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# The Lakeville Journal

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



Dr. Kristin Newton, coordinator of the Sharon Hospital rotation of New Milford's Hospital's Family Medicine Rural-Track Residency, and Dr. Michael Roman, a first-year resident of the program.

## Sharon Hospital

### Rural residency program aims to ease primary care shortage

By Alec Linden

SHARON — A new program bringing medical residents to Sharon Hospital aims to show young doctors what working in rural healthcare is like — and hopefully convince them to stay.

"There is such a need for primary care doctors here," said Dr. Kristin Newton, a family medicine practitioner at Sharon Hospital who coordinates Sharon's participation in the program, which is based out of New Milford Hospital's Family Medicine Center.

The Northwest Corner is in the midst of a decades-long primary

care shortage, and Newton said that family medicine doctors bring holistic "cradle to grave" care to underserved communities.

Sharon Hospital is in its second month hosting family medicine residents as they rotate between departments at different hospitals throughout their three-year residency. A residency is essentially an intensive training period for medical school graduates — "their transition period where they learn a specialty," as Newton put it.

Residents spend one month working directly with Newton and other attending physicians in internal care in Sharon between other

core rotations back in New Milford or at other Connecticut hospitals, such as Danbury. Newton said that bringing early career physicians to the Northwest Corner offers a different perspective than programs at the bigger, more urban hospitals in the state, and also may encourage young doctors to put down roots in the area.

"Having residency programs in locations where people want to settle and raise their families and practice long term, I think, is so important," she said.

Tuesday, Feb. 10 was Michael

See HOSPITAL, Page A8

### Chocolate Fest delivers sweet success in Kent

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — Calorie counting was put aside on Wednesday, Feb. 11, as the Kent Center School Scholarship Fund held its 29th annual Chocolate Fest.

When the event opened, a line was nearly out the door as participants readied to fill a plate of confectionary treats not only to satisfy a sweet tooth, but help local students offset some college costs.

For \$5, patrons could fill a red paper plate from a huge assortment of mouth-watering cookies, candies, brownies, chocolate-covered pretzels and more, all donated by individuals and local businesses. For an extra fee, fest-goers could have a skewer of fresh fruit or marsh-

mallows soaked under a fountain of sweet liquid, with the treat resulting in a sea of chocolate-covered faces.

As would be expected, the room was filled with abundant smiles as folks of all ages indulged, with several comments about the joys of chocolate being heard.

The event was the brainchild of the late Charlotte Lindsey, who served on the board of directors of the fund. She had lived in Maine for a time, had seen such a fundraiser there and proposed it be tried. It found immediate success and has become a tradition since its inception.

See CHOCOLATE, Page A8

Guests at Kent's Chocolate Fest sample sweet treats during the annual celebration.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

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## Our Towns

## In The Journal this week

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## Online This Week

## Kent considers options for Swift House

The selectmen discussed the future of the Swift House and formed a committee to determine what to do with the historic town-owned building. More at [lakevillejournal.com](http://lakevillejournal.com)

## POLICE BLOTTER: TROOP B

The following information was provided by the Connecticut State Police at Troop B. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

## Too fast for conditions

Stephanie Cruz-Martinez, 34, of Waterbury, was west-bound on Lime Rock Road at approximately 6 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7 in a 2024 International tractor-trailer when the truck lost traction on a downhill right curve. The truck exited the roadway and struck a utility pole, partially clipping its base. Cruz-Martinez was issued a written warning for traveling too fast for conditions. The truck was driven from the scene.

## Criminal mischief charge

Brian Allyn Jr., 44, of East Canaan, was arrested and charged with criminal mischief, 2nd degree, and disorderly conduct on Monday, Feb. 9 after troopers responded to 35 Moses Mead Road in North Canaan late on Sunday, Feb. 8, for the report of a non-active disturbance. Allyn was transported to Troop B and was released on a \$1,000 non-surety bond, with a court appearance set for Torrington Superior Court.

## Subaru flip over

Unpredictable snow drifts were cited in a one-vehicle accident northbound on Route 63 in the town of Canaan on Monday, Feb. 9 at approximately 3:40 a.m. James Gulyas, 41 of Falls Village, was driving his 2018 Subaru Crosstrek when he encountered snow drifts that had crossed the road. The vehicle left the road, hit a wall

*The Lakeville Journal will publish the outcome of police charges. Send mail to P.O. Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039, Attn: Police Blotter, or send an email [editor@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:editor@lakevillejournal.com)*

## Snow bills pile up in Falls Village

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — The heavy winter has taken a toll on Falls Village's snow clearing budget.

At the regular monthly selectmen's meeting Monday, Feb. 9, First Selectman Dave Barger said the town has used about 86% of its budget for materials and overtime, and that doesn't include the numbers from the most recent and biggest storm of the season.

In other business, Barger reported that after two years, Town Hall is finally going to be connected to the Connecticut Education Network (CEN) fiber optic internet service.

The board also discussed upcoming infrastructure work.

There will be a meeting in March with representatives from Cardinal Engineering and the state Department of Transportation on the plans for replacing the bridge and culvert on Cobble Road.

The selectmen also made an appointment, naming Mark Gonzonsky to the

## North Canaan home prices up 16%

By Christine Bates

**NORTH CANAAN** — North Canaan's housing market posted strong gains in 2025, with both home prices and sales activity rising sharply over the previous year.

The median price of a single-family home increased 16% to \$340,000, up from \$292,250 in 2024.

Sales volume also saw a significant jump last year. A total of 29 homes sold in 2025 — nearly triple the 10 transactions recorded the year before — marking one of the biggest increases in activity among Northwest Corner towns.

Despite the rise in prices, North Canaan remains the most affordable housing market in the region. The town's \$340,000 median is less than half that of neighboring Salisbury, where the 2025 median reached \$825,000. It is also well below Sharon (\$702,500), Cornwall (\$750,000), Falls Village (\$657,500) and Kent



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES  
Situated on a hill overlooking the Housatonic River, 21 Park Avenue sold for \$425,000 in late 2025.

(\$577,000).

## Transactions

76 Prospect Street — 3 bedroom/1 bath house sold by the Estate of Nancy Brenner to Denise Bergenty for \$310,000.

21 Park Avenue — 4 bedroom/2 bath home sold by Robert Hewins Jr. to Shane Helminiak for \$425,000.

12 Barlow Street — 5 bedroom/1 bath home built in 1877 sold by Elaine Patton Executor to First Dream

Property LLC for \$200,000.

68 East Main Street — 3 bedroom/1.5 house and 2 bedroom/1 bath house sold by Ayn Nast Executor to Jessica Kain for \$403,000.

116 Allyndale Road — 2 bedroom/1 bath home on 0.64 acres sold by Morick LLC to Patrick Kennedy for \$175,000.

17 Clayton Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath home built in 2005 sold by Stephen Pollock to Brandon Wilfore for

\$426,600.

338 Salisbury Road — 3 bedroom/1 bath home built in 1940 sold by Matthew Cavanaugh to Caitlin Alexson for \$280,000.

46 Old Turnpike North — 3 bedroom/2 bath log home on 7 acres sold by Sandra Gessford to Timothy Deming for \$450,500.

25 Granite Avenue — 4 bedroom/1.5 bath home sold by Gary Rovello to Greg Karcheski for \$200,000.

123 Lower Road — 3 bedroom/3 bath home sold by Soundview Modern Investments LLC to Jacob Tarsia for \$385,000.

\* Town of North Canaan real estate transfers recorded as sold between Oct. 1 and Dec. 31, 2025, provided by North Canaan Town Clerk. Transfers without consideration are not included. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag sales by a number of days. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

## Salisbury Central School releases honor roll

**SALISBURY** — Below is the honor roll for Salisbury Central School's first trimester of the 2025-26 academic year.

## 8th Grade

## Highest Honors

Evelyn Adkins  
Aria Belter  
Ella Emberlin  
Theodore Kneeland  
Jillian Murphy  
Allegra Najdek  
Ethan Nellson  
Owen Sayler  
*High Honors*  
Victoria Bellanca  
Madeleine Carr  
Mia Dunlavay  
Hanna Eisermann  
Evelyn Hall  
Shane Higgins  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Brooke Kain  
Rozelyn LaChance  
Sarina Lemmy  
William Nichols  
Eden Ohmen  
Miguel Santiago-Leyva  
Brennan Sisk  
Eliza Tarsia  
Kaelyn Tompkins  
Augustus Tripler  
*Honors*  
Leah Wilcox

## 7th Grade

## Highest Honors

Annabelle Bunce  
Timothy Cunningham

Jackson Farr

Luna Forero

Maris Jenter

Kellan Lockton

Natalie Merwin

Leah Simboli

## High Honors

Sofia Casadei  
Zeira Collins  
Samuel Hahn  
Sam Hamlin  
John Hensley  
Cole Lidstone  
Jackson Magyar  
Max Namer  
Guinevere Robinson  
August Schaufelberger  
Norman Schmidt

Lucas Wang

Graeme Warder

Emilie Webster

Olive Webster

## Honors

Jaycob Sherwood

## 6th Grade

## Highest Honors

Camille Adams  
Leif Brann  
Marshall Cheney  
Dylan Goodwin  
Avina Jack  
Nicole Lucas  
Juniper Terni  
*High Honors*  
Blair Barbato  
Isabella Bellanca

Emmett Charles

Faye Emberlin

Assane Fall

Westyn Golden

Samuel Goshen

Henry Kneeland

Max Lang

Maximilian Lins

Ava Lounsbury

Oliver Maier

Quinn McNiff

Thomas Nichols

Rowan O'Reilly

Willow Ohmen

Kevin Santiago-Leyva

Lewis Sayler

Colin Warder

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— Resident Doug D.



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## Our Towns

# Salisbury joins trash authority, reviews finances at town meeting

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — At the annual town meeting Wednesday, Feb. 11, voters in Salisbury approved an ordinance allowing the town to join the fledgling Northwest Regional Recovery Authority.

The authority was founded by the City of Torrington in 2025 in an effort to maintain a public municipal solid waste solution in northwest Connecticut. Towns have until June 30, 2027, to secure hauling contracts following the 2022 closure of the trash-to-energy plant in Hartford.

The Northwest Hills Council of Governments, representing 21 towns, is helping to organize the initiative. Salisbury joined Torrington and Goshen in the authority, with many other municipalities planning to vote on the ordinance in the near future.

The immediate goal of the authority is to take over operations at the Torrington Transfer Station.

Voters also approved receipt of the audited financial statement for fiscal year 2025. Board of Finance chair Pari Forood said the town remains “in a very healthy financial position,” with total assets and deferred outflows of \$53 million and total liabilities of \$9 million, leaving net assets of \$44 million.

At the end of FY25, the general fund balance was



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

**Mark Capecelatro moderates the annual town meeting in Salisbury Wednesday, Feb. 11.**

\$6.68 million, with \$4.03 million reserved. The remaining \$2.65 million is unreserved and represents 13% of the town’s annual operating budget.

Forood noted that the state Office of Policy and Management recommends that towns maintain between 10% and 15% of their general fund in surplus for emergencies.

Forood said that state law limits the amount of general obligation debt a government entity may issue to seven times the total tax collections for the prior year.

The voters approved the receipt of the town report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. The report provides department updates and municipal data.

The report is dedicated to Jean McMillen, the town’s official historian from 2014 to 2024. (See related story at right for info on the town report.)

First Selectman Curtis Rand thanked McMillen for her service as historian and in numerous other roles, includ-

ing her work on overseeing the town’s cemeteries and the extensive oral history project, which now has some 430 interviews in text and audio formats.

And the voters approved an ordinance granting a limited real property tax exemption for residents who are veterans and have a service-related total disability that prevents employment. Rand said the ordinance applies to two individuals in town and was included at the request of assessor Kayla Johnson.

There were 23 electors present at Town Hall. The vote of those present was unanimous on all four agenda items.

There were a handful of voters online, but the information on how they voted was not available at press time.

Mark Capecelatro was the moderator. He thanked everyone for coming.

“Democracy is not a spectator sport.”

## Town report highlights active year for municipal services in Salisbury

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The annual town report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, has been published and was formally received at the annual town meeting Wednesday, Feb. 11.

The report is dedicated to former town historian Jean McMillen and includes department updates, municipal data and summaries of the town’s operations over the past year. Among the report’s highlights:

Animal Control Officer Lee Sohl reported investigating 84 calls and complaints involving missing pets, roaming dogs, four dog bites and various domestic and wild animal concerns. No tickets were issued. Two dogs were impounded — one stray and one for biting. In

total, Sohl noted “five fewer calls, fewer dogs picked up, double the bites from last year.”

