ski clubs represented at Jumpfest 2020 were Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA), Andover Outing Club (AOC), New York Ski Educational

Foundation (NYSEF), Ford Sayre (FS), Harris Hill Nordic (HHN), Lebanon Outing Club (LOC), Plymouth Regional High School (PHS), Mount Washington Valley Ski Jumping (MWV) and Proctor Academy Andover (PAA).

At right are the results for the ski jumping competitions at Jumpfest. Below are results for Nordic combined.



PHOTOS BY TOM BROWN

Above, Galen McCusker jumps 32 meters, placing first in the K36 Male U14 event. Left, Gregory Bertasso competes in the K20 Open Male event. Below, skiers prepare for launch.

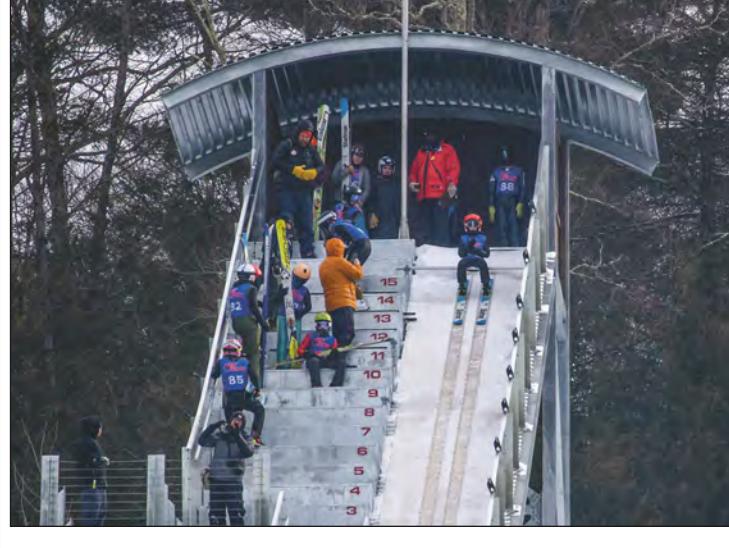


PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

With the temperature below 10 degrees, spectators on Saturday stay close to the bonfire.

Nordic combined results

K65 (5 km) Male U16

1. Will Coffin (NYSEF) 103.4 points, 12:14:58 minutes
2. Galen McCusker (LOC) 49.5 points, 12:16:37 minutes

K65 (5 km) Ladies

1. Caroline Chor (FS) 97.7 points, 12:16:17 minutes
2. Paisley Rancourt (AOC) 35.9 points, 12:18:44 minutes

K65 (5 km) Male U.S. Cup

1. Cadel Cox (NYSEF) 72.7 points, 12:14:14 minutes

K36 (2 km) Male Open

1. Nathaniel Clark (NYSEF) 224.4 points, 8:10 minutes

K20 (1 km) Male U10

1. Wyeth Taylor (SWSA) 95.1 points, 4:07 minutes
2. Tyler van Hoff (AOC) 76.8 points, 4:08 minutes
3. Frank Politi, (NYSEF) 79.3 points, 4:12 minutes

K20 (1 km) Female U10

1. Adalina Weibrech (NYSEF) 97.1 points, 5:10 minutes
2. Emerson McNiff (SWSA) 49 points, 7:47 minutes
3. Aerin Sheil (SWSA) 37.9 points, 7:53 minutes

K20 (1.5 km) Male U12

1. Caleb Bodwell (SWSA) 75.3 points, 7:57 minutes
2. Henry Sheil (SWSA) 84.0 points, 8:38 minutes
3. Camden Hubbard (SWSA) 76.3 points, 10:43 minutes

K20 (1.5 km) Female U12

1. Nadia Geil (NYSEF) 76.4 points, 6:23 minutes
2. Elena van Hoff (AOC) 90.7 points, 6:51 minutes
3. Catherine Chor (FS) 106.6 points, 7:19 minutes

K20 (1.5 km) Female U14

1. Willow Howe (NYSEF) 81.1 points, 6:52 minutes
2. Charlotte Milner (SWSA) 85.9 points, 8:40 minutes

K10 (2 km) Male U14

1. Elet McCusker (LOC) 271.2 points, 6:52 minutes
2. Anders Holland (FS) 267.6 points, 7:08 minutes
3. Augustus Tripler (SWSA) 220.8 points, 13:32 minutes

Bennett MacCulloch in the K36 Open Male event.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Salisbury Winter Sports Association veteran Ariel Picton Kobayashi lands on the K65 at Satre Hill during the 100th anniversary of Jumpfest.

Ski jumping results Eastern U.S. Ski Jumping Championship K65 Male U16

1. Will Coffin (NYSEF) 70 meters, 220.6 points
2. Spencer Jones (HHN) 63.5 meters, 179 points
3. Galen McCusker (LOC) 60 meters, 178 points

K65 Ladies

1. Caroline Chor (FS) 65 meters, 191.6 points
2. Islay Sheil (SWSA/NYSEF) 52.5 meters, 136.3 points
3. Ariel Kobayashi (SWSA) 46.5 meters, 75.7 points

K65 Male U20

1. Mitchell Penning (NYSEF) 72 meters, 232.4 points
2. Henry Loher (NYSEF) 68.5 meters, 211.5 points
3. Eli Larkin (NYSEF) 61 meters, 186.8 points

K65 Senior

1. Sebastian Eisenbarth (AOC) 53 meters, 137.8 points
2. Burke Pekala (PAA) 52.5 meters, 128.1 points
3. Sebastian Christie (AOC) 44.5 meters, 82.7 points

Salisbury Invitational

K65 Male U16

1. Will Coffin (NYSEF) 70 meters, 214.4 points
2. Spencer Jones (HHN) 66 meters, 185.4 points
3. Elet McCusker (LOC) 58.5 meters, 151.3 points

K65 Ladies

1. Caroline Chor (FS) 63 meters, 191.1 points
2. Islay Sheil (SWSA/NYSEF) 50.5 meters, 128.4 points
3. Paisley Rancourt (AOC) 31 meters, 2.9 points

K65 U.S. Cup Male

1. Mitchell Penning (NYSEF) 70 meters, 220.5 points
2. Henry Loher (NYSEF) 67 meters, 213.8 points
3. Eli Larkin (NYSEF) 62.5 meters, 189.1 points

K65 Senior

1. Sebastian Eisenbarth (AOC) 53 meters, 130 points
2. Burke Pekala (PAA) 49.5 meters, 107.8 points
3. Sebastian Christie (AOC) 46 meters, 83.9 points

Small Hills

K20 Female U10

1. Adalina Weibrech (NYSEF) 11 meters, 97.1 points
2. Maple Billings (HHN) 9 meters, 74 points
3. Francesca McLoughlin (SWSA) 7 meters, 50.9 points
4. Emerson McNiff (SWSA) 6.5 meters, 49 points
5. Aerin Sheil (SWSA) 6 meters, 37.9 points
6. Atalaya Annett (AOC) 5 meters, 33.6 points
7. Oona Mascavage (SWSA) 6 meters, 29.4 points

