

REDDING SENTINEL

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Board of Finance sets public hearing on budget for March 18

By Rocco Valluzzo

The Redding Board of Education and Board of Selectmen presented their 2026-27 budgets to the Board of Finance on Monday, February 23, ahead of a public hearing set for Wednesday, March 18.

The Redding Board of Education (which oversees Redding Elementary School and John Read Middle School) is proposing a budget of \$27,570,525 for fiscal year 2026-27, an increase of \$1,049,202 from the current fiscal year, or 3.96%. It is down slightly from the 4.54% increase originally considered by the Board at its January 14 meeting.

According to Chair Laura Worosz, the Board had since made reductions in the amount of \$75,000, including some expenditures for

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Photo by Silvia Erskine

A gray squirrel, eagerly searching for signs of spring. If you have a photo you'd like to see featured here, e-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org.

Road clean-up faced an uphill battle after blizzard

By Rob Sample

The winter of 2026 has been a tough one for much of the East Coast – with record lows as far south as Florida and higher than recent average snow totals in much of New England. Here in Redding, the blizzard of February 22-23 dumped between 17.5 – 19 inches of snow and was accompanied by wind gusts of almost 50 miles-per-hour, making clean-up slow and difficult for both residents and the Highway Department.

By the end of the week, clean-up operations were substantially complete with areas of Georgetown awaiting final cleaning, noted First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton. “Weather had hampered clean-up, as the storm didn’t abate until late in the day [Monday],” Pemberton said. “The crew worked a 30-hour shift in the initial push, and Tuesday began the side road clean-up. Then Wednesday morning, another three inches of snow set us back. The crew came in at 1:00 a.m. Thursday to begin treating the roads.”

The Town of Redding still has road salt, but it is in short supply. “We are way out of our comfort zone,” said Public Works Director Jamie Gracy. “We have had to bring in sand and mix the salt and sand to treat the roadways.”

The sand/salt mix does the job of melting residual snow and boosting traction for drivers. However, the process takes considerably longer than treating the roads with pure salt. This is because the mixture must be dropped in larger amounts, requiring trucks to be refilled more often.

Redding was not alone in experiencing the salt shortage. Nearby municipalities had exhausted their supplies before the latest snowstorm even began. Sheds and domes over supplies that stock plows for State highways also have much lower levels on hand than they have had in recent years.

Winter Storm Fern in January affected places as far south as North Texas and Arkansas, with ice storms in the Deep South and snow farther up the coast closing schools and roads for days. “When the southern states experience weather like that, they compete with Connecticut for salt supplies,” Gracy noted.

Salt deliveries come by way of New Haven Harbor and, during normal operations, Redding can place an order for salt and receive a shipment within a day or two. But, with many other places trying to obtain salt, that process becomes slower and more difficult. “When that happens, the State assigns priority to towns that have depleted their supplies,” said Gracy.

According to reporting by *CT Mirror*, leaders of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) and the State’s Council of Small Towns both said none of their members reported any immediate crisis in supplies that would hinder their response to clearing

Continued on page 7

Redding skier wins World Cup title

By Jessie Wright



Olivia Giaccio

It has been a busy month for Redding’s own Olivia Giaccio. Only days after competing in the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympic Games – her second Olympics

appearance after Beijing in 2022 – Giaccio left Italy for Japan for the freestyle skiing World Cup competition in Nanto-Toyama. There, she clinched first place in the individual moguls competition, skiing a 75.64 in the superfinal round. The win was her fourth career World Cup first-place finish and put her tied for first place in the standings in the moguls discipline.

A day after winning the individual competition at the World Cup, Giaccio was part of a U.S. sweep of the podium in the dual moguls race. She placed second behind her teammate Jaelin Kauf and ahead of third-place finisher Tess Johnson. (Kauf and Johnson

also competed in this year’s Winter Olympics, where Kauf took the silver medal in women’s moguls).

“This one was extra special. I’m immensely proud to stand on the podium with my teammates Jaelin Kauf and Tess Johnson for a USA sweep to wrap up the World Cup weekend here in Japan!” Giaccio posted to social media on March 1 alongside photos of her and her triumphant teammates.