The report lists the town’s 14 parks and forest areas.

Don Mayland, chair of the Water Pollution Control Authority, wrote the town is anticipating growth through new housing and the potential redevelopment of the Wake Robin Inn.

“The current collection and treatment facilities are adequate to handle this potential expansion. However, because of water getting into the current collection pipes, due to influx and infiltration, our ability to accommodate new housing units is somewhat compromised.”

He wrote the town has relined pipes for years but more work remains. Influx and infiltration occur through leaking main pipes and laterals serving existing housing units.

Social Services Director Patrice McGrath reported 23 households received fuel deliveries and/or furnace tune-ups through the Salisbury Family Services fuel bank.

At Scoville Memorial Library, Director Karin Goodell wrote that program attendance increased 25% and use of the library for work and meetings rose 30%. The library circulated approximately 45,000 physical and digital items and added 185 new cardholders, bringing the total number of active users to 1,900 — “almost half the town,” Goodell noted.

## Scoville celebrates Valentine’s Day

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — A group of about 15 adults and children got together after hours at the Scoville Memorial Library Wednesday, Feb. 11, to make Valentine’s Day cards and bracelets. The artistic activities were presided over by Ali DeProdocini.

Theodore Blevins-Fleishman, age 5, was working on a bracelet, assisted by DeProdocini with his father, Jeff Blevins, offering encouragement. It took a while, but eventually the bracelet was



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

finished.

Amid the general hubbub, Jeff Blevins temporarily misplaced his son.

“Where did he go?”

Young Theodore had made a dash for the refreshment table.

It was a cheerful scene on a chilly night.



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## Our Towns

## Kent Republicans host candidates for governor

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — Ben Proto, chairman of the state Republican Party, urged members to unite in order to secure victory in November.

Proto delivered his remarks Sunday, Feb. 15, at the Lincoln Day Dinner hosted by the Kent Republican Town Committee at the Bulls Bridge Inn. The dining room was filled with loyal party members — some traveling long distances — to hear candidates seeking offices ranging from governor to Congress.

"The most important thing we need to do is to be unified," Proto said. He pointed to what he described as Connecticut residents struggling with high energy costs, rising insurance premiums and escalating housing prices, and praised those seeking spots on the Republican ticket.

"I'd take any of the three [gubernatorial] candidates over Lamont and any of the three [congressional] over Hayes," he said, drawing loud applause.

Among the three Republicans running for governor is Erin Stewart, former mayor of New Britain. Repeating the phrase "It's time for something different" throughout her speech, Stewart argued



PHOTOS BY RUTH EPSTEIN

**Betsy McCaughey is running for governor.**

that one-party Democratic control has led to what she described as the highest cost of living in the nation, soaring electric bills, young families leaving the state and seniors being taxed out of their homes.

She rejected the notion that Gov. Ned Lamont is unbeatable, pointing to polling data and highlighting her record as mayor, including balancing budgets, cutting taxes and standing up to special interests.

Stewart said she would lower income taxes, reduce taxes on businesses and eliminate the car tax.

Raising her voice for emphasis, she added that parents should have the final say in health care decisions



**Erin Stewart, left, at Bulls Bridge Inn for the Kent RTC Lincoln Day Dinner. She is running for governor.**

for their children, including vaccines; that biological males should not be in female locker rooms; that parents deserve school choice; that late-term and partial-birth abortions are morally wrong and should be illegal; and that she supports lawful gun owners and would oppose further restrictions on Second Amendment rights.

Also seeking the Republican nomination for governor is Betsy McCaughey, a Connecticut native and former lieutenant governor of New York under George Pataki. McCaughey, who hosts Newsmax's "Wake Up America Weekend" and writes a column for the New York Post, said her primary goal is to "eliminate the state income tax and bring prosperity back to my childhood home."

Referring to the governor as "Lefty Lamont," McCaughey pledged to block implementation of his housing law. She also vowed to freeze home reassessments on her first day in office and push for bipartisan legislation to cap annual property tax increases at 2%. She criticized Lamont for having "his head in the sand" on key issues.

The third Republican in the race is Ryan Fazio, a state senator representing the 36th District, which includes Greenwich, Stamford and New Canaan.

"This is my home state, and I see people being hurt because we have the third-highest tax rate and third-highest electric rates in the country." He cited his legislative record as evidence that he can deliver change.



**Ryan Fazio, standing, speaks with constituents in Kent. He is running for governor.**

"My top priority is to eliminate the electric benefits charge, which could result in cutting electric rates by 20%," he said, noting he helped secure greater transparency by requiring the charge to be itemized on utility bills. "I also propose to deliver a large income tax cut, resulting in a savings of \$1,500 for an average family."

Fazio said he would seek to reduce health care costs by increasing competition, slow the growth of state spending and reduce reliance on debt financing.

## Solar power project advances in Kent

By Alec Linden

KENT — The Sewer Commission plans to move ahead with a proposal from the Connecticut Green Bank to install a solar array at Kent's sewage treatment plant, Commission Chair Elissa Potts announced at the Feb. 10 meeting.

The project is part of the Green Bank's Solar Market-

place Assistance Program, known as MAP+. Under the proposal, the town would pay nothing upfront, and the system could reduce the plant's electric bills by as much as 85%.

Potts said the commission is likely to pursue the smaller of two options presented by the Green Bank in November 2025, citing grid constraints. That system would generate

81.6 kilowatts, compared with a larger 260-kilowatt design.

The array would be installed on treatment plant property between Schaghticoke Road and the Housatonic River, land the town leases from Kent School.

The Green Bank has set a July 1 deadline to finalize plans, including labor and materials, amid uncertainty following the Trump administration's July 4 budget bill, which significantly reduced federal subsidies for renewable energy.

## North Canaan selects new budget auditor

By Riley Klein

NORTH CANAAN — The Board of Finance selected a new auditor for the Town of North Canaan at its regular meeting Wednesday, Feb. 11.

Sinnamon & Associates, based in North Canaan, was the lowest bidder for auditing services of the three proposals submitted. The rate was \$35,000 per year for the next three fiscal years.

Sinnamon was chosen by a vote of 3-1 with Chairman Doug Humes voting "nay." Humes felt Sinnamon's bid could not be accepted because the board's subcommittee did not have time to discuss the proposal prior to the meeting.

Sinnamon replaced King

and King, the previous auditor for the town. King's rate was the highest of the three firms: \$49,875 for 2026-27, \$52,365 for 2027-28 and \$54,985 for 2028-29.

Humes was inclined to keep King and King as the town auditor because he has been pleased with its work in the past. "You get what you pay for," he said.

The third bid was from Clairemont Associates with the following rate: \$42,300 for 2026-27, \$42,500 for 2027-28, and \$42,800 for 2028-29.

Board of Finance member Christian Allyn said he was impressed with Clairemont, but felt Sinnamon was the best choice given its track record with other towns in the area.

## OBITUARIES

## Kathleen Rosier

CANAAN — Kathleen Rosier, 92, of Ashley Falls Massachusetts, passed away peacefully with her children at her bedside on Feb. 5, at Fairview Commons Nursing Home in Great Barrington, Massachusetts.

Kathleen was born on Oct. 31, 1933, in East Canaan to Carlton and Carrie Nott.

Kathleen retired from Housatonic Curtain Company where she was a machine operator for many years.

She was predeceased by her husband of 65 years, John A. Rosier Sr., her son John A. Rosier Jr., her son Frank H.

There will be a celebration of life held in her honor on Feb. 21 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Bitterman Center in North Canaan. All are welcome to come.

**For more obituaries, see Pages A5 and A7**



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Blue Valentine performs at Hunt Library for Midwinter Night in the Village Saturday, Feb. 14.

## Making midwinter memories at Hunt

By Patrick L. Sullivan

FALLS VILLAGE — Music, poetry and Shakespeare filled the David M. Hunt Library during its Midwinter's Night in the Village fundraiser Saturday, Feb. 14, with Blue Valentine closing the evening's program to great applause.

The group — with Brook Martinez on guitar and vocals, Leo Martinez on lead guitar and vocals, and Sara Heller on vocals — finished the entertainment with a set that included songs by Tim Buckley, Fleetwood Mac, and three Lennon-McCartney compositions, "Dear Prudence," "If I Fell" and "Revolution 1."

Adam Sher served as emcee for the evening and sang a song himself. Urging guests to shift their attention from

browsing and socializing to the stage, he said: "It's not competitive, but objectively the David M. Hunt Library is the best."

Anna Pattison, James King and Gerry Stanton read poetry, and Jandi Hanna performed a scene from "As You Like It."

Dana Domenick's performance of "Vanilla Ice Cream" from the musical "She Loves Me" received enthusiastic applause.

Vance Cannon reflected on the season, noting that Northwest Connecticut was experiencing a "regular winter." He added: "By late February it definitely gets on your nerves."

Cannon then launched into songs by Gordon Lightfoot and Carole King (by way of James Taylor), showcasing his fingerpicking skills.

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# OBITUARIES

## Roberta Katherine Stevens

CANAAN — Roberta Katherine (Briggs) Stevens, 86, of 99 South Canaan Rd. died Feb. 11, 2026, at Sharon Hospital. Roberta was born on March 7, 1939, in Sharon, daughter of the late Frederick and Catherine (Penny) Briggs.

Roberta has been a lifelong area resident. She studied pediatric nursing at St. Margaret's in Albany, New York and worked as a pediatric nurse. After leaving nursing Roberta was a cook at the Maplebrook School in Amenia. Her love for children extended to Roberta establishing a daycare out of her own home for many years. She loved collecting and displaying her dolls for the community. She would take her dog on walks to listen to the church bell ringing. Roberta's greatest joy came as she helped take care of her grandchildren. That opportunity provided Roberta with some of her fondest and most precious memories. Roberta



## Tilden W. Southack

SHARON — Tilden W. Southack Jr. a longtime resident of Sharon passed Feb. 13, 2026, peacefully, hand in hand with the person he cared about most, Karlee McGhee and a couple of his employees and friends.

He was born May 25, 1950, the son of Jean (Bunny) Southack and Tilden Southack, and brother to Barbara (Bobby) Southack and Sally Southack.

Tilden graduated high school from Wooster School of Danbury and earned a college degree in business and economics from Colorado State University. Tilden told stories of being the manager of a varsity football team and hockey team during his time at Wooster.

After his immediate family had passed or moved on, Tilden continued to run his family farm, Whitetail Farm in Sharon. He poured his blood, sweat and tears into every last inch of soil there and cared for his Angus cattle and Percheron horses and a handful of cats with the help of Karlee McGhee, Wayne McGhee, Scott Garay,

## Carolyn G. McCarthy

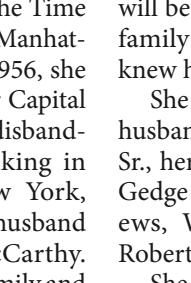
LAKEVILLE — Carolyn G. McCarthy, 88, a long time resident of Indian Mountain Road, passed away peacefully at home on Feb. 7, 2026.



She was born on Sept. 8, 1937, in Hollis, New York. She was the youngest daughter of the late William James and Ruth Anderson Gedge of Indian Mountain Road.

Carolyn's first job out of high school was at the Time and Life building in Manhattan, New York. In 1956, she went on to work for Capital Airlines until they disbanded. She began banking in White Plains, New York, where she met her husband Edward James McCarthy. They started their family and relocated to Pleasant Valley, New York. She then returned to banking in Poughkeepsie, New York and later pursued real estate.

Carolyn was very creative and enjoyed home making, gardening, sewing, knitting, cooking and baking. Her Christmas cookies were always remarkable. She had a pioneer spirit and



She is survived by her husband, Edward McCarthy Sr., her brother Dr. Stafford Gedge of Minnesota, nephews, William, James and Robert and niece Christine.

She is survived by her son, Edward (Anne) McCarthy of Greenfield, Massachusetts and grandsons James and Theodore, son Sean McCarthy of Oak Hill, New York, sister Nancy Dougherty of South Carolina, nieces Lynn Warner and Debra Phillips.

A private service will be held at a later date. The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

## 'A beautiful soul': Kent mourns Robbie Kennedy

By Ruth Epstein

KENT — A sense of sadness pervaded the town this week as news of the death of Robert (Robbie) Kennedy spread. Kennedy died Monday, Feb. 9, at the age of 71.

Kennedy was a beacon of light, known by legions of citizens, if not personally, but as the guy who could be seen riding his bicycle in all kinds of weather, determined to get to his destination; yet always taking the time for a wave. Kennedy faced challenges, but there were no barriers when it came to making an impact on all who knew him.