K20 Male U10

1. Wyeth Taylor (SWSA) 11.5 meters, 95.1 points
2. Frank Politi (NYSEF) 9.5 meters, 79.3 points
3. Tyler van Hoff (AOC) 9.5 meters, 76.8 points
4. Phoenix Cook (NYSEF) 9 meters, 70.1 points
5. Mather Eckert (SWSA) 8.5 meters, 66.6 points
6. Bodhi Thomas (SWSA) 8 meters, 64.8 points
7. Roan Jack (SWSA) 4.5 meters, 32.7 points
8. Clark Sielken (SWSA) 6 meters, 30.6 points
9. Wes Kobayashi (SWSA/AOC) 3 meters, 14.8 points

K20 Female U12

1. Catherine Chor (FS) 12.5 meters, 106.6 points
2. Elena van Hoff (AOC) 11 meters, 90.7 points
3. Charlotte Milner (SWSA) 10.5 meters, 85.9 points
4. Willow Howe (NYSEF) 10 meters, 81.1 points
5. Nadia Geil (NYSEF) 9 meters, 76.4 points

K20 Male U12

1. Myles Billings (HHN) 11 meters, 95.7 points
2. Henry Sheil (SWSA) 10.5 meters, 84 points
3. Quinn McNiff (SWSA) 10 meters, 81.6 points
4. Liam Simon (FS) 10.5 meters, 78.7 points
5. Camden Hubbard (SWSA) 9.5 meters, 76.3 points
6. Caleb Bodwell (SWSA) 10 meters, 75.3 points

K20 Open Female

1. Bridget Metcalf (SWSA) 11.5 meters, 94.1 points
2. Kennedy Leonard (FS) 10 meters, 84.5 points

K20 Open Male

1. Nathaniel Clark (NYSEF) 15 meters, 141.7 points
2. Augustus Tripler (SWSA) 13 meters, 114.9 points
3. Gregory Bertasso (NYSEF) 13 meters, 108.8 points
4. Edward Bertapelle (SWSA) 11.5 meters, 108.1 points

K36 Female U14

1. Bridget Metcalf (SWSA) 18.5 meters
2. Adalina Weibrech (NYSEF) 16 meters
3. Charlotte Milner (SWSA) 15 meters
4. Nadia Geil (NYSEF) 15 meters
5. Elena van Hoff (AOC) 13 meters
6. Willow Howe (NYSEF) 13 meters

K36 Male U14

1. Galen McCusker (LOC) 32 meters, 91.2 points
2. Elet McCusker (LOC) 31.5 meters, 84 points
3. Anders Holland (FS) 32 meters, 80.4 points
4. Wyeth Taylor (SWSA) 27.5 meters, 57 points
5. Ethan Gong (AOC) 27.5 meters, 51.6 points
6. Augustus Tripler (SWSA) 26 meters, 33.6 points
7. Edward Bertapelle (SWSA) 20 meters, 4.8 points
8. Caleb Bodwell (SWSA) 20 meters, 2.4 points
9. Frank Politi (NYSEF) 19 meters
10. Camden Hubbard (SWSA) 15 meters

K36 Open Female

1. Nenah Billin (PHS) 28 meters, 57 points
2. Paisley Rancourt (AOC) 23 meters, 21 meters
3. Hailey Garnsey (AOC) 19.5 meters, 0.6 points
4. Victoria Bertapelle (SWSA) 18.5 meters

K36 Open Male

1. Spencer Jones (HHN) 33 meters, 91.2 points
2. Timothy Tourville (AOC) 28 meters, 60.6 points
3. Kaelan Mullen-Leathem (MWV) 28 meters, 55.2 points
4. Bennett MacCulloch (AOC) 26.5 meters, 49.8 points



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Between jumps, skiers spend time in the warming tent.

JUMPFEST

Salisbury celebrates 100th Jumpfest at Satre Hill

By Alec Linden,
Patrick L. Sullivan
and Riley Klein

SALISBURY — Salisbury Winter Sports Association kicked off its centennial celebration Friday evening, Feb. 6, in classic festive style as temperate weather — alongside roaring bonfires and ample libations — kept Jumpfest-goers comfy as skiers flew, fireworks boomed and human dog sledgers, well, did what human dog sledgers do.

Before the truly hyper-

borean conditions of Saturday and Sunday set in, Friday night brought the crowds — enough that both the vast SWSA parking lot, and overflow, were completely full by 6:45 p.m.

SWSA President Ken Barker, found just after descending the steep, slick landing of the K65 jump in his characteristic crampons, said “this night is for the community and people turned out.”

Target jumping launched just after 7 p.m. as skiers sought to hit a 65-meter and

70-meter distance — about 213 and 230 feet, respectively. For the 70-meter launch, Jack Kroll of Lake Placid, New York’s NYSEF team and Spencer Jones of Brattleboro, Vermont’s HHN outfit tied with 69 meter jumps and \$500 on the line.

Light snow started to fall as fireworks launched from the top of Satre Hill, with SWSA’s red, blue and white colors illuminating the healthy snowpack below as watchers “oohed” and “aaahed,” swilling specialty beers from Norbrook Farm Brewery, including an IPA brewed specifically for the event.

Wrapping up the evening was the always-anticipated Human Dogsled Race, with spectators cheering, laughing and occasionally grimacing as teams of six — one sledder and five pullers — sprinted and sometimes sprawled across the icy flats below the K65 landing.

The Terrible Toymakers ended up claiming the coveted victory, making quick work of the course with the evening’s fastest time of 21.19 seconds.

Saturday morning was met with single-digit temperatures and piercing wind. But that didn’t stop the youth jumpers from skiing down the K20 and K36 hills.

It was the first official launch of the new jump on the K36 hill. Spencer Jones caught big air in the youth competition and soared 35.5 meters, the longest jump of the morning.

Guests entering Satre Hill were greeted by cutouts of ski jumpers who competed there over the past 100 years. Spectators huddled around the bonfires situated on either side of the landing zone.

Mac-n-cheese provided warmth to some, while others went for hot toddies. And the SWSA snack bar was serving up burgers, hot dogs and brats.

Rocco Botto, selectman of Cornwall, was in attendance and said it was his first time at Jumpfest. He wisely wore four layers of clothing to combat the cold.

Between events, some young spectators kept occupied by building an igloo. Before the roof of the structure could be built, it was announced that jumping for the rest of the day was postponed due to high wind. It was deemed unsafe for jumpers.

The Nordic combined competition took place Saturday afternoon, which combines ski jumping and cross-country skiing into a single winter sports event.

Sunday morning remained in the single digits, but the wind wasn’t as strong



PHOTO BY TOM BROWN

This ice carving was kept pristine by the frigid air at Jumpfest Feb. 6 to 8.



The directors of Salisbury Winter Sports Association pose together at the 100th Jumpfest, Feb. 7.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Young spectators work on an igloo at the bottom of Satre Hill, Feb. 7.



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Ski jumpers pause to watch the fireworks show Friday, Feb. 6.



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

A ski jumper stops for a warm lunch at the food truck.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Earlier in the week, on Wednesday, Feb. 4, youth ski jumpers gave a demonstration to a group of students from Salisbury Central School.