The 25-year-old athlete grew up in Redding and attends Columbia University pursuing a Master of Social Work degree. It has been a thrill to watch one of our very own compete at such a high level on the world stage. ■

REDDING’S BIG OUTDOORS

A tale of two Great Ledges

By Tony Gale



Photo by Tony Gale

The cabin fever is real this winter, and a little nature goes a long way to cure it! With the sound of birds in the air, on what felt like the warmest day in months and with the specter of a blizzard looming, I wanted to get outside while I could. With all the snow this winter, parking options at so many trails were still covered in snow, so I wanted something I could walk to. It’s a short way from my house to the Pinchbeck Trail to the Redding and Devil’s Den Great Ledges, so that outing seemed perfect.

With a bottle of water and my boots on, I headed out. After the short walk to the trailhead, I crossed the plowed snow barrier and began the hike past the welcoming sign extolling the virtues of Great Ledge in the fall. I immediately felt lighter

taking those first few steps along the trail. The boardwalk beginning the Pinchbeck Trail to Great Ledge was mostly obscured by the snow, but the path was still easy to follow.

Walking in the sun-warmed snow was a bit of a challenge; it felt like walking in sand as it shifted with every step, forcing a more leisurely pace. The sound of the stream burbling nearby accompanied the crunch of the snow as I continued. The white blazes mirrored the snow and were easy to follow whenever the trail was unclear. As I approached the wooden footbridge over the stream, I saw the only other person I would see on the trail that day. He commented “not easy walking” as he passed by, and he was not wrong!

One of my favorite things about

walking in the snow is the record of all who have gone before, preserved in their footprints. The other hikers, the innumerable deer steps crisscrossing the way, cross country ski tracks, the other prints too obscured to be identifiable but still a fun mystery.

I continued up the hill, grateful for the waterproof boots I was wearing as I inadvertently stepped into puddles of snowmelt. The birds singing and the sun peeking out of the clouds were my only accompaniment as I walked. Soon, I reached the fork in the trail where the Pinchbeck and Deer Run trails meet, shortly followed by the Redding Great Ledge loop, named Gene’s Trail. I usually head clockwise on the Great Ledge loop and did the same today. As I got closer to the ledge, there were several places I took extra care, as snow and ice-covered rocks require a little scrambling. On the last little climb, I reached out to a tree for stability and was reminded to be cautious as I heard the telltale hollow sound of a dead tree. Looking up, only about 10 feet of the tree still stood. Soon, I was at the top and walking along the ledge, pausing here and there to enjoy the view east over the reservoir. Breathing deep, I enjoyed the stillness for a few minutes before moving on.

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Police Department welcomes new probationary officer



Photo by Julia Pemberton

Steven Stromberg was sworn in on Thursday, February 26 to the Redding Police Department as a probationary officer. He has served 22 years in law enforcement, including as a police sergeant and patrol supervisor. (Left to right): Chief Robert Kalamaras, Steven Stromberg and his two sons who attended the swearing-in ceremony, and Captain Tim Succi.

Board of Finance sets public hearing on budget for March 18 / continued from page 1

contributions to the Connecticut Municipal Employees Retirement System (CMERS), furniture and fixtures, custodial equipment, and special education furniture.

A new addition to the budget was \$30,000 to support school field trips. To help accomplish this, the Board reduced its estimate for health insurance allocation from 4% to 3%.

“This year is going to be the first overnight field trip that our district has taken in decades,” said Worosz. “So, we’re very excited that that is happening, but we wanted to put some money to support that.”

The Board of Selectmen approved an operating budget of \$18,453,366 for fiscal year 2026-27 at its February 17 meeting, an increase of \$701,962 (3.95%) from the current fiscal year. This figure is up slightly from the 3.87% increase considered at the Selectmen’s budget workshop in January.

Accounting for this change is a slight increase in the employer contribution (\$26,520) to CMERS. There is also an increase in planning support (\$4,000) for land use.

Totaling \$2,207,500, the Selectmen’s capital budget for 2026-27 consists of three parts: Public Works equipment, Town facilities, and Town bridges and roads.

Public Works equipment (\$120,000) includes \$60,000 for a compactor at the Transfer Station, \$30,000 for an upgrade to the fuel pump card reader at the Transfer Station, and \$30,000 for an around-the-post lawn mower.

Town facilities purchases and upgrades total \$687,500 for 2026-27. Major items include \$120,000

for replacing the shingles of the exterior of the Redding Community Center gym, \$90,000 for leasing a Chevrolet cargo van and Ford Explorer, \$100,000 for replacement of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system at the Park and Recreation offices, and \$200,000 for the computer-aided dispatch system upgrade for the Police Department.