Remembrances of him abounded in conversations throughout town and on the hundreds of messages posted on social media. His sister-in-law, Apple Kennedy, summed up what everyone was saying — "a beautiful soul."

The son of the late John and Olga Kennedy, Kennedy was born in Guam. His father, a physician, worked for the World Health Organization and was chief of public health for USAID. The family, which consisted of eight children, lived on and off overseas and would come back to Kent during leaves. Kennedy attended the Devereux School before entering Housatonic Valley Regional High School, graduating in 1974.

His sister Gretchen Kennedy said in their early days in Kent, her brother would walk her infant son in his stroller and visit all the businesses. That was his introduction to townspeople and how he became an integral part of the community. Joe Bianchi kept his cows in the Kennedys' barn, she said, which sparked Kennedy's deep love of animals. "He worshipped the ground Joe walked on, and would so look forward to him coming every afternoon to feed the animals and bring him candy."

His sister said the family was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support and kind words about her brother. "He loved life to the fullest. His sudden death spared him so

## Robert Sommer Kennedy

KENT — Robert "Rob" Kennedy (71), of Kent, devoted son of Dr.

John E. Kennedy and Olga Sommer Kennedy, passed away unexpectedly on Monday, Feb. 9, 2026, at the home of his brother and sister-in-law in Kent. Rob was a long-time, well-loved member of the Kent community.

Born in Guam, Rob's early years were spent traveling the globe with his family for his dad's work as an MD in Micronesia, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Thailand, and Zaire. In 1962 the family of 9 settled in Kent, Rob attended the Devereux School and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Rob worked at South Kent School, where he was known for his good humor, and kindness toward students and staff. For most of his working life he could be found at Davis IGA in Kent, greeting customers with the warmth and familiarity that made him a recognizable and welcoming face in town.

Known to many in town as "Coach Rob," he spent countless hours volunteering with Kent Park & Recreation and at Kent School. His patience, enthusiasm, and genuine care for young people

much pain and loss of independence. It was very much a blessing."

Gary Davis, former owner of the local IGA supermarket, recalled how his mother, the late Anne Davis, hired Kennedy 31 years ago. He worked until Covid hit. He was assigned specific tasks, such as unloading trucks, cleaning the store or cardboard compaction. Davis said he took his responsibilities seriously, was always courteous with the customers and was a joy to be around.

"Robbie was never in a bad mood," said Davis. "It worked out for us and for him. He was considered part of the IGA family. Recently I got together with him a lot. It's tough to lose a buddy. I miss him so much."

Davis echoed what many were saying about Kennedy. "Everybody knew him and he knew everybody. He was a real town character." His sister said some dubbed him, "The mayor of Kent."

Always eager to be involved and yearning companionship, Kennedy wanted very much to be part of the Kent Volunteer Fire Department. Member Ed Matson said he was honored to be named an active emergency member. He would ride his bike from his then-home in north Kent to the firehouse for meetings. "When his bike failed him, we all chipped in to buy him a new one that even had a flashing light to ensure his safety."

The department put out a statement about his death, saying "His smile, his wave and his spirit will be missed greatly, not just by his KVFD family, but so many in our community."

Matson spoke about Kennedy never uttering a bad word about anyone. "He was a simple, caring person who tried to help everyone. Many people didn't know the things he did for others." But those who were neighbors of Kennedy when he moved



made him a beloved friend to generations of local kids.

Rob was also deeply connected to the community through his involvement with the Kent Volunteer Fire Department and St. Andrew's Church, both of which were important parts of his life. Rob loved caring for animals. For many years he kept sheep and a donkey at the family home in North Kent. Neighborhood pets got daily walks while Rob lived in-town at Templeton Farms.

Rob is predeceased by his parents and infant brother, Michael. He is survived by 6 siblings; Kathleen Kennedy Enger (Filmore), John Kennedy (Kathleen), Karen Kennedy Wilson (Robert), Gretchen Kennedy, Clytie Kennedy, Jeffery Kennedy (Apple), 17 nieces and nephews, Uncle Donald Sommer, Nancy Sommer, and many friends who will miss him dearly.

A service is planned for May 9 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Kent followed by a celebration of life at the Kent Fire House. In lieu of flowers, donations in Rob's memory may be sent to the Kent Volunteer Fire Department or St. Andrew's Church.

to Templeton Farms senior apartments, knew first-hand

how he would always give assistance. Ruth Woodward described his kind acts, including shoveling snow off cars or bringing residents their mail. "He had such a big heart," she said.

Ben Martin met Kennedy when they both attended youth park and recreation games: Martin as a dad and Kennedy as a spectator. Martin is the football coach at Kent School and just before the season started two years ago, he invited Kennedy to be his volunteer assistant coach. It was a deep honor and a responsibility he took seriously. He would do all the tasks asked of him, along with encouraging accountability from the players.

"He was my right-hand man," said Martin. "Often he and I were the first at practice and the last to leave. The kids really loved him. He was my best buddy. We'd sometimes go out for lunch or to a movie. I valued my relationship with him."

Martin and the team



presented Kennedy with a varsity letter and Kennedy was so pleased to have him come to his apartment to see it framed and on the wall.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church became an important part of Kennedy's life in the last few years. The former pastor, the Rev. Douglas Worthington, welcomed him and "helped him along in the spirit of growth and acceptance," said current pastor, the Rev. Richard Clark. He became a crucifer, carrying the cross and leading the procession in his white robe during services. "He wanted to do it right, so we practiced," said Clark. "The church was a special place for him."

Resident Melissa Cherniske said when she was a Boy Scout mother, Kennedy would come to meetings to learn how to tie knots or participate in whatever the lesson was. Even more recently he organized drum circles outside Foreign Cargo, the store owned by his brother Jeff Kennedy on Main Street.

The family will hold a celebration of life on May 9, which will include a service at St. Andrew's followed by a reception at the fire house.

## Worship Services

Week of February 22, 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

### The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.

50 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
Wherever you are,  
you are welcome here!  
Worship, Sundays at 10 am,  
in-person and streaming  
www.salisburyucc.org  
Sharing God's shalom:  
Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!

### Trinity Episcopal Church

484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville  
Offering companionship along the way  
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.  
Livestream at 10:30 found at  
www.trinitylimerock.org  
trinity@trinitylimerock.org  
(860) 435-2627

### St. John's Episcopal Church

12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT  
SUNDAY SERVICE  
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)  
Rev. Dr. John Johnson,  
Priest-in-Charge  
In-Person and on YouTube  
www.stjohnssalisbury.org

### North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC

Joyfully opening our hearts  
and doors to all God's people  
172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT  
Worship services Sundays at 10 am  
www.facebook.com/  
northcananacongregational  
860-824-7232

### Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT

Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons  
Sunday, March 8 at 10:30 a.m.  
For information, contact Jo Lai  
at jokialoui@gmail.com  
All are Welcome

### ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH

Immaculate Conception,  
4 North Street, Norfolk  
St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan  
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville  
MASS SCHEDULE  
Saturday Vigil 9 p.m., St. Joseph Church  
Sunday 9 a.m., Church of St. Mary  
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church

### DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday 6pm  
St. Joseph Chapel or Church  
Thursday 8am  
Immaculate Conception Church  
Friday 8am  
Church of St. Mary  
ALL ARE WELCOME!  
For information,  
please call 860-824-7078

### The Lakeville United Methodist Church

319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039  
9:15 a.m. Worship Service  
9:15 a.m. Sunday School  
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"  
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse  
860-455-9496  
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

### Cobble Living Room

Noble Horizons  
Sunday, March 8 at 10:30 a.m.  
For information, contact Jo Lai  
at jokialoui@gmail.com  
All are Welcome!

### 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

### UCC in CORNWALL

Cornwall Village Meeting House  
Worship Sunday, 10 am  
Outstanding Church School (10 am)  
Mission Opportunities  
Warm Fellowship following Worship  
860-672-6840  
www.uccincornwall.org  
Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister  
Welcoming all - including the  
LGBTQ Community

### The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall

Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m.  
Trinity Retreat Center Chapel  
Lower River Road, West Cornwall  
in person and on zoom  
Warm fellowship following service

### All Are Welcome!

www.allsaintscornwall.org  
Rev. Mary Gates

### St. Thomas Episcopal Church

40 Leedsville Road  
Amenia Union, NY  
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30  
IN-PERSON AND ONLINE  
Visit our website for links  
845-373-9161  
www.stthomasamenia.com  
A Community of Radical Hospitality

### St. Smithfield Presbyterian Church

656 Smithfield Valley Rd.  
Route 83, Amenia, NY  
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.  
www.thessmithfieldchurch.org  
21st Century Theology  
in an Historic Building

### All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church

313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT  
Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M.  
Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.  
Special Services Online  
Rev. John Kretz  
860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

### Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!

Sunday School - 10am  
Sunday Worship - 11am  
Wednesday Bible Study  
and Prayer Meeting - 7PM  
(860) 824-5685  
VISITORS WELCOME!  
www.promisedlandbaptist.org

### Sharon Congregational

25 Main Street, Sharon, CT  
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.  
Visit our website  
sharoncongregationalchurch.org  
for Sunday services  
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or  
info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

### Where you will find: A Warm Welcome!

Sunday School - 10am  
Sunday Worship - 11am  
Wednesday Bible Study  
and Prayer Meeting - 7PM  
(860) 824-5534  
canaanct-umc.com  
canaanctumc@gmail.com  
We hope you will join us!

# Opinion

## The Lakeville Journal

EDITORIAL PAGE A6

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## East Mountain House appreciation

Many people may not yet know of a wonderful resource in Lakeville that made my husband's recent death so much easier to bear, both for him and our family. East Mountain House on Bostwick Street is dedicated to caring for people in the end stage of life who can not be kept comfortable at home.

Their mission statement mirrors our experience:

"East Mountain House is an End-of-Life Care Home guided by intrinsic goodness. We are an inclusive, community-centered haven where guests and their loved ones find compassionate, personalized, end-of-life care and support. We restore dignity to the dying process, ensuring that every person is surrounded by kindness and respect, regardless of financial means."

The house is home-like and cheerful, with sun

streaming in and none of the cold clinical aspect of a hospital. The two bedrooms for "guests" are cozy and comfortable with ample chairs and sofas for family and friends to visit...even dog visits are allowed! Family can spend the night in this room, or in one of the rooms set aside for them upstairs.

The most important thing, however, is the hands-on care provided by the caregivers who are there day and night: warm, skilled, reassuring, deeply comforting. They made all the difference to my husband and my family.

We are so grateful to Keavy Bedell and Craig Davis for founding and continuing to care for this wonderful resource, to Cristin Rich, the Executive Director and to every member of the care-giving team.

Page Dickey

Falls Village

## Postal workers thankful for clean pathways

The Postal Service would like to thank customers who cleared pathways to their mailboxes following the recent snowstorm that brought bitter cold temperatures and snow to Norfolk and surrounding areas.

I am incredibly proud of our hard-working employees who are dedicated to keeping the mail moving in inclement weather and are extremely grateful to our customers who put on some warm clothes, grabbed a shovel and a bag of salt to keep our carriers safe while delivering mail.

Our team is proud to serve Norfolk. With your continued shared effort during winter weather, we can keep service moving

while looking out for one another.

I would like to personally thank our customers for their patience during the recent repairs to Norfolk Post Office. Your support meant the world to us.

Lastly, we would like to publicly thank Antonio Alcalá, art director for the USPS, and everyone who visited the Norfolk Library on Feb. 7 and 8 to hear about history of stamp making and to all the kids who participated in making their own stamps.

Community involvement is what makes this job so special.

Michelle Veronesi

Postmaster

Norfolk

## TURNING BACK THE PAGES

NORMA BOSWORTH

### 125 years ago — February 1901

The report of the commissioner of patents for the year ending Dec. 31, 1900, gives Connecticut the lead of all the other states.

Married for four years, Robert W. Van Stone, son of a wealthy builder, and Annie L. Kelley of Bridgeport, have kept their marriage secret faithfully. Miss Kelley is a Catholic and Van Stone a Methodist so they decided to keep the marriage quiet until an opportune time came for revealing it. They have outwardly maintained a warm friendship. The fact that they were married June 10, 1897, at Port Chester, N.Y. became known the other day, and they confessed and received the parental blessing.

I.W. Sanford has established an office at the bank where anyone desiring the services of a surveyor will find him.

### 100 years ago — February 1926

John O. Satre won the metropolitan cross country ski championship of twelve miles at Paterson, N.J. last Sunday, and his brother Olaf finished

in second place. The Sunday previous Olaf won the interstate cross country ski championship at Tarrytown, N.Y., and John was second. We Salisbury folk are very proud of our fellow townsmen, and everybody is traveling on skis.