ROBIN STARR

Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

First Selectman Gordon Ridgway presents the proclamation declaring Feb. 8 Robin Starr Day in Cornwall.

discovered through student research in conjunction with the Cornwall Historical Society.

Nearly 245 years later, First Selectman Gordon Ridgway prepared a proclamation declaring Feb. 8, 2026, as Robin Starr Day. The proclamation was presented to the 7th graders on Feb. 5.

As part of the 250th anniversary of the Revolution, Cornwall was compiling a list of local veterans. Starr was not previously on the list, but because of the student research he has since been added.

“You’ve led us to learn a lot about this story,” Ridgway said to the class, praising the efforts of the students.

The idea to research Starr came when the students spoke with John Mills, president of the Alex Breanne Corporation in West Hartford, whose company researches formerly enslaved peoples and brings their stories to light.

“The timing of this worked

well,” said Will Vincent, history teacher at CCS. He pointed out that Starr’s Feb. 8 payment to buy his freedom coincides with Black History Month. “It all ties together.”

A presentation on Starr’s life and legacy will be given by the students at Troutbeck Symposium this spring. There, they will show informational posters about Starr’s life, a three-dimensional model of his land near the Housatonic River, a depiction of the uniform he likely wore serving in the 2nd and 7th Regiments, his family tree and other visual cues to bring his story to life.

Cavalier noted that Starr does not have a gravestone in town, but some of his descendants are buried in Calhoun Cemetery. “So, we decided to get him an honorary grave stone in Calhoun Cemetery.”

The students plan to deliver a full address to the community at the Memorial Day ceremony in May.

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—John Stefanopoulos

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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

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OUR community



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Plagens and Fendrich at home in front of some of Fendrich's paintings.

Laurie Fendrich and Peter Plagens

A shared life in art and love

By Natalia Zukerman

For more than four decades, artists Laurie Fendrich and Peter Plagens have built a life together sustained by a shared devotion to painting, writing, teaching, looking, and endless talking about art, about culture, about the world. Their story began in a critique room.

"I came to the Art Institute of Chicago as a visiting instructor doing critiques when Laurie was an MFA candidate," Plagens recalled.

"He was doing critiques with everyone," Fendrich said of Plagens. "We met at one of those sessions and, well, what can I say. We fell in love instantly."

Fendrich speaks candidly about the

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

ARCHITECTURE

Strategic partnership unites design, architecture and construction

By Natalia Zukerman

For homeowners overwhelmed by juggling designers, architects and contractors, a new Salisbury-based collaboration is offering a one-team approach from concept to construction. Casa Marcelo Interior Design Studio, based in Salisbury, has joined forces with Charles Matz Architect, led by Charles Matz, AIA RIBA, and Hyalite Builders, led by Matt Soleau. The alliance introduces an integrated design-build model that aims to streamline the sometimes-fragmented process of home renovation and new construction.

"The whole thing is based on integrated services," said Marcelo, founder of Casa Marcelo. "Normally when clients come to us, they are coming to us for design. But there's also some architecture and construction that needs to happen eventually. So, I thought, why don't we just partner with people that we know we can work well with together?"

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

INSIDE

SPORTS

Housy girls take down Shepaug 66-25

CALENDAR

Upcoming events



ART

In remembrance

Tim Prentice and the art of making the wind visible

By Natalia Zukerman

There are artists who make objects, and then there are artists who alter the way we move through the world. Tim Prentice belonged to the latter. The kinetic sculptor, architect and longtime Cornwall resident died in November 2025 at age 95, leaving a legacy of what he called "toys for the wind," work that did not simply occupy space but activated it, inviting viewers to slow down, look longer and feel more deeply the invisible forces that shape daily life.

Prentice received a master's degree from the Yale School of Art and Architecture in 1960, where he studied with German-born American artist and educator Josef Albers, taking his course once as an undergraduate and again in graduate school. In "The Air Made Visible," a 2024 short film by the Vision & Art Project produced by the American Macular Degeneration Fund, a nonprofit organization that documents artists working with vision loss, Prentice spoke of his admiration for Albers' discipline and his ability to strip away everything but color. He recalled thinking, "If I could do that same thing with motion, I'd have a chance of finding a new form."

What Prentice found through decades of exploration and play was a kind of formlessness in which what remains is not absence, but motion. To stand before one of his sculptures is to witness a quiet choreography where metal breathes, shadows shift and

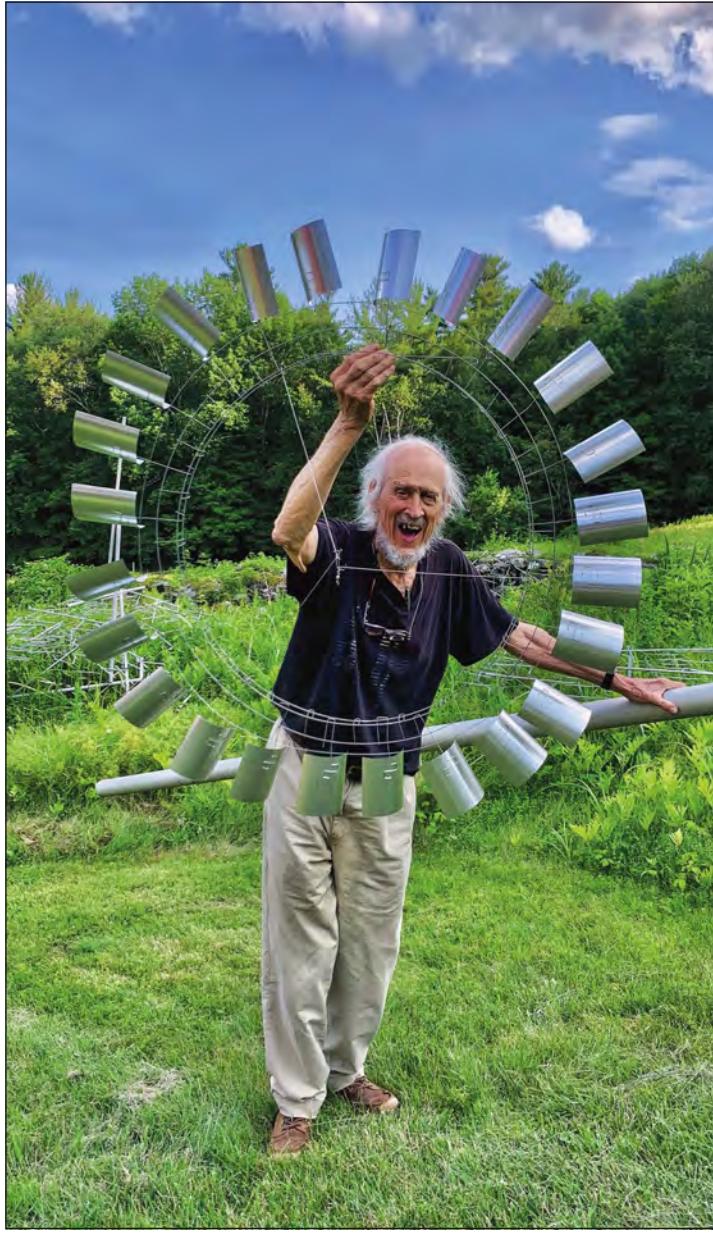


PHOTO BY SARI GOODFRIEND

The artist Tim Prentice (Nov. 5, 1930 to Nov. 25, 2025.)

time softens.