A \$1,400,000 allocation would cover work on Town bridges and roads. This includes repaving of a number of roads as well as repairing damage to several others caused by the August 2024 storm.

“We’re requesting a total of \$1.4 million to address the condition of our roads in the next fiscal year,” said First Selectwoman Julia Pemberton. “And it’s a significant number, but we have been falling behind.”

Of the four bridges that were destroyed by the storm, those on Sport Hill Road and Long Wall Road are scheduled for demolition in the fall. Pemberton does not anticipate that the Town will have an amount for a bond anticipation note to help pay for them until the summer, which would not be included in the May budget referendum.

“I think the only thing I might say is that if we do a bond anticipation note, the expectation is it would be done sometime within the new fiscal year, fiscal year 26-27,” she said. “And so, the real impact in terms of the operating budget would be fiscal year 27-28.”

The Board of Finance will discuss these budgets at a public hearing on March 18 at the Redding Community Center at 7:30 p.m. ■

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We welcome Letters to the Editor. Please be clear, civil, and concise. E-mail editor@reddingsentinel.org with submissions.

To the Editor,

I am writing to express my appreciation for Jessie Wright’s reflections on her daily driving route, especially when hiking in the “big outdoors” is impossible. The descriptions of the Poverty Hollow waterfall, frozen into new fantastical shapes every day, and then the melting water tumbling down under the outer crust of ice, were wonderful. It’s those small impressions that make my daily walk so special now. The cardinals are beginning to sing loudly. Pretty soon, the witch hazel will bloom – whether covered with snow or not – and the pussy willows will burst forth. Spring will come. Thanks, Jessie, for reminding us to be on the lookout while we are digging out from the snowbanks. ■

Jane McCaffrey, Redding Road

POLICE BLOTTER

Police activity February 23 – March 1 | By Donna Christopher

Police assisted seven motorists with disabled vehicles, made one wellbeing check, responded to four citizen calls, and assisted in one emergency medical service call and one fire department call.

Traffic

Police stopped 20 motor vehicles, issuing one summons, two infractions, one written warning, and 16 verbal warnings. The infraction rate in the one-week period was 15%.

There were three two-vehicle motor vehicle accidents and three

one-vehicle accidents, none of which resulted in injuries. One of the incidents was a vehicle hitting a deer, and another involved a vehicle hitting a house on Black Rock Turnpike. In this incident, the Building Department came to inspect any potential damage to the structure.

Snow removal

Property owners on Picketts Ridge Road and Portland Avenue were notified to remove snow that had been pushed into the roadway

from clearing driveways, which they both complied with.

Fraud/suspicious incidents

On February 26, someone on Portland Avenue reported a cell phone account fraudulently opened in their name.

Police responded to a suspicious incident on Picketts Ridge Road on March 1 in which two empty suitcases were found by the Highway Department on the side of the road. No owners were able to be located. ■

LEGAL NOTICES

The Brunissen Trust for Redding Senior Citizens, Inc. will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday March 7, 2026 at the Redding Community Center, 37 Lonetown Rd, Redding, CT. ■

EXPENDITURE BUDGET PROPOSAL FY 2026-2027

The Legal Voters in the Town of Redding, Connecticut are hereby notified that a PUBLIC HEARING on the proposed FY 2026-2027 Annual Budget Expenditures will be held on **Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.** at the Community Center, 37 Lonetown Road, Redding, CT. If cancelled due to snow, the meeting will be held Thursday, March 19, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

Board of Finance:

Ward Mazzucco, Chair / Karen Gifford, Vice Chair
Robert Dean / Roger Van Ausdal
Jamie Barickman / Jenifer Wyss

For details, please visit the Town’s website at www.reddingct.gov and the ER9 website at www.er9.org/boardsofeducation. ■

TOWN OF REDDING, CT / BUDGET PROJECTION 2026-2027

	FY 2024-25 ACTUAL	FY 2025-26 CURRENT BUDGET	FY 2026-27 BUDGET REQUEST	\$ CHANGE	% CHANGE
EXPENDITURES					
REDDING BOARD of EDUCATION (1)	\$25,352,665	\$26,521,323	\$27,570,525	\$1,049,202	3.96%
REGION 9 (2)	11,987,042	12,458,720	13,552,832	1,094,112	8.78%
TOWN GOVERNMENT (3)	17,966,827	17,751,404	18,453,336	701,932	3.95%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	55,306,534	56,731,447	59,576,693	2,845,246	5.02%