Our local ice man says that because it is cold, don't forget to pay your last summer's ice bill, because there is another hot summer coming when ice will be wanted.

### 50 years ago — February 1976

Members and friends of the Parmalee family testified last week in Litchfield Superior Court to buttress State's Attorney John Bianchi's contention that three Parmalee brothers had no involvement with the apparent robbery or the murder of Barbara Gibbons. The Parmalees were neighbors of Ms. Gibbons and her son Peter Reilly on Route 63 in Falls Village. At one time they and he were close friends.

### 25 years ago — February 2001

The Lakeville United Methodist Church has added another important feature to the community's historical data in this Bicentennial year. Official confirmation

has been received that it is the oldest continuous Methodist congregation in Connecticut (and probably in all of New England.)

CANAAN — The portable school classrooms are finally on their way to a new home across from the Canaan Town Hall. Contractor Richard Bunce and a crew worked for two days last week to hoist the double-classroom building on rollers and slowly move it across the road and into the town hall parking lot. Presently the building is resting on the rollers, waiting for the final move onto its new foundation next to the Town Hall.

Although events will continue throughout the year, most of Canaan's Bicentennial celebration will be concentrated during the month of July, according to Bicentennial Co-chairman Laura Freund.

### 25 years ago — February 2001

The Lakeville Journal Co. walked off with two first-place awards, one second place, three third place and one honorable mention at the New England Press Association convention held in

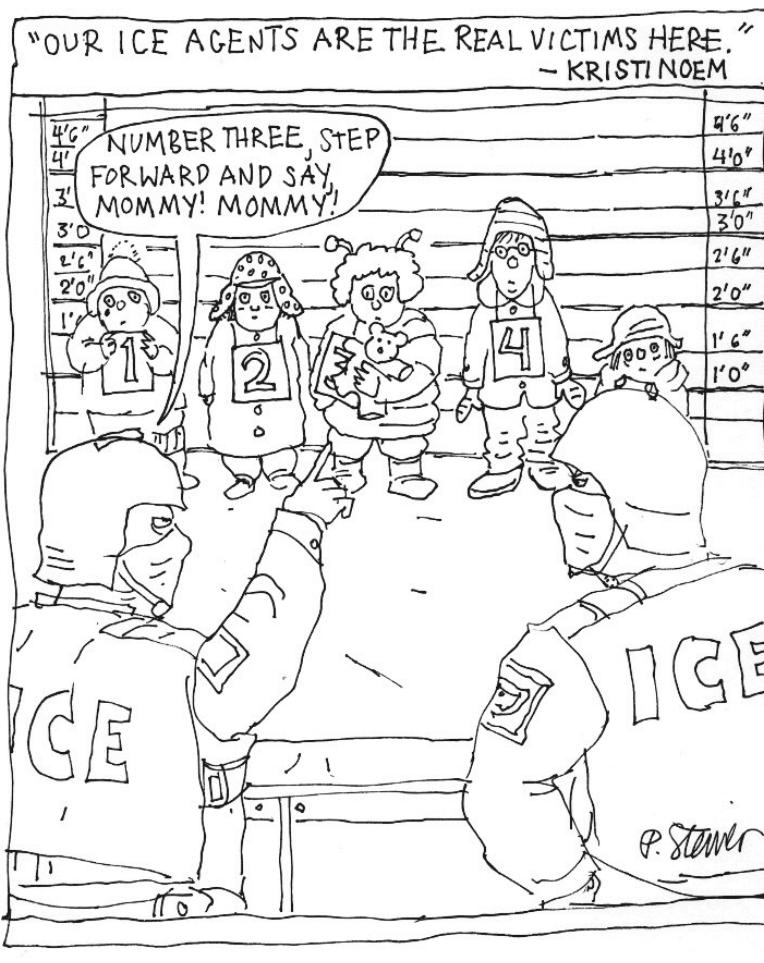
Boston Feb. 8 to 10.

Riley's Furniture of Millerton has opened its online showroom on FurnitureFan.com. Furniture shoppers may browse Riley's internet showroom 24 hours a day, every day of the year. FurnitureFan.com is the largest of its kind furniture search engine in the country, according to its sponsors.

Waiting for spring are five elm saplings and the Housatonic Valley Regional High School students who will nurture them. The elms will be raised as part of a new program inspired by Elm Watch of Great Barrington and sponsored by a grant through the Oppenheimer Environmental Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Involved in the program are teacher David Moran, Elm Watch founder Tom Zetterstrom and students Steve Heaney, FFA president Fred Scoville, Catherine Mechare, Casey Plott and Caleb Huff.

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



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

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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.

## Classy and Naught

Let's catch up with Melania Trump, who has spent less than 13% of her time in the White House since January 20, 2025. Rather she resides in personal privacy at Mar-a-Lago or in New York. At the White House traditional egg roll in 2025 — that's coming up soon in 2026 — Melania was present, she is appropriately on Trump's arm — part of the Presidential outfit — at White House dinners/state events.

Recently Jeff Bezos funded to the tune of \$75 million "Melania: Twenty Days to History," a documentary about Melania readying for the 2025 inauguration. The cast is prominently Melania, voice overs, with a few others silently or minimally on camera (Baron, Trump, her father, her dress designer). The documentary cost \$40 million to produce, \$35 million to market, for which Melania received \$28 million, 70% of the production costs. How do those emolument clauses work?

The East Wing — where, since Eleanor Roosevelt's reign, First Ladies have done

### OPEN SPACE KATHY HERALD-MARLOWE

their work — advanced social agendas, been advocates for kids, the elderly, women, minorities, health, education, human rights — is gapingly demolished.

Rosalyn Carter, in 1977, appointed a First Lady Chief of Staff; Rosalyn herself attended Cabinet meetings. From Lady Bird on, the First Lady staffs had been 15+: using the First Lady's platform for social issues via speeches, visits, organizing. Melania's staff dropped to less than a dozen in T101.

Now in T202, Melania's staff is five. With the East Wing demolished there is no First Lady's office, no place, no space and Be Best, Melania's anti-cyberbullying initiative commenced in T101, is invisible, silent, oddly tuned with Trump's online bully persona.

Woodrow Wilson's stroke in 1919 put his second wife

Edith in immense control of the Oval Office — some terming it "The Secret Presidency." Then with Franklin Roosevelt's election in 1932, Eleanor Roosevelt commenced her live long impact on the Presidency, the war, the country, rising to U.S. U.N. Delegate 1945 — 1953. Eleanor was prominent nationally and internationally for decades; Truman called her "the First Lady of the world" for her extended, substantial contribution to human rights.

In 1961, John Kennedy brought youth, sterling speech "ask not what your country can do for you, but you can do for your country", a Russia crisis with Khrushchev and stunning Class to his presidency. Jackie Kennedy with her classy attire, her French (a polyglot fluent in French, Spanish and Italian), her cultural predilection all precipitated on their Paris visit to Kennedy's "I am the man who accompanied Jacqueline Kennedy to Paris and I have enjoyed it."

Jackie's famed pillbox hat, small, centered atop her head, was diametrically opposed to Melania's "boater" hat worn at the 2025 inauguration. Melania's selection was seemingly a shield for her eyes, face from the people and, planned or not, a block for a Trump attempt ed kiss.

In 1962, Jacqueline Kennedy starred in CBS's A Tour of the White House with Mrs. John F. Kennedy that was

highly watched TV with 80 million, earning Jacqueline an honorary Emmy. This video showed the American people the renovated White House state rooms, under Jacqueline's lead, with authentic, period-accurate furnishings — museum quality. The White House Historical Society, established in 1961, remains, thus far, a private, non-profit to protect, preserve and provide public access to the Executive Mansion.

First Ladies Johnson, Reagan, the Bushes, Clinton, Obama and Biden have all been visibly active using their platforms for social advancement — Clinton becoming an elected Senator, Secretary of State, and Presidential candidate. The East Wing did not make them prominent, influential, or active but it was there, acknowledged White House space. Its vacancy is significant.

The woman, Melania, wore a Zara jacket with huge lettering: "I Really Don't Care, Do U?" on the back for her 2018 trip to visit a Texas detention center for immigrant children. Prominent in her recent in-theatre documentary are Melania's ever present, ever-a-foot 5-inch stiletto heels — seemingly her personal symbol. Perhaps the elimination of the First Lady is being provoked by more than the demolition of the East wing.

Kathy Herald-Marlowe lives in Sharon.

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Thursday, February 19, 2026

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## OBITUARIES

### Ronald Ray Dirck

SHARON — Ronald Ray Dirck, affectionately known as Ron, passed away peacefully with his family at his side on Jan. 17, 2026, in Phoenix, Arizona, at the age of 85. Born on Jan. 31, 1940, in Sedalia, Missouri, Ron lived a life filled with warmth, laughter, and deep devotion to his family.

Ron shared an extraordinary 62-year marriage with his high school sweetheart and beloved wife, Jackie. Their enduring partnership was a shining example of living life to the fullest.

Ron served his country as a captain in the US Marine Corps, flying helicopters during the Vietnam War. He then flew commercially for TWA for 25 years, both domestically and internationally. He finished his flying career with Nippon Cargo Airlines. Ron enjoyed the outdoors and enjoyed taking care of their beloved Sharon, home for more than 50 years. He was also an avid builder and enjoyed his many projects over the years.

In retirement, Ron and Jackie split time between Sharon, and Phoenix, Arizona, before settling full-time in Phoenix two years ago. Ron loved his evening cocktails with Jackie and their

many friends, as well as a hand or two of gin rummy.

He was a devoted father to Melissa Dirck Appel and her husband, Jeff Appel, and Patrick Dirck and his wife, Lisa Dirck. He carried the memory of his son Kevin with enduring love throughout his life. His legacy continues through his cherished grandchildren; Alexandra, Caroline, Emma, Natalie, Evan, Cooper, Elle, and Tanner. Ron is also fondly remembered by his brother, Jim and wife Lena.

Ron had a tender heart for animals. The loyal companionship of his beloved dogs Mini and Mae brought him comfort and joy over the years.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Jackie, and parents, Raymond and Gladys Dirck.

In honor of Ron's love of animals, the family asks that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to The Aussie and Friends Rescue, [www.aussiefriendsrescue.com](http://www.aussiefriendsrescue.com).

His light lives on in the hearts of all who knew him. May his memory continue to bring comfort and smiles to those he touched.

A private celebration of life for the family will be held at a later date.

### Linda Lyles Goodyear

CANAAN — Linda Lyles Goodyear was born in Bronxville, New York, on June 17, 1936, to Molly Gayer Lyles and James Adam Lyles. She died peacefully in her sleep on Feb. 4, 2026, of complications from dementia. As a child she spent her summers with her parents and sister, Sally, in Canaan at the family's home along the Blackberry River that was built in 1751 by her relative, Isaac Lawrence. Linda met the love of her life, Charles (Charlie) W. Goodyear, during her Bennett College years, and after graduating they married on Aug. 4, 1956.

The two lived a busy life, raising three children and moving to 10 different states over the course of Charlie's 43 year career with Exxon Mobil. Every two years Linda was setting up a new home, navigating new school systems with her kids and getting involved in volunteer activities.

Linda was active with the Junior League in Houston, Texas, served as Chairperson of the Darien, Connecticut, Green Team for many years and spent many hours helping at the "60+" Senior Center and the Darien Bird Sanctuary. The Town of Darien recognized Jan. 14, 2019, as Linda Goodyear Day for her accomplishments, dedication and loyal service to the town and its environmental causes.

Her other interests included photography and printing in a darkroom she set up at home, growing roses, playing piano, and sewing. Linda loved hosting parties and for decades she and Charlie held a Fourth of July gathering at their home which was the hit of the neighborhood, and was characterized by warm hospitality and Linda's creative, patriotic outfit.

Charlie and Linda were

very active throughout their lives, traveling the world and participating in many sports including alpine skiing, running, hiking, canoeing, biking and tennis.

In 1998, they built a vacation home in Hailey, Idaho, as a family gathering place for their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Linda loved the beauty of the mountains and the opportunity to be in nature every day, but she especially loved being the matriarch of her ever-growing family.

Linda was very outgoing, and made new friends all over the world - people were drawn to her lovely smile, generous spirit and witty sense of humor. She was an incredibly caring person with boundless energy, a heart for service and love for others. Even in her final days her nurses and caregivers noted how sweet she was and how much she made them smile.