After Yale, Prentice co-founded the architectural firm Prentice & Chan in 1965. The firm designed affordable housing projects in New York

City, work largely led by partner Lo-Yi Chan. Prentice also designed custom single-family homes and continued to develop sculptural ideas alongside his architectural practice.

After leaving the firm in 1975 and eventually relocating full time to Cornwall, he undertook a range of local architectural projects while increasingly devoting himself to sculpture.

Prentice began producing larger-scale sculptural commissions in the 1970s, during a period of national expansion in public art funding tied to new building projects. His first major commission came in 1976 from AT&T, helping launch a career that would bring his kinetic installations to corporate, institutional and public spaces across the United States and abroad. While his work follows in the lineage of Alexander Calder and George Rickey, critic Grace Glueck observed that its "gently assertive character is very much his own."

In Cornwall, Prentice established a studio devoted to designing and fabricating kinetic sculpture, where he continued working for decades. He had many assistants over the years including local artists David Bean, Ellen Moon and Richard Griggs. David Colbert worked with Prentice for many years, assisting with fabrication, installation and project development and in 2012, Prentice established Prentice Colbert Inc., helping ensure that fabrication and development of large-scale commissions could continue beyond his lifetime.

Colbert said Prentice could be imperious, but came to understand that he valued thoughtful critique over agreement. "That evolved into a free and easy give-and-take, along

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

PERFORMANCE

'The Dark' turns midwinter into a weeklong arts celebration

By Brian Gersten

This February, PS21: Center for Contemporary Performance in Chatham, New York, will transform the depths of midwinter into a radiant week of cutting-edge art, music, dance, theater and performance with its inaugural winter festival, The Dark. Running Feb. 16-22, the ambitious festival features more than 60 international artists and over 80 performances, making it one of the most expansive cultural events in the region.

Curated to explore winter as a season of extremes — community and solitude, fire and ice, darkness and light — The Dark will take place not only at PS21's sprawling campus in Chatham,

but in theaters, restaurants, libraries, saunas and outdoor spaces across Columbia County. Attendees can warm up between performances with complimentary sauna sessions, glide across a seasonal ice-skating rink or gather around nightly bonfires, making the festival as much a social winter experience as an artistic one.

The Dark's lineup includes several world and U.S. premieres. Highlights include Thomas Feng performing "Night Prayers," a program of compositions by late Ethiopian composer and Orthodox nun Emahoy Tsegué-Maryam Guébrou; Phil Kline's outdoor participatory score "Force of Nature (February); an audio-visual collaboration between



PHOTO PROVIDED

Autumn Knight will perform as part of PS21's "The Dark."

composer David Lang and Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Bill Morrison; an interdisciplinary performance by Lee Ranaldo of Sonic Youth and multimedia artist Leah Singer;

and "We Survived the Night: A Coyote Story in Four Parts" by Julian Brave NoiseCat.

For more information about The Dark or to purchase tickets, visit: ps21chatham.org/the-dark

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Housatonic Camera Club is a group who collectively share their love of photography and want to share it with you. The exhibit will stay open for viewing in the Learning Center on weekends 11-4 until Feb. 15.

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Laurie Fendrich and Peter Plagens

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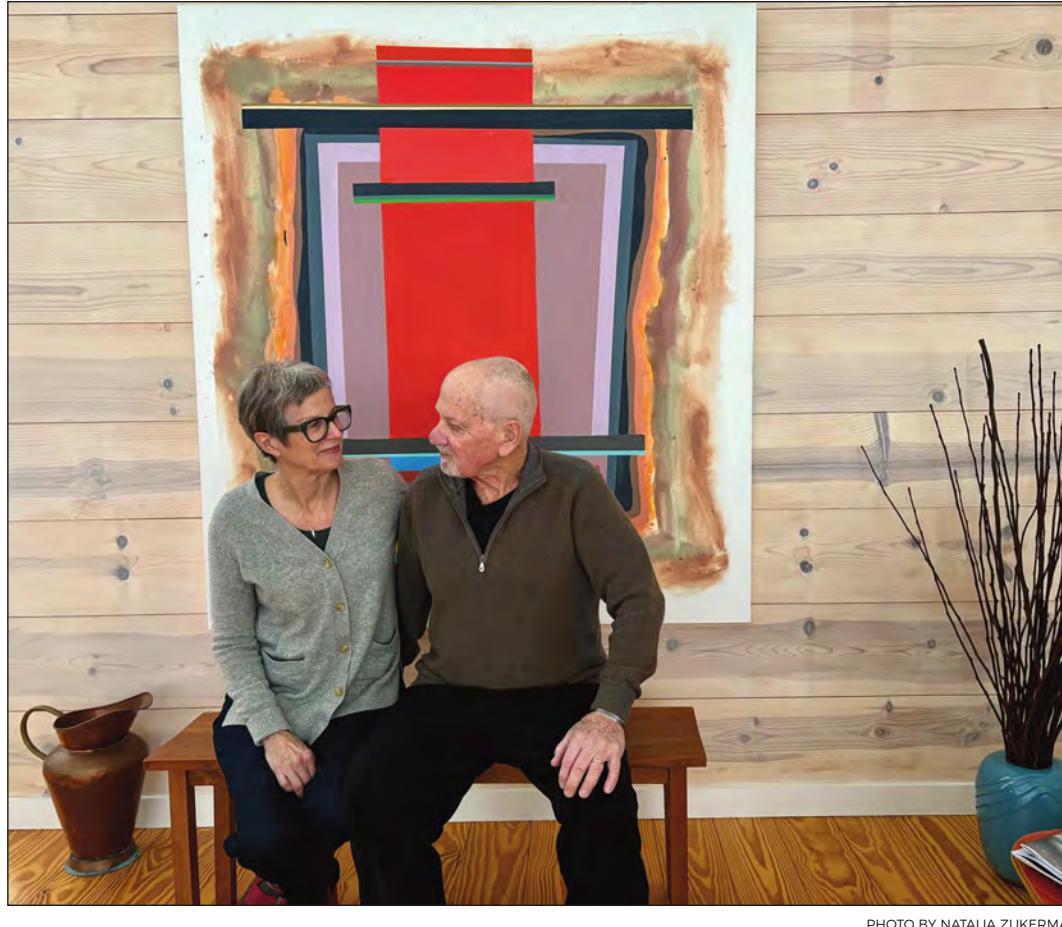
pressures that shaped her early life choices. "We both married the first time at 21, which a good number of women of my generation did without much thought." Her first husband was a good guy, she says, but "we weren't suited for each other at all, even though he suited my parents perfectly." Her decision to get a divorce was seismic. "My mother didn't speak to me for a year." Time softened the rupture. "One day she told me, 'I see now why you left.'"