(1) Adopted by Redding Board of Education Feb 3, 2026
(2) Superintendent's Proposed Budget presented to Region 9 BOE Feb 12, 2026
(3) Adopted by Board of Selectmen Feb 17, 2026

The Redding Board of Assessment Appeals will be meeting on Monday, March 16, 2026, 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Hearing Room of the Town Office Building for the scheduled hearings and deliberations of eligible appeals for tax assessments on the grand list as of October 1, 2025. New applications for appeals will not be accepted. Applicants must appear in person for their scheduled hearing.

Greg Stackpole, Chairman
Redding Board of Assessment Appeals

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Redding Sentinel Ltd believes in supporting the community it serves. We pledge to donate all profits to local community organizations.



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Correction to the February 26, 2026 issue:

In the page 2 article “Property owners approve creation of historic district in Georgetown,” the article mistakenly included properties on Church Street South in the proposed historic district. While two properties on Church Street South had initially been included, the Historic District Study Committee removed them and redrew the boundaries following the November 24, 2025 public hearing. One property – 6 Church Street South – was removed after considering comments from the property owner about extensive renovations that had already been made to the property. In a letter dated January 6, 2026, Chair of the Historic District Study Committee Heidi Holzer explained that if 6 Church Street South were to be removed, then 7 Church Street South would need to be removed as well, because the proposed district must be contiguous. We regret this error. ■



Legislators hold forum on housing laws



Photo by Susan Clark

Connecticut House Majority Leader Jason Rojas (left) and Redding's State Representative Anne Hughes (middle) spoke at a housing policy forum moderated by Evonne Klein (right) on Saturday, February 28 at The Granite. The legislators were there to discuss and provide information about the controversial housing bill H.B. 8002 signed into law by Governor Lamont in November of last year. Around 40 people attended to listen and ask questions.



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Region 9 discusses SAT classes, special education funding By Anne Young Albanese

On February 24, the Region 9 Board of Education met for its regular meeting and continued 2026-27 budget discussions alongside other updates from the district.

Joel Barlow High School has started offering on-campus SAT classes this year. They began on Saturday, February 28. As of the meeting, 14 families had already registered. Two SAT prep organizations are providing the coursework; Alpha Prep offers traditional SAT prep, while Brookfield Learning offers a boot-camp style prep.

As discussions turned to the 2026-27 budget, the first thing that

Superintendent Dr. Jason McKinnon addressed was to reiterate that the Central Office administration goes over each question that is submitted as a team and replies to everyone. This is true for community members' questions as well as Board member inquiries. Residents of Redding and Easton may ask questions online and find a full break-down of the working proposed budget at sites.google.com/er9.org/region9budget/home.

One of the key budget drivers for Region 9 next year is special education and student services. Most of the items within this cost center are

required by State or Federal laws. Those that are not often involve reporting compliance or applying for grants to lessen the costs to taxpayers. Special education costs may fluctuate dramatically depending on the individuals who are eligible for services at Joel Barlow High School each year. Dr. Meghan Pogonelski, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Student Services, began by explaining that the Joel Barlow High School special education population is growing. She and McKinnon are also exploring potential partnerships with other schools in the area

to see about sharing costs.

The total proposed special education budget is \$6,366,703, making up roughly a quarter of the total budget figure. This is an increase of \$471,639 or 8% from the current fiscal year. The budget can be broken down into more detailed charges and reimbursements. For example, Region 9 anticipates receiving \$600,000 from the State as reimbursement for high-cost special education placements that exceed Region 9's threshold.

The Region 9 budget is still under development. While the current total Region 9 budget is

projected to increase 3.57% for 2026-27, how the budget is divided between Easton and Redding changes each year due to enrollment numbers of students from each town. That calculation currently puts Redding's share at a 8.78% total increase over the current fiscal year's budget. Easton's share would be a 1.06% reduction from the current fiscal year. The next budget meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, at 7:00 p.m. at Joel Barlow High School. ■

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SPORTS

Bethel holds off Barlow in semifinals with tenacious defense

Girls basketball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Gwen Miller, left, in a South-West Conference quarterfinal game against Pomperaug on Thursday, February 26. Barlow won 44-31, but lost 29-38 to Bethel in the semifinals two days later.