She is survived by her husband of almost 70 years, Charlie; her children, Chip (Elizabeth) Goodyear, Jim (Mary) Goodyear and Molly! Goodyear; her eight grandchildren; Charlie (Ellen) Goodyear, Adelaide Goodyear & fiance Alastair Sharp, Will (Jenny) Goodyear, Robert (Kacie) Goodyear, Annie (Spencer) Gorham, John Goodyear, Peter Wolter and Ella Wolter; three great-grandchildren, and her nieces Deb (Jim) Edwards, Amy (Bob) Clark and Chris (Ruth) Rees. She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Molly Lyles, and her sister, Sally Rees. She leaves behind many other relatives and friends who will miss her dearly.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the National Multiple Sclerosis Society or a charity of your choice.

For more obituaries, see Pages A4 and A5

Send obituaries to [obituaries@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:obituaries@lakevillejournal.com)

## VIEWPOINT

### Republican senators top gov's tax cut by \$1B

#### THE CHRIS POWELL COLUMN

not the elected officials who enacted the tax and quickly took their "tax rebates" away.

The governor, a Democrat seeking election to a third term in November, proposes to spend \$500 million to issue state tax "rebates" — \$200 for single people and \$400 for couples — a week ahead of Election Day. (If President Trump, a Republican, tried something like this, Democrats and most journalists would scream: "Bribery!"

If things go according to what seems like the Democratic plan, soon after the election state residents will be hit with big increases in oil, gasoline, natural gas, and electricity prices as a result of a "climate superfund" tax many Democrats want to levy against energy producers to punish them for letting state residents use their fuels for the last century. Of course the energy producers won't pay the tax by themselves; they'll recover the cost by raising prices and the public will pay. But people will blame the energy producers,

for a guarantee of electricity supply from the Millstone nuclear power station in Waterford and for management of the regional electric grid. Some of the charges would be more honestly and transparently placed in the state budget and financed by general revenue rather than by what is essentially a sales tax on electricity, but they'd still have to be paid, and eliminating the "public benefits" tax won't save as much money as Republicans imply.

So where is the rest of the money for the Republican tax relief to come from?

The Republican senators also would eliminate state government's "public benefits" charges on electric utility bills, which help to make Connecticut's electricity prices nearly the highest in the country.

Sen. Ryan Fazio, R-Greenwich, a candidate for his party's nomination for governor, says, "There is so much pork stuffed in our public benefits tax that it would boggle the mind — over 50 different government programs passed by the legislature and the governor over many years."

Indeed, but Governor Lamont notes that some of the "public benefits" charges are *not* "pork." They also pay

and pushing their burdens deeper into the future, when they will thrust on taxpayers who weren't even born when the pensioners were working, taxpayers who never benefited from the pensioners' services.

When it comes to state budgeting and taxes, there are really only three ways of serving the public better: reducing the burden of government, improving services and making them more efficient, and eliminating the inessential. Connecticut fails badly in these respects.

The failure starts with state government's failure to care about *actual results*. State government equates success with merely spending money even as important results worsen, including education, poverty, payroll control, and corruption. The Democrats can't find anything to cut, especially since most failures profit Democrats, and the Republicans are too few and averse to being frank about the horrible.

Two-hundred-dollar "tax rebate" checks may help voters overlook failure but they won't fix or improve anything.

*Chris Powell has written about Connecticut government and politics for many years. (CPowell@cox.net)*

### The most powerful crime syndicate in history

#### GUEST COMMENTARY JAMES SPEYER

It is time to acknowledge what has become tragically obvious: the Trump administration is essentially acting as a massive criminal enterprise. It lies, steals, extorts and murders — all while cloaked in the awesome authority of the state. It is on a crime spree that puts Al Capone to shame.

This is not hyperbole or hyperventilation. It is our reality, as the facts amply demonstrate. This administration has:

- Murdered Renee Good and Alex Petti, slandered them as "domestic terrorists" and "assassins," and allowed their killers to walk free;

- Unleashed thousands of minimally trained ICE agents, recruited with explicitly white supremacist messaging, to inflict terror on people of color;

- Repeatedly violated the constitutional rights of citizens and non-citizens by arresting them for First Amendment-protected speech, raiding their homes without judicial warrants, and imprisoning them without due process;

- Killed dozens of civilians on the high seas solely on the unsubstantiated claim

that they were drug runners (not that being drug runners would justify their summary executions without due process anyway);

- Released hundreds of imprisoned felons who brutally beat Capitol police officers on January 6;

- Converted the once-independent Department of Justice into an instrument of personal retribution via the prosecution of cooked-up lawsuits against the President's enemies;

- Threatened to seize the territory of a sovereign nation (a NATO ally no less);

- Sought to imprison United States Senators simply for exercising their free speech rights by reminding military personnel of their undisputed duty to disobey illegal orders;

- Tried to impose ruinous and unconstitutional sanctions on some of the country's largest law firms simply

because Trump doesn't like them;

- Violated court orders on a massive scale. As the Chief District Judge of Minnesota recently wrote, "ICE has likely violated more court orders in January 2026 than some federal agencies have violated in their entire existence;"

- Shaken down some of the country's largest universities by illegally threatening to withhold funding; and

- Engaged in breathtaking corruption: as the conservative writer David Frum stated, "Trump's scale of stealing and bribe-taking has never been remotely paralleled in any democratic country ever before."

And that's just for starters; there are dozens more examples.

It is difficult to comprehend the level of state-sponsored criminality we are witnessing because our country has never experienced anything like it. It is also difficult to absorb because it is happening so quickly, and on so many different fronts. In the words of the 2022 movie, it sometimes feels like "Everything Everywhere All At Once." And that can be exhausting, numbing, and overwhelming.

But viewing the Trump administration as a massive crime syndicate allows us to

be clear-eyed about what is coming down the road, and to plan accordingly. To take the most urgent example, there ought to be no question as to whether Trump will try to steal the midterm elections. Of course he will try to steal them. Criminals gonna crime. He tried to steal the 2020 elections.

• Shaken down some of the country's largest universities by illegally threatening to withhold funding; and

• Engaged in breathtaking corruption: as the conservative writer David Frum stated, "Trump's scale of stealing and bribe-taking has never been remotely paralleled in any democratic country ever before."

That this administration can reasonably be viewed as a criminal enterprise should not be cause for despair. The courts have rejected many of the administration's power grabs and unconstitutional or illegal acts. The President is less popular than he has ever been. Prominent Republicans are defying him more than ever. The brave citizens of Minneapolis are showing us how effective organized resistance can be. And Bad Bunny, with his Super Bowl message that "The only thing more powerful than hate is love," gave us reason to believe that kindness, compassion and decency will prevail.

*James Speyer is a lawyer and a volunteer for Lawyers Defending American. He lives in Sharon.*

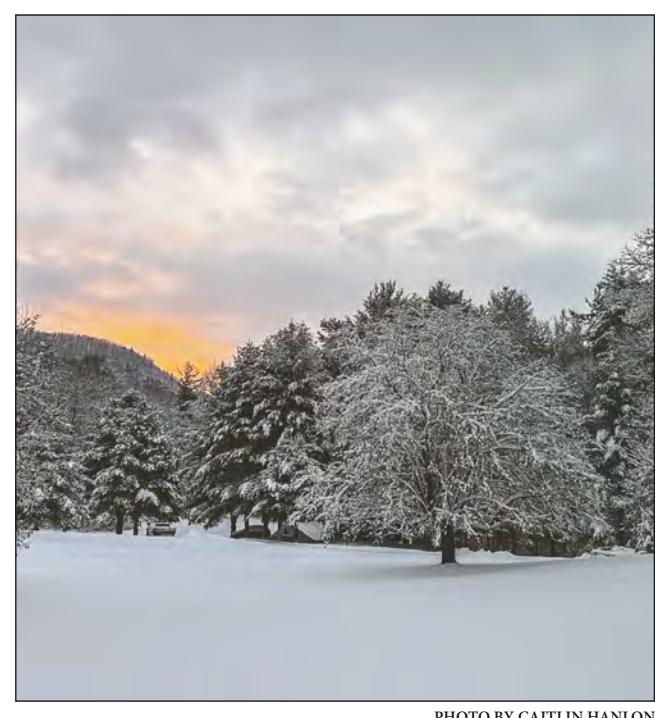
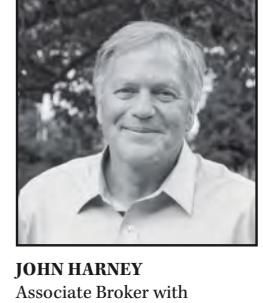


PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

First light

This winter has been tough on homeowners with regards to energy costs and the shortage of propane has not helped matters. This spot shortage is blamed on the frigid weather we have endured that has also impacted the delivery logistical networks. As a quick aside, we had a house whose propane furnace stopped working and Carlson Propane saved the day over the weekend, so kudos to Carlson!! If you have propane as your primary heat source and it is proving challenging, here is a link to the Connecticut Energy Assistance Program which may prove to be helpful: [uwc.211ct.org/connecticut-energy-assistance-program-2023-2024/](http://uwc.211ct.org/connecticut-energy-assistance-program-2023-2024/)



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## STRESS

Continued from Page A1

think anytime we can say that that percentage of kids have a positive outlook, and they, you know, have hope about where they're going, that's a great thing," Brady-Shanley said.

Ian Strever, principal of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, said the survey remains an essential planning tool.

"This report and its predecessor, the Developmental Assets Survey, have always been incredibly useful tools for assessing not only our students' risk-taking and social behaviors, but also how we support them through school programs and the larger community of Region 1 town services," Strever said.

### Stress, anxiety and emotional health indicators

Despite the positive indicators, emotional strain remains a concern.

More than half of students in grades 7 to 12 — 57.1% — reported experiencing stress or anxiety "some of the time" in the past year.

Another 14.5% reported feeling stress or anxious "almost always" and 6.5% reported feeling that way "always." Only 21.8% reported feeling stress free.

About 18.3% said they felt sad or hopeless for two consecutive weeks during the past year.

Brady-Shanley said these findings reflect what teachers have been seeing in recent years.

"You know, if we were to go back 10 to 15 years, I don't think that we would be seeing the percent of anxiety that we see right now," she said. "I think there are two main triggers: COVID-19 that did not help anyone, with social isolation. And I think number two, social media has had a huge influence on kids' anxiety."

The survey also found troubling data: 15.4% reported thoughts of self-harm in the past year, 7.8% reported engaging in self-harm behavior and 9.8% reported having considered suicide in the past 12 months.

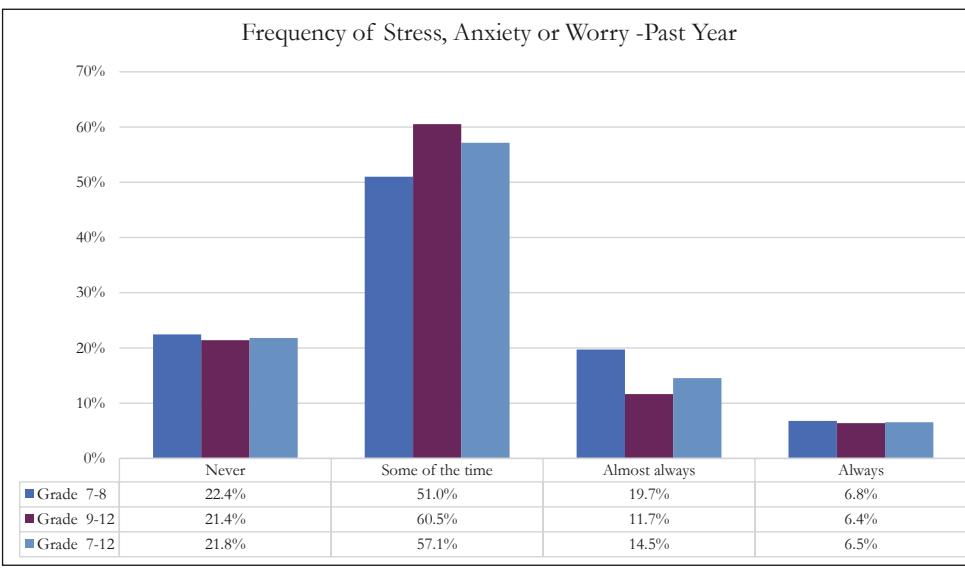


CHART PROVIDED

**A majority of Region One students reported experiencing stress, anxiety or worry at least some of the time during the past year, with about one in five saying they felt that way "almost always" or "always".**

Brady-Shanley said these figures highlight the importance of support systems, and are being taken very seriously.

Speaking of the suicide figure, she said: "Any number with the exception of a zero is concerning."