Fendrich had a rigorous liberal arts education at Mount Holyoke. "I studied painting and drawing, but I also got interested in political philosophy. Plato, Aristotle, Machiavelli — Rousseau was my big guy — Tocqueville, everybody. And I still read them." Plagens's path was less formal. "I went to USC at 17," he said, "and declared English as my major. It was a frat school, and I was in one for the first two years. Then I started doing the cartoons for the Daily Trojan, took a couple art classes, and thought, 'Wait a minute, I like this.'"

Culturally, they diverged just as sharply. "I came from a fairly puritanical family that didn't even go to the movies," Fendrich said. Plagens, by contrast, grew up immersed in pop culture. "My father was an omnivorous reader," he said, "and a jazz fan, and he shared these passions with me." In 1966, Plagens walked into Artforum's LA office and said, "I want to write reviews." He was paid five dollars per piece. "Gasoline was 23 cents a gallon, so it went a long way."

Over time, the couple slowly fused their educations. "He taught me jazz, I taught him Mozart," Fendrich said with a laugh. "I've had a movie education from him; he read Jane Austen because of me."

During their early years in LA, Plagens taught at USC, and Fendrich at Art Center College of Design. In 1985, they decided "our kind of abstraction would



Laurie Fendrich and Peter Plagens at home in front of one of Plagens's paintings.

*"He taught me jazz,
I taught him Mozart."*

LAURIE FENDRICH

do better in New York," as Fendrich put it. "So, we up and moved to Tribeca with \$10,000 and a toddler."

Both artists grounded their artistic careers in teaching and writing. "Teaching, which I loved, gave me the financial stability to be an artist," Fendrich said, reflecting on her 27 years as a professor at Hofstra.

"It meant that being an artist didn't require I make money from every show. I didn't start writing until 1999, but though I write for publication frequently, I make hardly any money at it."

Artistically, they guard each other's independence. "We have unspoken rules," Plagens said. "You don't comment on someone's work while they're in the

middle of creating it." Critique comes by invitation only. "He's not mean, just direct," said Fendrich. Over time, their aesthetics have subtly converged. "My work has gotten cleaner from looking at his," she said. "He's gotten more colorful because of me."

The two have had several two-person exhibitions. At a recent duo show at the Texas Gallery in Houston "Laurie's paintings flew off the wall," Plagens recalled. "Me, well, not so much."

Plagens's parallel career in journalism shaped their lives in tangible ways. He worked as art critic at Newsweek from 1989 until 2003 and currently contributes reviews of museum exhibitions to The Wall Street Journal. "Being at Newsweek was one of the luckiest breaks I ever had," he said. "They paid me to see things I would gladly pay to see."

Their creative processes mirror their personalities. "I start with a specific idea," Fendrich said, "and then modify things as I paint." Plagens laughed. "I start with complete mush, just blurting it out and spending the rest of the time fixing it."

In 2019, they made what Fendrich calls "a decision of contraction." They left the TriBeCa loft they had lived in for three decades, sold their Catskills home with its large studio, and moved full-time to a former auto repair shop in Lakeville, now a house where each has a studio, and the ground floor retains the open feel of a loft.

What sustains them in life, art and love, decades in, are endless conversations — and arguments — about art, history, exhibitions, books and movies. That exchange, ongoing and rigorous, may just be the masterpiece of their shared life.

... Tim Prentice

CONTINUED FROM B1

with some fierce arguments," he said. "Our relationship was always developing, right through to the end."

In the mid-1990s, Prentice was diagnosed with macular degeneration, a condition that gradually narrowed his field of vision. Rather than turning away from the visual world, he leaned further into it, focusing on movement, light and peripheral perception — on what could be felt as much as seen. The Vision & Art Project film documents this period of his life and the ways he adapted his creative process.

Even in his final years, Prentice continued experimenting. In the summer of 2025, he created a series of drawings titled "Memory Trees," produced from recollection as his eyesight declined. The series sold out at the Rose Algrant show that August, offering a poignant example of an artist adapting and creating throughout their lifetime.

"He was interested in whimsy," said Nora Prentice of her dad. "But he also worked seven days a week," she said. "He'd come in for dinner and then go right back out." His studio was known for its atmosphere of curiosity and play, with music often drifting through the workspace as sculptures moved overhead in careful, measured rhythms. His work reminds viewers how profoundly small movements shape perception, and how change itself may be the only constant.

In his poem "Among School Children," William Butler Yeats asks, "How can we know the dancer from the dance?" Prentice offered his own answer. "I'm not making the dance," he said. "The wind is making the dance."

As Nora reflected, "I think that's how he would want to be remembered: for making the wind visible."

arts
Local Matters

News and
Arts reporting
in Northwest
Connecticut and
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County in New York

The Lakeville Journal
lakevillejournal.com

The Millerton News
millertonnews.com

MUSIC

Tanglewood Learning Institute expands year-round programming

By Richard Feiner
and Annette Stover

The Tanglewood Learning Institute (TLI), based at Tanglewood, the legendary summer home of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, is celebrating an expanded season of adventurous music and arts education programming, featuring star performers across genres, BSO musicians, and local collaborators.

Launched in the summer of 2019 in conjunction with the opening of the Linde Center for Music and Learning on the Tanglewood campus, TLI now fulfills its founding mission to welcome audiences year-round. The season includes a new jazz series, solo and chamber recitals, a film series, family programs, open rehearsals and master classes led by world-renowned musicians.

"We have been thrilled and humbled to see the Tanglewood Learning Institute embraced as a year-round destination for a breadth of exceptional programming, including classical, jazz and family-friendly events," said BSO President and CEO Chad Smith. "Our 2025-26 fall, winter and spring season reflects our deepening commitment to engaging the vibrant, year-round Berkshires community



Exterior of the Linde Center for Music and Learning.

and to fully exploring the potential of TLI as a space where BSO programs make thought-provoking connections between music, art and society."

TLI is once again presenting its Chamber Concerts series on Sunday afternoons, with small ensembles of BSO musicians performing familiar favorites and classic mainstays, as well as new music by contemporary composers. There are upcoming chamber concerts scheduled for Feb. 22, March 8 and March 15.

New this season is the TLI Jazz series, which continues March 20 with the Sullivan Fortner Trio, led by Grammy Award-winning artist and educator Sullivan Fortner, whose eponymous ensemble won the 2024 DownBeat Critics Poll for Rising Jazz Group.

"Soul-sax sensation" Nick Hemp brings his free-blowing blend of "barroom excitement and modern jazz finesse" for a rousing night of soul jazz April 10. Rounding out the jazz series, and back by popular demand, is Grammy Award-winning trumpeter and singer Jumaine Smith, who brings his repertoire of jazz and American Songbook standards to the Linde Center on May 9.

Another season highlight comes April 12 with an animated live concert screening of the 3D stop-motion adventure film "Magic Piano." Produced by the Academy Award-winning BreakThru Films production company in Poland, the film will be accompanied by a screening of "The Chopin Shorts,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3



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WRITER'S NOTEBOOK

Designing for wellness

By Kerri-Lee Mayland

Wellness is often framed as something we do — a dog walk, a yoga class, a healthy resolution. But as we retreat indoors in winter, we are reminded that wellness is also something we live inside. Our homes quietly influence how we breathe, sleep, focus and feel — sometimes for better, sometimes not.