It was a tale of two halves for the Joel Barlow High girls varsity basketball team in the South-West Conference semifinals on Saturday, February 28.

In the first half, the second-seeded Falcons used a stifling defense to keep the third-seeded Wildcats under wraps. When the second half got underway, however, it was the latter that turned the tables on the hosts, holding them to single-digit scoring in each of the last two quarters for a 29-38 upset win.

The game was the first trip to the semifinals in 18 years for the Falcons, who had beaten seventh-seeded Pomperaug 44-31 in the quarterfinals two days earlier.

"We had confidence going into the game, because we had beaten Bethel two weeks prior," said Barlow Head Coach Joe Carollo, whose team prevailed 52-34 in that contest. "We did it with defense that night."

Scoring proved difficult for both sides in the first half of Saturday's rematch, although the Falcons maintained a 9-6 advantage after one quarter of play. They kept up the pace defensively in the second, holding the competition to a mere four points to go up 17-10 at the break.

Such an effort might have taken its toll on the Falcons later in the night. When play resumed, the Wildcats stepped up their offense

quite a bit, and the hosts had trouble keeping up the pace.

"I think we were a little bit tired and worn out," said Carollo. "In the second half, Bethel played really good defense on us."

Although the Wildcats outscored the Falcons by a better than 1-2 margin (5-11) in the third quarter, Barlow still had a slim 22-21 advantage by the time it ended. But with another quarter left to play, Bethel had time to finish what it started, outscoring the Falcons 7-17.

At times, the Falcons had to double-team Bethel center Vivian Stewart, who had 11 points in the game. This allowed her teammates to step up and take shots.

While the Falcons were led by Mia Tartaglia's 14-point effort, she was the only Barlow player to score in double digits. No one else had more than five points.

"In the first game when they keyed in on Mia, we were able to get scoring from a lot more places," said Carollo. "It was just a little bit harder to get open looks for everybody else. This time we didn't make too many shots."

Ava Gillon (one three-pointer) was next for Barlow with five points. Paige Jarvis netted four while Sara Fenzel and Gwen Miller each had three-pointers.

Now 16-6 overall, the Falcons open the state Division III tournament as the seventh seed on Friday, March 6 and host an opponent to be determined. ■



Trojans hold off Falcons

Boys basketball | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Sean Gabriel, right, led the Joel Barlow High boys basketball team with 14 points in the play-in round of the South-West Conference tournament on February 24.

A late comeback attempt fell just short for the Joel Barlow High boys basketball team in the South-West Conference tournament play-in round.

The seventh-seeded Falcons, who had qualified for the tournament for the first time in several years, trailed 10th-seeded Weston by just two points with less than a minute left to play on Tuesday, February 24. Forced to foul as time grew short in order to stop the clock, they came no closer as Weston pulled out of reach for a 48-53 upset win.

"I'm certainly proud of them for continuing to fight until the last whistle," said Barlow Head Coach Corey Stevens, whose team defeated Weston during the regular season. "Obviously, we didn't do the things we needed to do beforehand, but I'm happy they fought through to the end."

The two sides matched each other point-for-point in the first quarter, as each also made use of successful three-point shots, including a pair by Barlow's Erik Kiernan. Chase Bonanno also hit a pair of field goals as the Falcons kept pace with the competition in a 14-14 tie after one frame.

Weston hit a pair of three-pointers in the next quarter courtesy of Kollen Kyle and Justin Linher for a slight advantage. At the other end of the court, the Falcons were held to single-digit scoring with field goals by Sean Gabriel, Charlie Cruz, and Tyler Starr, who also hit a free throw, as did Ryan Kelly before the half ended with Weston up 22-26.

When play resumed, the Falcons struggled offensively, due in part to Weston's aggressive rebounding. Following a pair of free throws by Bonanno, the Trojans went on a 0-9 scoring run, ending with 1:32 left in the frame when Cruz found the net to break the streak. He sank a free throw that followed, but Weston scored twice in the remaining time to go up by 14 (28-42) after three quarters.

"It's hard to win when you can't score," said Stevens. "We've had some droughts throughout the year. We had one tonight."