The percentage consid-

ering suicide was highest among grades 7-8, where 10.9% considered it, compared to 9.2% for grades 9-12. Among students who considered suicide, 23.1% said they made a plan, and 13.8% reported attempting suicide.

Brady-Shanley said the district has implemented annual training programs to help staff recognize and help students with mental health issues.

"Part of what we're doing is giving staff the tools to be able to recognize when a kid is in crisis."

She added that the district recently secured funding to continue three additional social workers at the elementary school level.

The goal, she said, is to ensure schools are prepared to respond quickly when students show signs of crisis.

At Cornwall Consolidated School, Principal Leanne Maguire said the middle school findings are particularly concerning.

"The survey results for our 7th and 8th graders are particularly startling. When we see that 94% of middle schoolers in our region have experienced anxiety in the past year — and that [nearly] 11% have considered suicide, while 20% of those have reported self-harm, it moves beyond a 'trend' and into a call for immediate action. These aren't just statistics; they are the daily lived experiences of our students."

Maguire said she will ask town officials to support expanding the school counselor or position to full time.

### Early access to smart-phones and screen use

Most students receive their first smartphone between the ages of 11 and 13, with social media accounts typically beginning between 12 and 14.

"I would love to see the access to social media going to like 16 and above," Brady-Shanley said. "I think the little brain of a 12- to 14-year-old is not ready to handle the very adult world of social media."

Currently, more than 97% of students reported having a social media account prior to age 16, according to the study. Nearly 90% had smartphones before reaching 14 years of age.

Approximately 58% of students said social media helps them feel connected. At the same time, about one-third reported difficulty stopping scrolling, and roughly 25% said they felt left out at times because of social media.

### Substance use remains below state, national levels

High school students in Region One continue to report substance use rates below Connecticut and national averages.

For the month prior to the May 2025 study, 10.7% reported drinking alcohol

been bullied at some point — but not within the past 30 days.

Still, 10.3% reported occasional bullying in the week prior to the survey, and 6.8% reported frequent or near-daily bullying in the three weeks leading up to the study.

While bullying remains a concern, the vast majority of students did not report recent incidents.

"So I think 40% of our kids reporting that they've never been bullied is honestly ... a strong number," Brady-Shanley said.

She said adult intervention appears consistent when incidents occur.

"If adults are seeing something, they're not just passively letting it go by," she said. "I think you'll see that more frequently at the younger levels. You know, high schoolers tend to be a little bit more reserved with their requests, sometimes for assistance, yeah."

The most common forms of bullying were name-calling, rumors and social exclusion.

### High school sexual behavior and communication

Among high school students, 48.4% reported having talked with a parent or guardian about birth control, sexually transmitted infections or delaying pregnancy.

Brady-Shanley said this number needs to be higher.

"Parents need to talk more to their kids and I need that number to be 100%," she said. "We want our kids and our families having conversations about their children's physical health and ultimately their mental health. Kids listen when their parents talk."

Brady-Shanley said the survey ultimately reflects both progress and ongoing work.

She said the district will continue reviewing the findings with administrators and staff, using the data to guide prevention programs and student support services.

"For the most part, our kids feel like they have a trusted adult in their life," she said. "But we still have some work to do."

Riley Klein contributed to this article.

## BUDGET

Continued from Page A1

7.07%, and Herrick said Tuesday, Feb. 17 that the number was down to 6%.

The current budget is \$18,485,210.

On Feb. 2, Herrick explained that Region One has contractual obligations — including salaries and benefits — that are up between 4% and 4.5%, and a health insurance increase of 13.5%. Together those two categories account for 53% of the increase.

Pupil Services, which in-

cludes special education, accounts for another 37% of the increase, mostly for outplacement and transportation.

"That gets you to 90%" of the increase, Herrick said, adding that supplies and equipment accounts for another 5%.

The budget committee and administrators are continuing to search for potential savings. Herrick said two retirements in the special education department could provide an

opportunity to leave one position unfilled.

"There are a lot of things in play," he said. "The goal is to reduce the budget and avoid impacting student learning."

Herrick said the budget committee will present the budget proposal to the board in early April.

The public hearing will be held a couple of weeks after that, and the districtwide referendum will be on Tuesday, May 5.

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## CHOCOLATE

Continued from Page A1

Tim Paradise, who moved to Kent with his family seven years ago and whose daughter Emily is in kindergarten, said, "We came last year and really enjoyed it. And my daughter loves chocolate."

Board member Debbie Moerschell, who was busy wrapping plates in plastic bags, said her daughter was a recipient of the scholarship. "We are very grateful. It helped tremendously."

Christina Memoli was there with her 9-year-old son Rowan. "He was excited to find my photo on the poster that showed scholarship winners," she said. "I received one from 1995 to 1998. I absolutely support this event every year. And everyone loves chocolate."

Well, not everyone. Nine-year-old Kaelyn Saunders is not a fan. She scouted out items, such as a lollipop and

pretzel, to eat. "She's never liked chocolate," said her mother Marci Saunders, the school's physical education teacher. "When she filled a plate, I told her to be sure to get something her mother would like," she said with a smile.

Board members Carol Spelbos and Lee Sohl are the main organizers of the fest. Spelbos expressed her gratitude to the many businesses who contributed items, which included B.D. Provisions, Wilson's, 45 on Main, Kent Kitchen, Cozy's, Old Oak Tavern, Bulls Bridge Inn, Marvelwood School, Kent School students, South Kent School, Swift, IGA, KPG, Stop & Shop, JP Gifford and 109 Cheese. Nonprofits, such as the Kent Land Trust, the KCS PTA and Project Sage had booths to dispense information about their causes.

Since the fund's establishment 65 years ago, 1,512 grants totaling more than \$2 million have been awarded. Students who have attended seventh and eighth grade at the school and are seeking college degrees, are in post-graduate programs or pursuing technical or vocational school certificates are eligible to apply.

Funds are raised through an annual letter of appeal and through the redemption and recycling of beverage containers. The beverage container recycling program alone has raised nearly \$232,000 over the past 32 years.

Thirty-five scholarships are awarded each year. The average grant is \$2,500. Post graduate awards are generally higher.

For further information about the fund, go to KCSSE.org.

## LEGAL NOTICES

### CANAAN FIRE DISTRICT WARNING

All persons eligible to vote in meetings of the Canaan Fire District are hereby warned that the Annual Meeting of the said District will be held at the North Canaan Town Hall on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. to consider and act upon the following items:

1. To name the legal depositories for the funds of the Canaan Fire District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.

2. To name an auditor to inspect the accounts of the Canaan Fire District for such fiscal year.

3. To elect three members of the Executive Committee to serve for three-year terms.

4. To transact any other business proper to come before such meeting.

Dated at North Canaan, Connecticut this 20th day of February, 2026.

Anthony J. Nania  
Warden

02-19-26

### Notice of Decision Town of Salisbury Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission

Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the Inland Wetlands & Watercourses Commission of the Town of Salisbury, Connecticut on February 9, 2026:

Approved conditioned on Housatonic River Commission Approval - Application IWWC-26-5 by Jennifer A Wening to construct a new pool in the upland review area. The property is shown on Salisbury Assessor's map 12 lot 32 and is known as 265 Housatonic River Road, Salisbury. The owner of the property is Jennifer Wening.

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

Town of Salisbury  
Inland Wetlands and  
Watercourses Commission  
Sally Spillane, Secretary

02-19-26

# COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

Thursday, February 19, 2026 • The Lakeville Journal • LakevilleJournal.com

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our  
community



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQVIST

**Bobby Graham  
and Matthew Marden**

## Bobby Graham and Matthew Marden

## The story behind Dugazon

By Jennifer Almquist

**B**obby Graham and his husband, Matthew Marden, opened their home and lifestyle shop, Dugazon, in a clapboard house in Sharon six months ago. Word spread quickly that their shop is filled with objects of beauty, utility and elegance. Graham and Marden tell a story of family, tradition, joy, food, community and welcome.

Jennifer Almquist sat down with the couple for a conversation about design, storytelling and building a life — and business — together.

Jennifer Almquist: When did this dream begin?

Bobby Graham: This truly is a dream come true. I wanted to open this shop for more than 30 years, to

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

## BUSINESS

## Geary Gallery relocates from Millerton to Salisbury

By Sally Haver

Geary, a contemporary art gallery with roots on New York City's Lower East Side, is opening a new chapter in Salisbury, relocating to a restored 1840 building at 14 Main St. after five years in Millerton. Owned by Jack and Dolly Bross Geary, it was at 34 Main St. in Millerton and is reopening in the handsome teal-colored, two-story building built in 1840 and until recently owned by the interior design and architecture studio of Hendricks Churchill. Geary's first show in the new building is scheduled for Feb. 21 and will feature the work of one of the gallery's five artists, Alan Prazniak.

"Our lease on the gallery space in Millerton was coming up in March, and we questioned whether or not to renew," Jack Geary said. "We were interested in owning our next space, and fortuitously, the Salisbury building came on the market." The new building offered more space than the Millerton

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

## INSIDE

### SPORTS

Housatonic hosts  
Lakeview for Rivalry Night

### CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events

## ART

# Taha Clayton's 'Historic Presence' opens at Tremaine Gallery

By Natalia Zukerman

For Brooklyn-based artist Taha Clayton, history isn't something sealed behind glass. It breathes, moves and stands before us in the bodies of everyday people. His upcoming solo exhibition, "Historic Presence" at the Tremaine Gallery at Hotchkiss, takes its philosophical cue from James Baldwin's declaration that "History is not the past. It is the present."

Clayton's luminous portraits center on elders, friends and acquaintances whose quiet dignity embodies what he calls "the common everyday story" often missing from official narratives. "The historical is talking about something from the past," Clayton said, "but these are men and women that are living in this day, walking with the ancestors, creating the stories."

Clayton describes the series as rooted in a search for these overlooked narratives. "It started with Baldwin and John Coltrane... and then it blossomed to the people of the times, the stories that get overlooked." His subjects are people he knows or meets through everyday encounters. "It's the models, it's their lives. It's us collaborating, as opposed to me putting a costume on someone," he said.

Born in Houston, raised in Toronto and now based in Brooklyn, Clayton brings a cross-cultural sensibility to classical realism. His figures frequently appear in clothing inspired by mid-20th-century style, echoing the visual language of the 1930s through '50s. But rather than nostalgia, he's after something more layered,



'Stoned Soul Picnic' by Taha Clayton.

a kind of collapsing of timelines. "I'm documenting this moment," he explains, "but I'm also challenging myths and creating new ones."

The use of fabric is a striking element in Clayton's work, operating on both aesthetic and symbolic levels. "I'm playing on ideas like 'being cut from the cloth,' 'the thread' of an idea," he explained. The act of painting on cotton alone carries layered historical meaning, but he deliberately reframes it as a site of empowerment. For him, cloth/cotton signals ceremony, resilience and transformation.

Clayton has an evolving and deepening relationship with this area. As an artist-in-residence at the Wassaic Project in Amenia, he said, "We were the first residency out of the pandemic, and I brought my wife and daughters. It was a two-week residency that ended up being the whole summer. It just kind of evolved and that's how my relationship upstate has been." His series "The Cloth" was presented at Troutbeck in Amenia in 2022 and he has returned as a featured speaker and educator for the Troutbeck Symposium, the multi-day gathering

at Troutbeck where middle and high-school students present year-long research projects on under-told local and national histories. "It's been four years I've been with them, so I'm like artist/mentor now," said Clayton.

Clayton will be in residence again at Hotchkiss for the week leading up to the opening, offering students multiple ways to engage with the artist and providing a rich, hands-on experience of his practice as well as his guidance. "Taha is a re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

## FOOD

# Bold flavors with a side of punk attitude at No Comply Foods

By Jennifer Almquist

At No Comply Foods in Great Barrington, skate culture, punk music and globally inspired comfort food collide in a pink frame house on Stockbridge Road where community matters as much as what's on the plate. Opened in 2024 and named for a skateboarding trick, the restaurant hums with eclectic music while its walls double as a gallery of patron-gifted art — brightly colored skateboard cartoons, portraits of the owners' pug, Honeybun, and offbeat collages.

High school sweethearts Julie and chef Steve Brown are both loved skateboarding and punk music, especially the 90s California ska-punk band, Skankin' Pickle. They also share a love for good food and a strong sense of community and fairness. After stints at Lutèce and the 21 Club in New York City, Steve helped open Prairie Whale in Great Barrington as the inaugural chef and worked there for 10 years. His partner, Julie, is a full-time special ed-

uation teacher at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village.