Interior design for wellness is less about color and style trends and more about intentional choices. Specialty designers create spaces aligned with the health-first framework of the World Health Organization's guidelines. But with some basic knowledge, homeowners can borrow from that playbook and embrace wellness at home.

One of the most overlooked elements of a healthy home is air quality. In winter — especially this one, thanks to seemingly endless frigid temperatures — windows stay shut. As a result, heating systems run constantly and indoor air can become more than just stale. Many common household items — synthetic rugs, vinyl flooring, pressed-wood furniture, harsh cleaners and scented room sprays — release volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, that linger long after use or installation. Headaches, poor sleep and respiratory irritation are often traced back to what is quietly circulating in a home's air.

Choosing natural materials makes a measurable difference. Wool rugs, for example, are naturally stain-resistant, biodegradable and free of the chemical treatments found in many synthetic alternatives. Wool



Natural light can be a powerful tool for wellness.

helps trap airborne pollutants because it contains keratin, a naturally occurring protein that interacts with those particles, improving indoor air quality over time. Solid wood furniture, natural stone and low-VOC paints offer similar benefits, especially in bedrooms and living spaces where we spend the most time.

Light is another powerful wellness tool. Natural daylight regulates circadian rhythms, lifts mood and improves focus. Keep window treatments simple during the day. Trim back heavy drapery. Position seating to catch morning or afternoon sun. Even reflective surfaces

— a mirror opposite a window or a lighter wall color — can amplify daylight without adding glare.

Just as important as letting light in is knowing when to shut it out. Good sleep thrives on darkness. Bedrooms benefit from blackout shades or lined drapery with minimal light bleed at the sides. Correctly measured and installed window treatments are key to blocking streetlights, early morning sun and winter glare off snow. Layering a rattan Roman shade with light-filtering drapery panels allows flexibility — bright and airy by day, cocooned and calm by night. This bal-

ance between exposure and protection is central to wellness-focused design.

Scent and atmosphere matter as well. Candles may seem like a small detail, but they play a significant role in air quality. Many are made from paraffin wax, a petroleum byproduct that releases toxins when burned. Beeswax or soy candles, especially those scented with essential oils rather than synthetic fragrances, burn cleaner and more slowly. I follow a simple, non-scientific rule: If a candle smells unbearably overpowering when the lid comes off, the ingredients are likely problematic. Price point can also be an indicator — not always, but inexpensive often means artificial and unsafe.

Sound and softness also contribute to well-being. Hard surfaces amplify noise, subtly increasing stress levels. Area rugs, upholstered furniture, curtains and bookshelves help absorb sound, making a home feel calmer. In open-concept spaces especially, these elements can dramatically improve comfort without altering architecture.

Finally, consider what you see first and last each day. Clutter increases cognitive load; calm visuals allow us to rest. Edit surfaces, simplify and restock nightstands and create intentional pause points — a chair by a window, a softly glowing lamp beside a favorite book, a clear kitchen table that feels welcoming in the morning.

Designing for wellness does not require a full renovation. It begins with awareness: what you breathe, what you touch, what you see in the quiet hours.

... Casa Marcelo

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



Hyalite Builders is leading the structural rehabilitation of The Stissing Center in Pine Plains.

Traditionally, homeowners hire designers, architects and contractors separately, a process that can lead to miscommunication, budget overruns and design revisions once construction begins. The new partnership seeks to address those challenges by creating a unified team that collaborates from the earliest planning stages through project completion.

"We can explore possibilities," Marcelo said. "Let's say the client is not sure which direction they want to go. They can nip that in the bud early on — instead of having three separate meetings with three separate people, you're having one collaborative meeting."

The partnership also reflects an expanded view of design, moving beyond surface aesthetics to include structural, environmental and performance considerations. Marcelo said her earlier work in New York City shaped that perspective.

"I had a 10-year career in New York City designing townhouses and penthouses, thinking about everything holistically," she said. "When I got here and started my own business, I felt like I was being pigeonholed into only the decorative part of design. With the weight of an architect on our team now, it has really helped us close those deals with full home renovations, ground up builds and additions."

The team emphasizes what it describes as high-performance design, incorporating modern building science, energy efficiency and improved air quality alongside aesthetic goals.

"If you're still living inside 40-year-old technology and building techniques, we haven't really handed off the best product we could," said Soleau. "The goal is to not only to reach that level of aesthetic design but to improve the envelope, improve the living environment within a home and bring homes up to elevated standards of high-performance building."

This integrated approach has proven particularly useful for renovation projects, where modern materials and systems can be thoughtfully incorporated into older structures. The firms also prioritize durability and long-term functionality, often incorporating antiques, vintage elements and high-quality materials designed to support clients' lifestyles.

"I'm very big on investing in pieces that are going to be quality and last you the test of time," Marcelo said. "Not just designing for a five- to 10-year run, but really designing for the long haul."

The collaboration is already underway on several projects, including a major renovation in Sharon that involves rebuilding a 1990s modular home to maximize views while upgrading structural and performance systems. The firms are also exploring advanced visualization technology that would allow clients to experience projects through virtual reality before construction begins.

"For me, as somebody who wants to take the project all the way from beginning to end and make the process as effortless as possible for my client, it's easier to do that with collaboration and a team than to do it alone," Soleau said. "Most clients, especially second-home owners, want a team that can lead the project from concept through completion; aligning design, budget, and construction."

On Feb. 19, the three firms will officially launch the initiative at an invitation-only event at The Stissing Center in Pine Plains, where Hyalite Builders is leading the structural rehabilitation of the historic building. A limited number of "hard hat tour" reservations will be available by request, providing rare, behind-the-scenes access while work is actively underway. Those interested in attending may contact event organizer Lauren Fritscher of Berkshire Muse at hello@berkshiremuse.com.

... Tanglewood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

a collection of animated films set to Chopin's études, performed by pianist Derek Wang.

All performances take place in Studio E, the Linde Center's 4,000-square-foot multiuse room that serves as TLI's main performance and event space. It features retractable seating, acoustic and technical systems, flexible configurations, and is accessible and comfortable for all patrons.

The entire Linde Center for Music and Learning is worth a visit in itself. The complex, which also includes the informal Cindy's Cafe (seasonal) for a quick bite, is conceived not as a single building but as a cluster of pavilion-like spaces connected by an outdoor covered walkway and arranged around a century-old red oak tree. The center promotes a welcoming and serene sense of place and continuity with the rolling Tanglewood lawn and surrounding woodlands.

Smith said, "This ongoing work is also a passion project for our musicians, who form deep ties to the area and are eager to remain active in the Berkshires beyond the summer months. We look forward to welcoming new and returning audiences to experience all that TLI offers — all year long."

The Tanglewood Learning Institute is located at 3 W. Hawthorne Road, Lenox, Mass. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit bso.org/tli.



Interior of the Linde Center for Music and Learning.