Despite facing a double-digit deficit, the Falcons got their offense moving in the fourth quarter with an eight-point run by Ben Noome. While a three-pointer from Kyle stopped the streak, Barlow still chipped away at the lead with a layup by Gabriel and a put back by Bonanno to make it 45-47 with 1:01 left.

That was as close as the Falcons came, however, before drawing several fouls in the time remaining. Weston responded by sinking six of eight shots.

Gabriel led Barlow with 14 points, including one three-pointer. Bonanno scored nine and Kiernan sank six, while Ben Noome finished with eight points. Cruz and Tyler Stark each had five, and Ryan Kelly hit one free throw.

Barlow, now 11-10 overall, takes part in the state Division IV tournament starting this week.

"We've got to get a win," said Stevens. "Now we have some days off to kind of work on and get better." ■

Barlow-Bethel is seventh

Boys swimming | By Rocco Valluzzo



Photo by Rocco Valluzzo

Joel Barlow-Bethel High's James Jandura was eighth in the 50 freestyle at the South-West Conference boys swim championships on Thursday, February 26.

A tough field of competitors awaited the Joel Barlow-Bethel High boys swim team when it took part in the South-West Conference finals last week.

The team had to fight for every point they earned on Thursday, February 26, managing only four top-10 finishes on the day. Totalling 161 points, they took seventh out of nine teams, up one spot from a year ago, at the Masuk High pool.

Defending champ Pomperaug won its 14th consecutive title, this time with 547. Brookfield was runner-up with 435, and Weston took third with 328.

Barlow-Bethel's first points came in the 200-yard medley relay at the start of the meet. Chase Hansen, Gavin Woering, Conner Zhu, and James Jandura finished in 1:50.17, good for eighth.

Zhu also represented Barlow-Bethel in the 200 free, taking ninth in 1:52.31, beating his seed time by more than four seconds. The 200 individual medley featured Sammy Goldman scoring a couple

of points, taking 18th in 2:27.73, beating his seed time by more than a second.

Two would score for Barlow-Bethel in the 50 free. A 23.55 by James Jandura beat his seed time by 0.41 seconds and was good for eighth, while Tyler Schwabe also beat his seed time and was 16th in 24.45.

Beating the one-minute mark as well as his seed time in the 100 butterfly, Hansen was 10th. Goldman also scored, finishing 19th in 1:04.90.

The Falcons' best performance came in the 100 free. Zhu not only took third in 49.59 to earn the bronze medal, he was also the only Barlow-Bethel swimmer to be named All-SWC Honorable Mention.

Two other Falcon swimmers also placed. Woering was 14th in 54.11, and Schwabe was one spot behind him in 54.52.

False starts would disqualify the Falcons in a couple of events, but they did earn points in the 200 free relay. Jandura, Hansen, Woering, and Zhu were seventh in 1:36.41, beating their seed time by 3.9 seconds. Hansen also scored in the 100 backstroke, taking 12th in 1:01.58.

For the final event, the 400 free relay, Schwabe, Goldman, Akhil Sharma, and Brendan Kong took seventh in 4:01.44.

Barlow-Bethel next competes in the state Class L finals on Monday, March 9 at the Cornerstone Aquatics Center in Hartford at 6:00 p.m. ■



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“We’ve got magic to do”

Tony Award-winning musical *Pippin* at Joel Barlow High School

By Anne Young Albanese



There are 13 seniors working on *Pippin*. (Top): Avery Young, Giulia Dos Santos, Abbey Avidon, Carter Rich, and Julian Davies-Villanueva. (Middle): Kenji Perretz, Andrew Kopec, Ava Jones, and Alisson Espejo. (Bottom): Skylar Giblin, Finn Bermingham, Abby Bonoff, and Ezra Nemore.

The Joel Barlow High School Theater Department will present the musical *Pippin* from March 12 to 14. Performances take place at 7:00 p.m. all three days, with a matinee at 2:00 p.m. on March 14.

While the Barlow production is based on the original musical composed by Stephen Schwartz, it reimagines *Pippin* in a 1939 Hollywood studio setting rather than a circus. According to director Marcelle Morrisey, the time period is “widely regarded as the greatest year in Hollywood history.” She added, “The magic comes from the illusion of filmmaking and movie spectacular. The Players function more like a film crew and studio performers than as circus artists, so you’ll see elements inspired by classic movie musicals and behind-the-scenes Hollywood rather than aerial acts or acrobatics.”