They opened No Comply Foods with their unique vision. "It's a place that we did on our own terms," said Julie. "Despite people trying to tell us things that we needed to do to be a successful restaurant, we do the things that we want to do." Those things include no alcohol, no tips and no reservations. "It's a place that anybody can come

into, just sit down, eat and feel welcome. A complete reflection on who Steve and I are, and who we have been. That's what this place is."

Clearly, their formula is working. In its August 2025 issue, Bon Appétit Magazine named No Comply Foods one of the 14 best new breakfast spots in the U.S.

Brunch on the first warm Saturday this winter offered Turkish eggs with labneh; two

sunny-side-up eggs on a Japanese sweet potato topped with chili crisp; tender soft-boiled eggs resting on steamed spinach with silky béarnaise sauce, rye toast and smoked bacon; a plate piled with buttermilk pancakes with a dollop of maple butter and circles of powdered sugar; and mugs of strong coffee. The place stayed packed for hours, every seat filled as families fresh

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### WBSL FM 91.7

Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

## ...Bobby Graham and Matthew Marden

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

create something containing all the things I've loved that have inspired me.

Matthew Marden: Dugazon has exceeded our expectations. Having our own business, no longer part of a large corporate structure, allows us to tell our stories and work together.

JA: What is your earliest memory that set you on your journey?

BG: My earliest memories include going to flea markets and antique shops with my mom. I still have my vast collection of wooden animals that my mom started when I was a little boy.

JA: What are your earliest memories that drew you to beauty, design and fashion?

MM: I've always been a visual person. I was fascinated with The Muppet Show and Sesame Street. I loved their imaginative worlds. It was the late '70s, and I remember being oddly interested in pop culture, loving the colors and textures of the different puppets, their crazy hair or colorful fur.

JA: What were your favorite stories growing up?

MM: I grew up in Hopkinton, a small town in New Hampshire. I loved "Goodnight Moon." I remember C.S. Lewis' Narnia books and their combination of fantasy and reality. I was a voracious reader, drawn to the more macabre world of Stephen King. My dad read me "Watership Down." I remember the "Madeline" books. I was terrified by the nuns.

BG: I loved books that were visual, especially a pop-up book called "The Great Menagerie," published by the Metropolitan Museum in the '70s. I



Matt and Bobby with customers at Dugazon.

*"This truly is a dream come true... to create something containing all the things I've loved."*

BOBBY GRAHAM

loved "Danny the Dinosaur" and "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs."

JA: What roles do family and tradition play in your lives?

BG: My mom was a home-maker in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, where I grew up, but she was from Baton Rouge. I

spent three weeks every summer with my grandparents in New Orleans. It was all about food and family. In our home, Matt and I keep those traditions alive.

MM: We have been married almost two years, but we've been together 20 years. When we first started dating, we discovered that despite being from different parts of the country, we had much in common. Family is important to us both.

JA: Are your families supportive of your new venture?

BG: They're so proud of us. My dad calls every day.

JA: Matt, what drew you to

fashion as a career?

MM: I studied art history in college. For five years, I worked at a New York fashion photography gallery, Staley-Wise. I worked at Town & Country, was a fashion director at Interview, then fashion director at Details magazine, where I stayed most of my career. I became style director at Esquire.

JA: Bobby, what was your experience in advertising and publishing?

BG: I worked in banking for a couple of years using my business degree, but it just wasn't right. I went to work at Condé Nast as a sales executive for Vogue, GQ, Vanity Fair, AD and The New Yorker.

JA: How did you meet? When did you marry?

MM: It was my first morning at Details. I noticed Bobby in the elevator. We were married in August 2024.

JA: What is your business philosophy?

BG: My business philosophy is that you work hard, you have integrity, you have fun and the money will come. There are no shortcuts in life.

MM: At Dugazon, we sell what we love.

JA: What is your most beautiful, most favorite item in Dugazon?

MM: A photograph by our friend Matt Albani called "Lost," shot under a pier in the summer. We had a copy in our house on Fire Island for years.

BG: My favorite item is our candle wall. I just love the way it presents visually. I love the colors.

Dugazon is located at 19 West Main Street, Sharon. For more information and shop hours, visit: [dugazonshop.com](http://dugazonshop.com).

## ... Geary

CONTINUED FROM B1



PHOTO BY BOB ELLWOOD

Jack and Dolly Geary outside the new location in Salisbury.

location — 5,000 square feet on two floors in turnkey condition. "In addition to three exhibition rooms, there's even a bedroom with an en suite bathroom for a visiting artist to stay," said Jack.

The Gearys founded their gallery in 2013 on the Lower East Side in New York City, then moved to Varick Street in SoHo before landing at their final New York City location on the Bowery in 2020. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the Gearys found themselves living primarily in their Lakeville home, they discovered the Millerton space on Main Street. With its white walls and track lighting, they determined it would be the perfect spot for a gallery. As it turned out, having two geographically disparate spaces proved cumbersome to program and maintain, so they consolidated their efforts in Millerton which they will transfer to Salisbury.

The Gearys are already planning events for the new space, including art classes, lectures, readings and parties. During the gallery's time in Millerton, from 2020 to the present, Geary hosted 28 exhibitions, as well as performance art events, poetry readings and dinners celebrating exhibitions. Most recently, they hosted a dinner for artist Dana Sherwood in conjunction with her exhibition. Ever the creative artist, Sherwood made all the plates, candlesticks and serving bowls used at the dinner.

The gallery currently represents five contemporary artists: Will Corwin, Tura Oliveira, Alan Prazniak, Reeve Schley and Sun You. Most are painters, though some also work in sculpture and installation. "We are focused on showing our represented artists," Dolly said, "but we also enjoy showing other artists with whom we have relationships." The Gearys have exhibited at art fairs in Miami, Chicago and San Francisco and have placed works in museum collections and exhibitions, raising artists' profiles and building momentum for the gallery's future.

Alan Prazniak, whose work will be featured in the opening exhibition, describes the show, "Earth Tones," as "a collection of work that chronicles the time after moving my studio to the Catskills from Brooklyn in 2024. 'Tones' refers to the colors, but also — maybe more importantly — to the frequencies of the mountains. There's a music to them; it can be overwhelming if you let it in. Staring at a giant hill in the distance, listening to it hum, falling under the spell of whatever's out there. But finally turning your back to it to go into the studio, trying to make something of it."

Geary is open Friday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Information is available at [info@geary.nyc](mailto:info@geary.nyc).

## ...No Comply Foods

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

from skiing — suspenders hanging, boots clomping — came in for warming meals. One couple marked a post-Valentine's moment by sharing a chocolate heart doughnut by Pastries by Hanna, a baker in Canaan, Connecticut.

Browning cooks globally influenced food with chef Dimitri Koufis, and the dinner menu changes daily. Recent offerings have included French fries with black pepper aioli; fried cauliflower with couscous, olive tapenade, orange and fennugreek yogurt; hot dogs and fries with jalapeño cheddar and special sauce; leek and mushroom pot pie with oyster mushrooms, spinach, cream and mascarpone; and rigatoni Bolognese with Grana Padano, onion soubise and herbed breadcrumbs. If you still have room for dessert, you might try an apple crostada with caramel sauce and ice cream or chocolate mascarpone mousse.

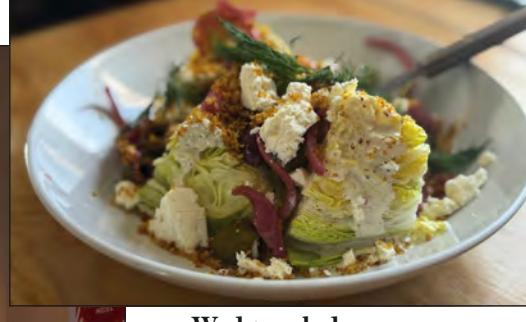
Prices are reasonable. The menu emphasizes fresh food to reduce waste, and produce is seasonally sourced from local farms. Guests can plan a party in the brightly lit upstairs space, enjoy special evening events



Steve and Julie Browning, co-owners of No Comply Foods in Great Barrington, have built a restaurant that reflects their skate-punk spirit and love of globally inspired comfort food.

that might include live music or comedy, or attend themed menus such as Greek Night. No Comply Foods is dog-friendly.

For hours and more information, visit: [nocomplyfoods.com](http://nocomplyfoods.com)



Wedge salad.



Jena Battaglia at No Comply Foods in Great Barrington, serving tomato garlic cream soup and artichoke grilled cheese sandwiches during Sunday brunch.

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## HISTORIC PRESENCE

### TAHA CLAYTON

FEB 14 - APR 5, 2026

Reception: Sat, Feb 21, 4 - 6 p.m.

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## GARDENING

### A taste of spring at the annual bulb show

By Robin Roraback

The Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge is offering the perfect solution to the winter doldrums with its annual Bulb Show, beginning Feb. 20. Depending on how long the bulbs bloom, the show is estimated to run until about March 20.

Inside the Fitzpatrick Conservatory, hundreds of tulips, daffodils and grape hyacinths will be waiting to give visitors a welcome taste of spring.

Some rarer blooms to look for are the "Hoop Petticoat Daffodil" (*Narcissus bulbocodium*) and three from South Africa: "African Corn Flag" (*Chasmantine bicolor*), "Fairy Bells" (*Melasmaea ramosa*) and "Forest Lily" (*Veltheimia bracteata*).

Preparation for the bulb show begins in summer, when bulbs are chosen and ordered. They are planted in fall and then spend about 15 weeks at temperatures simulating winter.

Eric Ruquist, direc-



PHOTO PROVIDED BY BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Spring arrives early at Berkshire Botanical Garden.

tor of horticulture at BBG, explained. "We have two small, air-conditioned rooms, or CoolBots, in the basement. We pull out our pots of bulbs in three stages. The first pull was Feb. 7, and since we didn't get too much sun last week, they are off to a bit of a slow start, but they

are all budded up and I'm sure we will have blooming bulbs for our opening day."

A point of interest besides the blooms is the display of succulents. Ruquist said to look for "hens and chicks, aloe, agave and sedum."

"The Bulb Show is BBG's

gift to the community," Ruquist said. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. Multiple visits are encouraged to enjoy a range of blooms.

Berkshire Botanical Garden is located at 5 W. Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

## GARDENING

### Garden Matters

The Millbrook Garden Club and Millbrook Library are launching a "Garden Matters" series, a free lineup of talks, walks and workshops on eco-friendly gardening presented with Stonewood Farm. Beginning Feb. 21 and running through July, the program highlights local experts sharing practical tips on soil health, regenerative growing, native plants and pollinator habitats.

Sessions include a

soil-building workshop with farm managers, a creative seed-starting class led by Jessica Williams of Odd Duck Farm, a pollinator garden walkthrough with designer Andrew J. Durbridge, and a native meadow tour at the Cary Institute guided by president Joshua Ginsberg. All programs are free and open to the public at the library unless noted. Details and schedule updates: millbrooklibrary.org.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Kristen Essig of Stonewood Farm.

## COMMUNITY

### Winter Weekend in Norfolk

The Ninth Annual Winter Weekend Festival returns to Norfolk, Feb. 21-22, offering a full slate of seasonal activities for all ages. The community celebration features outdoor adventures such as hiking, skiing and wildlife walks, alongside concerts, art shows, workshops, open studios, historic exhibits and family events. Highlights include live music, artist meet-and-greets, a pickleball tournament, stained-glass tours, craft demonstrations and a "Blizzard of Fun" kids program. Many activities are free, with select ticketed workshops. Early-bird events begin Friday evening with a pop-up gallery reception and documentary screening. Visitors can also enjoy special cafe and bakery offerings throughout the weekend. Organizers encourage guests to check the festival schedule at weekendinnorfolk.org for updates and return this summer for the three-day Weekend in Norfolk celebration July 31-Aug. 2.



Artist Cheryl Heller, who makes eight-foot-tall paintings of song birds will have an open studio from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21.

### ... Taha Clayton

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

'Sunkiss' by Taha Clayton.

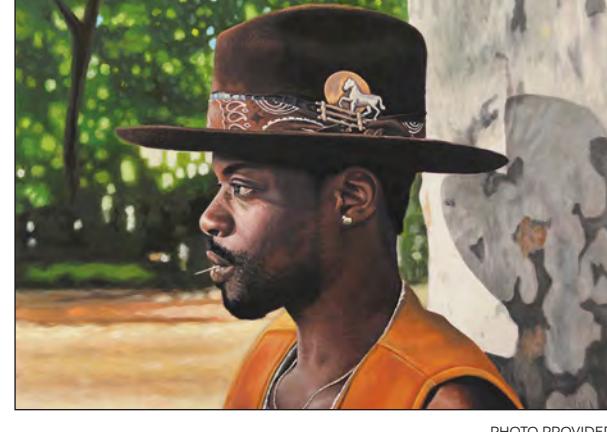


PHOTO PROVIDED

'Crown Maker' by Taha Clayton.

markable artist to work with because he meets students where they are," said Tremaine Gallery director, Terri Moore. "He listens deeply, treats their ideas with real respect and shows them that their own stories are worthy subjects. That combination of humility, rigor and generosity is rare — and it's why students respond to him so strongly."