At The Movies



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AROUND THE REGION

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PHOTO PROVIDED

The Orchestra Now celebrates the Lunar New Year with its annual Sound of Spring concert, welcoming the Year of the Horse with conductor Jindong Cai on Saturday, Feb. 14, at the Fisher Center's Sosnoff Theater at 3 p.m. For more information, call 845-758-7900, or visit fishercenter.bard.edu

THEATER

Sharon Playhouse to hold local auditions for upcoming summer season

By Graham Corrigan

As winter lingers, summer is already taking shape at the Sharon Playhouse, with local auditions this weekend for the upcoming theatrical season under the watchful eyes of casting director Judy Bowman and artistic director Carl Andress.

"Every time you do a local search, new people crop up," said casting director Judy Bowman.

"People who have moved here, people who hear about [the Playhouse] from friends, people who started as actors and then raised families and want to come back into the business."

The hopefuls will have five minutes and are asked to prepare a piece of mu-

sical theater (classical or contemporary). If all goes well, they could be asked back the following week for a dance audition.

Every second counts. Bowman's process is simple and every second counts. "I really need to know how they audition, what they're like as people when they come into the room and interact with the theater," she said.

If it doesn't work out this time around, Bowman encourages positivity.

"Sharon Playhouse isn't year-round, but I am. I have plenty of other projects, and they should come in and put their best foot forward."

For more information and to schedule an audition, visit sharonplayhouse.org

Tri-Corner Calendar

FEBRUARY 12

Suzan Scott:

This Beautiful Place
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
Feb. 12 through March 13

Paintings by Torrington artist Suzan Scott inspired by the Litchfield Hills. Reception: Saturday, Feb. 21, 5 to 7 p.m. Artist Talk: Thursday, March 12, 5:30 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Learn Libby With Anna
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

Drop-in help from 1 to 3 p.m. setting up Libby for ebooks and audiobooks. Bring your device and library card. No registration required.

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. Next is the Willa, Feb. 12, and Oakhurst Diner on Feb. 22

I Love a Rainy Night:
The Rhythm of Forest Amphibians with Laura Heady

In-person at Cary's Lovejoy Auditorium or virtual 2801 Route 44, Millbrook @ 7 p.m.

Join us for a lecture on amphibian migrations, featuring Laura Heady, a biologist with the New York State Department of Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program and Cornell University.

Registration required at caryinstitute.org

FEBRUARY 13

Lunch & Learn: Valentine Bingo

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

Lunch and Learn returns from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. with Valentine Bingo. Come for lunch, companionship and chocolate prizes! Register at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com

Grace Note opening:

Natalia Zukerman
The Grace Note at The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains

Celebrating the opening night of The Grace Note, the new intimate performance space downstairs at Stissing Center with a performance by Natalia Zukerman—a longtime friend of the Center whose storytelling, musicianship, and warmth make her the perfect artist to open this new room. Doors open at 6 p.m., performance begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets at stissing-center.org

Frankenstein

Walker Auditorium, The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn.
Feb. 13 through 15

A bold new staging of Nick Dear's Olivier Award-winning adaptation of Mary Shelley's classic, placing the Creature at the center of the story. Fri. & Sat. 7:30 p.m.; Sun. 2 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Lunch and Learn

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
Lunch and Learn at Hotchkiss Library of Sharon returns from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, with "Valentine Bingo" with loads of fun and chocolate prizes. Registration is required hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com.

FEBRUARY 14

You're My Cup 'O Tea

Sharon History Club, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn. Bring your own tea cup and join other for conversation and a Valentine's Day tea at 2 p.m. Free. Please register by emailing rsvp@sharonhist.org

Valentine's Day is for the Birds (Literally!)

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

Show some love for resident birds from 1 to 2:30 p.m. by making a special valentine and learning about bird enrichment. ages 6+. Pre-registration required bit.ly/4abBLRY

Great Backyard Bird Count

Hamlin Preserve, 19 Stone House Road, Sharon, Conn.

Join a winter hike and bird count from 10 to 11:15 a.m. with Sharon Audubon and Sharon Land Trust. Free; ages 10+. Pre-registration required bit.ly/4bubili

Yard Sale

Foxtrot Farm & Flowers, 6862 Route 82, Stanfordville, N.Y.

Join us in the Big Red Barn from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Foxtrot for a small community "yard" sale! We'll have a little bit of everything!

Tremaine Gallery Presents: Historic Presence

The Tremaine Gallery at The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville Feb. 14 through April 5

A solo exhibition by Brooklyn-based artist Taha Clayton, curated by Terri Moore, featuring oil paintings, drawings, and installation elements exploring legacy and collective memory. Artist's Talk: Feb. 19, 7 p.m. Opening reception: Feb. 21, 4 to 6 p.m.

A Midwinter's Night in the Village

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

Feb. 14, 6 to 8 p.m. (snow date:

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

Feb. 15, 2 p.m.)

The Friends of the David M. Hunt Library host their annual winter benefit featuring sweet and savory breads, chocolate treats, wine and beer, and performances of love-themed poems and songs by local personalities.

Current Fiction Book Group with Claudia Cayne

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

Join Claudia Cayne from 4 to 5 p.m., for a lively and informal discussion of *Safekeep* by Yael van der Wouden. Mysterious, sensual, sophisticated, and infused with intrigue, this is a thrilling debut about facing up to the truth of history, and to one's own desires.

Valentine's Day Dance: Jungle Love

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Five-time Best of the Hudson Valley winners (2021–2025) Jungle Love returns to Stissing Center for the Valentine's Day Community Dance. A high-energy journey through Classic Soul, R&B, Motown, Disco, and Funk from the '60s, '70s, and '80s. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at stissingcenter.org

FEBRUARY 15

Exhibit Opening: Northlight Art Center

15th Anniversary Show

Sharon Historical Society and Museum, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn.

Join us from 3 to 5 p.m. for refreshments and enjoy a wide variety of artworks created over the past year by students of all ages working in various media. Most artworks are available for purchase, with proceeds supporting SHSM.

Public Conversations of Consequence

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

On Sunday, Feb. 15, from 4:30 to 6 p.m., "A Public Conversation about Private Conversations" at Congregational Church of Salisbury with four guest presenters.

Floral Collaging - A Meet the Farmer Event

Foxtrot Farm & Flowers, 6862 Route 82, Stanfordville, N.Y.

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A meet the farmer event where you can hang, craft & learn more about the Foxtrot Flower CSA Share on Farm! This event is free & open to community.

Last week's WotW

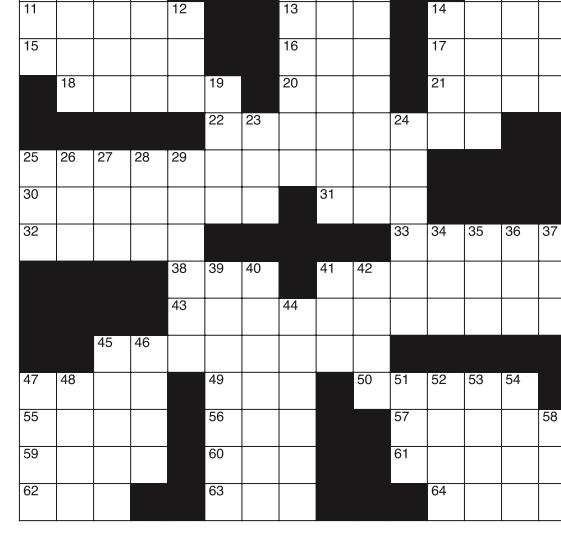
Q	U	A	C	K
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S	A	L	T	Y

Feb. 14, 6 to 8 p.m. (snow date:

Brain Teasers

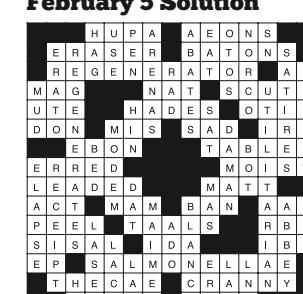
CLUES ACROSS

- Breezed through
- Consumer protection agency
- Criminal syndicate
- Moves back from
- Satisfaction
- Feel concern or interest
- Monetary units
- Congressman (abbr.)
- Israeli city
- Restaurants
- 2,000 lbs.
- Grandmother
- North, South and Central
- In an early way
- Foes
- Social networking platform
- Early term for basketball player
- Another name for sesame plant
- Disallow
- Provide greater detail
- Inaccessible
- Evoke emotions
- Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- Celtic punk rockers
- A fencing sword
- Actor Idris
- Affirmative (slang)
- Pointed end of a pen
- Popular sports league
- Body part
- Inoffensive
- Hong Kong food stall
- pai dong
- Opposite of beginning
- Email function

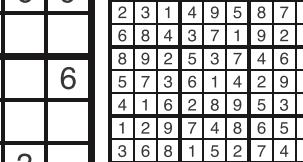
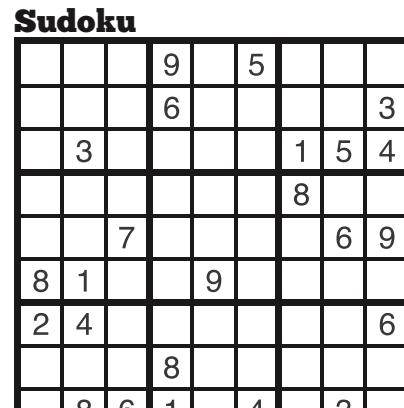


- Midway between south and southeast
- Town in Galilee
- Satisfy
- Mice genus
- Brass instrument
- Chest muscle (slang)
- Transmits genetic information from DNA
- Records electric currents generated by the brain
- Short route aircraft
- Pitching statistic
- Pointed end of a pen
- Popular sports league
- Body part
- Inoffensive
- Yellowish cotton cloth
- Feline
- Does not tell the truth
- Seduced
- Spiritual leader

February 5 Solution



Sudoku



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- leaders, root for a team
- Can be right, acute, obtuse
- Electronic mail
- Hardcore rock
- Olympic gold

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Sports

Housy girls take down Shepaug

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — Housatonic Valley Regional High School's girls varsity basketball team defeated Shepaug Valley High School 66-25 on Thursday, Feb. 5.

The Mountaineers maintained a double-digit advantage from the first quarter through to the end. Of the 26 field goals for HVRHS, 22 baskets were assisted.

Carmela Egan posted a double-double with 17 rebounds and 11 points. Defensively, Egan snagged 7 steals. Victoria Brooks scored 12 points, Olivia Brooks scored 11, Aubrey Funk scored 8, Maddy Johnson scored 6.

Grace Graney scored 6, Hayden Bachman scored 4, Keely Malone scored 4, Olivia Simonds scored 2 and Lily Danforth-Gold scored 2.

For Shepaug, Eva Mathis scored a game-high 15 points. Lexi Thomas scored 5, Dayanna Daly scored 2, Mackenzie Schramm scored 2 and Avery D'Amico scored 1.

HVRHS's season record advanced to 6-9 and Shepaug fell to 3-13. HVRHS moved into 4th place in Berkshire League standings after the win. As of early February, Lakeview leads the league at 14-2, followed by Thomaston at 13-2 and Nonnewaug at 13-4.



Above, Maddy Johnson takes a contested shot. She scored 6 points for Housatonic Valley Regional High School in the game against Shepaug Valley High School on Thursday, Feb. 5. Left, HVRHS freshman Aubrey Funk scored 8 points.

PHOTOS BY TOM BROWN



Above, Maddy Johnson takes a contested shot. She scored 6 points for Housatonic Valley Regional High School in the game against Shepaug Valley High School on Thursday, Feb. 5. Left, HVRHS freshman Aubrey Funk scored 8 points.

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THE SCOVILLE MEMORIAL LIBRARY: is seeking an experienced Development Coordinator to provide high-level support for our fundraising initiatives on a contract basis. This contractor will play a critical role in donor stewardship, database management, and the execution of seasonal appeals and events. The role is ideal for someone who is deeply connected to the local community and skilled at building authentic relationships that lead to meaningful support. For a full description of the role and to submit a letter of interest and resume, contact Library Director Karin Goodell, kgoodell@scovillelibrary.org.

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We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

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Tripp takes silver

Housatonic Valley Regional High School senior Silas Tripp placed second in the 1600-meter race at the Berkshire League indoor track championships in Bethel on Friday, Feb. 6. He ran a time of 4 minutes and 49.16 seconds. Tripp finished within a half-second of gold medalist Beau Kociszewski (4:48.68) of Thomaston High School.

Housy Hall of Fame seeks 2026 nominees

FALLS VILLAGE — The Housatonic Valley Regional High School Athletic Department and the Athletic Hall of Fame committee is now accepting nominations for the Housatonic Athletic Hall of Fame.

All nominations will be due by May 1. Nomination forms will be available online at hvrhs.org under the Athletics tab.

Forms may be submitted via email at amacneil@region1schools.org or regular mail. Please send regular mail forms to:

Housatonic Valley Regional High School
c/o Athletic Department
Attn: Athletic Hall of Fame
246 Warren Turnpike
Falls Village, CT 06031

Steve Blass Little League registration open til March 1

NORTH CANAAN — Registration for the Northwest Connecticut Steve Blass Little League spring season is open through 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 Adam Karcheski at nwctll.pres@gmail.com or visit leagues.bluesombrero.com/nwctll

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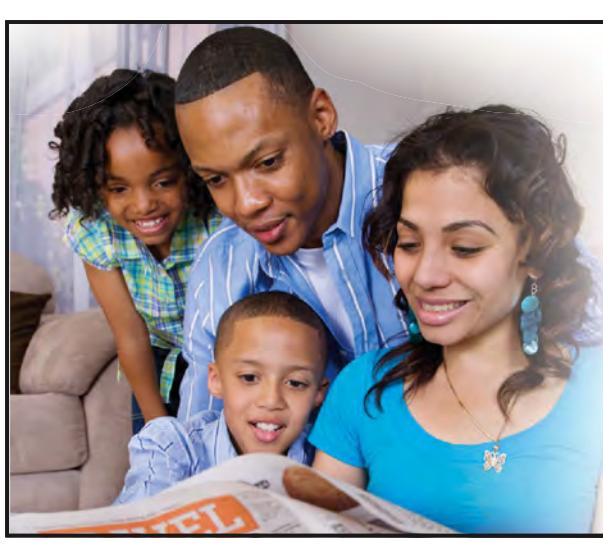
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