Clayton's career has garnered international — even interstellar — recognition, including exhibitions in cities from New York to Barcelona. One of his works was selected for the Lunar Codex's "Nova Collection" in 2024, part of an ambitious global archive designed to preserve creative works on the Moon as a time capsule of human culture. Clayton recalled the moment the capsule landed with characteristic understatement: "I'm just on the computer watching with a beer thinking, 'Ok, this is cool.' But, like the next day, I still had to get up and take the kids to school."

Interspersed throughout the gallery are ceramic shields that add to the war-

rior-like quality of some of the subjects. The repetition of a water fountain is particularly evocative, another reclamation that amplifies history without obscuring the truth that shaped it.

Clayton describes his practice as a form of meditation, saying he feels time dissolve while working. "It's like past and future is all happening," he said.

That sense of temporal layering resonates with the exhibition's central idea that personal memory and collective history are inseparable. Clayton's portraits are about recognizing and celebrating the magnitude and multitudes contained in ordinary lives, the reclamation and attention to historical detail and the carrying of history forward with incredible beauty and unwavering dignity.

"Historic Presence" will be on view Feb. 14-April 5 at the Tremaine Gallery at Hotchkiss, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville. An artists' talk is scheduled Thursday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m., followed by an opening reception Saturday, Feb. 21, from 4 to 6 p.m.

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PHOTO PROVIDED

*"This Beautiful Place,"* paintings by Torrington artist Suzan Scott exploring the Litchfield Hills and surrounding landscapes will be on view Feb. 12-March 13 at the David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village. Opening reception: Saturday, Feb. 21, 5 to 7 p.m. Art talk: Thursday, March 12, 5:30 p.m. Free and open to all.

## Tri-Corner Calendar

### FEBRUARY 19

#### Creativity for Adult Beginners

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org](http://hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org) 2 to 3 p.m. Supportive one-hour art class on Thursdays through March 12 for adult beginners led by artist Paul Bacsik. Explore creativity, try new techniques and build confidence—no experience needed; supplies provided. Registration required at [hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com](http://hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com).

### FEBRUARY 20

#### LEGO Club

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. [cornwalllibrary.org](http://cornwalllibrary.org) From 5 to 6 p.m., Join us in the community room for a monthly LEGO club meeting. Ages 5 and up. Registration required at [cornwalllibrary.org/events/](http://cornwalllibrary.org/events/)

#### Poetry Workshop with Sally Van Doren

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org) Sally Van Doren's workshop from 2 to 4 p.m. is an immersive experience of writing, reading, and listening. Registration is required at [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

#### Duo Al Rouh

The Grace Note at The Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains. Join Palestinian master musician Zafer Tawil and Rabbi Zachi Asher for a magical evening of old and new Arabic sounds, transportive trances and prayers and Sufi melodies to whirl us into enchantment. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at [stissingcenter.org](http://stissingcenter.org)

### FEBRUARY 21

#### Personaman

Five Points Annex, 15 Water St., Torrington, Conn. 2 p.m.

Images, objects, animations, performances and interactions by Stewart Wilson, aka "Personaman"

#### Dorodango—A Meditative Craft Workshop at Shop BES

50 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. 12 p.m.

A traditional Japanese pastime used to teach mindfulness to children becomes a relaxing activity for adults. Shape and polish a simple ball of mud to a mirror-like shine. Pre-registration required at [www.shop-bes.com/classes](http://www.shop-bes.com/classes)

#### Deadgrass at The Stissing Center

The Stissing Center 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Deadgrass is a high-energy string band reimagining the music of Jerry Garcia. Blending bluegrass, Americana, and improvisation, the band explores songs from Old & In the Way, the Jerry Garcia Band, and the Grateful Dead with warmth and virtuosity. Tickets at [www.thestissingcenter.org](http://www.thestissingcenter.org)

#### Earth Tones

Geary, 14 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. Geary presents Earth Tones, a solo exhibition by Alan Prazniak, at its new location. Opening reception Saturday, Feb. 21, 4 to 6 p.m.

#### Imagined Realities: Pulse and Pattern

Tyte Gallery, 3280 Franklin Ave. (2nd Floor), Millbrook, N.Y. Feb. 21 through April 12, Tyte Gallery presents a three-artist exhibition featuring works by Sabri Sundos, Shannon Carroll and Sophie Kitching. Opening reception Saturday, Feb. 21, 3 to 6 p.m. Gallery hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., closed Tuesdays.

#### Fred Stein: Icons of the 20th Century

Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. On view Feb. 7 to April 30, Mad Rose Gallery presents "Fred Stein: Icons of the 20th Century," a landmark exhibition bringing together 50 legendary portraits by master photographer Fred Stein. Dual opening reception: Feb. 21, 4 to 6 p.m. Refreshments served.

#### Villains in Your Backyard: Managing Invasive Plants

Sharon Town Hall, 63 Main St., Sharon, Conn. Learn practical strategies for controlling invasive plants and supporting native species from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Led by Michael Nadeau and Tom Zetterstrom. Free; open to all. Pre-registration required. [bit.ly/4qVIE69](http://bit.ly/4qVIE69)

#### The Hotchkiss

#### Philharmonic Orchestra

Katherine M. Elfers Hall, The Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Conn.

Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m.

Internationally acclaimed mezzo-soprano Magdalena Kulig joins the orchestra, conducted by Fabio Witkowski, in a program featuring Handel, Gluck, Mahler and

Items appear as space permits. Submit calendar items to [editor@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:editor@lakevillejournal.com).

Saint-Saëns, plus selections from John Williams and Arturo Márquez. Free and open to the public.

#### Chrissi Poland performs Forever Muscle Shoals

Indigo Room at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center, 20 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass.

8 p.m. The show celebrates classic Muscle Shoals recordings from the late 1960s and early '70s. Tickets are \$40, general admission with café table seating; on sale Jan. 7 at noon at [mahaiwe.org](http://mahaiwe.org) or through the box office, 413-528-0100.

### FEBRUARY 22

#### Resilience: Measuring Your Strength

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. [hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org](http://hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org)

Transformational coach and educator Caroline Phipps leads an empowering program on cultivating personal resilience, with practical tools to navigate uncertainty, reduce stress and strengthen emotional well-being. 4 p.m. Free; registration required at [hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com](http://hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com).

#### Cartooning Workshop with Natalia Zukerman

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

Join this hands-on class at 11 a.m., and explore cartooning as an outlet for observation, humor and storytelling with Millerton News cartoonist and arts editor Natalia Zukerman. Registration required at [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org).

### FEBRUARY 25

#### Knitting with Bruce Weinstein: Entrelac & Reversible Cables

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. [scovillelibrary.org](http://scovillelibrary.org)

Join best-selling author and knitting expert Bruce Weinstein and learn two new stitches to add texture and variety to scarves, sweat-

#### Last week's WotW

C	H	E	E	R
A	N	G	L	E
E	M	A	I	L
M	E	T	A	L
M	E	D	A	L

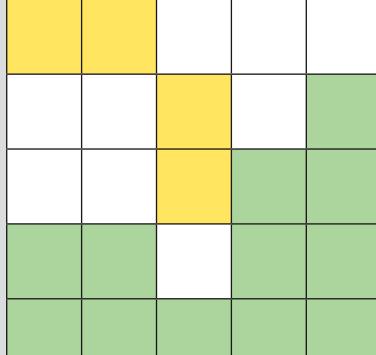
## Word of the Week

Hints relate to adjacent five-letter words. Solve to reveal correct letters.

Green tiles indicate correctly placed letters in the Word of the Week.

Yellow tiles indicate a correct letter in the wrong place.

Uncolored tiles indicate letters that do not appear in the WotW.



- No. of Snow White's dwarves
- "Ctrl + V" command
- ... but no cigar
- A standalone home
- Chinese New Year animal

WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

## MUSIC

### The Grace Note speakeasy

By Aly Morrissey

The Stissing Center officially opened The Grace Note on Friday, Feb. 13, a new speakeasy-style venue aimed at turning Friday nights into a weekly home for local and regional talent.

Hidden in the basement of The Stissing Center, The Grace Note certainly has the feel of a speakeasy, with its brick walls, dim lights and fully stocked bar. Executive Director Patrick Trettenero welcomed the first sold-out crowd and said the inspiration for the reimaged venue came



Natalia Zukerman opens Stissing Center's new speakeasy, The Grace Note.

from a desire to offer performances that connect audiences with artists in an intimate setting.

The debut performance featured Natalia Zukerman, Compass Arts & Entertainment editor and Stissing Center advisory board member, who will also co-manage booking for the space as it rolls out weekly programming. From the moment she stepped onto the stage, Zukerman held the audience in the palm of her hand, leaving concert-goers hanging on her every word. There were moments of raucous laugh-

ter and moments when you could hear a pin drop.

A storyteller at heart, Zukerman wove an introspective thread throughout the night, exploring how connection, art and beauty can exist even amid injustice and a relentless news cycle. Between songs, she offered commentary and her personal reflections, while her lyrics echoed many of the same themes.

The Grace Note will be open every Friday night. For a schedule of upcoming performances and to purchase tickets, visit [thestissingcenter.org](http://thestissingcenter.org)

## Welcoming 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](mailto:nataliaz@lakevillejournal.com).

## Brain Teasers

### CLUES ACROSS

- Cut quickly
- A way to state clearly
- River in NE Scotland
- Expansive
- Lacking social polish
- Amount of time
- Frame
- Automobile
- Toadstools
- High school dances
- Utilize
- Experimented with
- One-sided
- Acquisitive
- Potted plants
- Everyone has one
- Kalahari Desert lake
- Unidentified flying object
- People 65 and over
- Small amount
- Daughter of Acrisius
- Ornamental box
- Government agents
- Uncertain
- A cotton fabric with a satiny finish
- Treeless plains
- One's sense of self-importance
- Consumer advocate
- Type of lounger
- Body part
- Can be persuaded
- Woman (French)
- Ready and willing to be taught
- Arab ruler title
- Unhappy
- Gradually went away
- Able to think clearly
- Pages can be dog—
- Ukrainian city
- A citizen of Denmark
- Month
- Hindu queens
- Group of chemicals
- Rider of Rohan
- Wet dirt
- Southwestern Russia city
- Observed
- Angry
- Drivers' licenses
- Musical composition
- Auction
- They—
- Women
- Be filled with love for
- Thick-soled sock
- Appears
- Old World lizard
- Leading performer
- Protein

### February 12 Solution

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

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

Level: Intermediate

## Noble Horizons

## Sports

## Housatonic hosts Lakeview for Rivalry Night

By Riley Klein

FALLS VILLAGE — Back-to-back basketball games were played at Housatonic Valley Regional High School Friday, Feb. 13, against rival Lakeview High School.

The evening of excitement began with the girls varsity game and was followed by the boys game. Lakeview won them both with final scores of 46-26 for the girls and 72-36 for the boys.

It was a true rivalry atmosphere inside the Ed Tybursky Gym and cheering sections for both sides were full. In the home crowd, student commentators were situated courtside behind a mock ESPN sports desk.

The girls game was a physical battle with hard fouls from both sides. Athletic Trainer Erica Russell was quick to address injuries including a bloody nose and sprained thumb.

The score was close early on but as time marched on, Lakeview's girls showed why they have only lost two games this season. Star guard Allie Pape scored a game-high 18 points for Lakeview. Addie Foss scored 11, Christina Barone scored 9, Micaela Rae scored 5, Dorothy Olmstead scored 2 and Alyssa Barone scored 1.

The HVRHS girls were led by Olivia Brooks with 8 points. Victoria Brooks scored 7, Maddy Johnson scored 6, Hayden Bachman scored 2, Carmela Egan scored 2 and Aubrey Funk



HVRHS's Anthony Labbadia takes a jump shot in the game against Lakeview.



HVRHS point guard Olivia Brooks passes the ball.



PHOTOS BY RILEY KLEIN  
Above, game analysts talk things over during a break in the back-to-back basketball games Friday, Feb. 13. Below, the Mountaineer cheer team roots from the sideline in the Berkshire League rivalry game between HVRHS and Lakeview High School.



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