Pippin is a show within a show. The character called the “Leading Player” directs the action to manipulate what happens. Morrisey

based this production’s direction of the character on legendary filmmaker and actor Cecil B. DeMille.

The cast includes Skylar Giblin as Pippin. The Leading Player is played by Sassy Wood. Player 1 is the assistant director and is played by Lucia Ferrari. Player 2, who is the stage manager, is played by Therese Unfried. Charlemagne is played by Finn Bermingham. Fastrada, one of Charlemagne’s wives, is played by Annie Peters. Lewis, who is Charlemagne’s and Fastrada’s son, is played by Andrew Kopec. Berthe, who is Pippin’s grandmother, is played by Avery Young. Catherine, Pippin’s love interest, is played by Saira Menon. Theo, Catherine’s son, is played by Grey Krois. There are also featured dancers and players, making up a full cast of 20 students. There are six students performing alongside adult musicians in the band.

The 24-student crew plays an important role in the show, running everything from backstage, sets,



Photos by Andy Pohlen
Barlow students construct and decorate the four sets on the unique rotating turntable.

lights, sound, and other aspects that bring the audience into the story. For this production, the crew built a 16-foot turntable platform which houses four different sets. Ashley Bishop, a parent of a Barlow student and the owner of ShowMotion Inc., has experience designing Broadway sets and lent her expertise to the project.

“Within 24 hours, she gave us detailed drawings and a materials list for building it. With a few parent volunteers and students, it came together within a couple of weeks and works great for our show!” said Andy Pohlen, a technology teacher at the high school and the show’s producer and technical director.

Pippin is appropriate for all ages. According to Morrisey, there will be “lots of fun and catchy songs from the show as well as exciting moments on stage for all ages.” ■

Buy tickets at jbhs.booktix.com

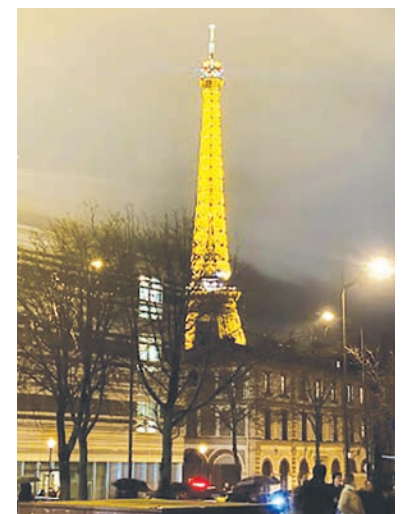
From classroom to café

A student’s diary on a class trip to France

By Victoria Flishenbaum



After a morning hike, the view of Nice and the Mediterranean Sea.



Photos by Victoria Flishenbaum
The beautiful Eiffel Tower at night.

During February school break, 32 students from Joel Barlow High School traveled to France for a week-long trip, filled with cultural immersion, historic landmarks, practicing our French, and representing our towns abroad. The trip was designed to enhance our language skills and deepen our understanding of French history and its invigorating culture. Not only was the trip a way for students to enjoy their time, but also a lesson beyond classroom learning, giving us first-hand exposure to the country. From taking the Metro to catching a train, we got to experience life as a true French native.

We got to visit Paris, Nîmes, Avignon, spend a couple of hours in Aix-en-Provence, and enjoy balmy Nice. Each day was filled with busy schedules, such as visiting the Musée d’Orsay in the morning, going to the iconic Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Paris, having lunch on our own, and discovering Île de la Cité in the afternoon. Some of the landmarks we visited were the Eiffel Tower, Château de Fontainebleau (one of the largest castles of the royal French chateaux), and a cruise along the River Seine. Other days we visited the largest Gothic palace in Europe called the Palais des Papes in Avignon; admired the famous three-level stone Roman aqueduct, Pont du Gard in Nîmes;

and visited the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Nice. We had many opportunities to engage with locals such as at the Market in Vieux Nice, where I indulged in trying many fruits and pastries.

Beyond sightseeing and taking photos, the experience encouraged independence, cultural awareness, and more confidence using the French language than before. For many students including myself, the trip offered a deeper understanding of French culture that I hadn’t learned in a classroom, as well as a refreshed appreciation for global perspectives. From trying to figure out how to communicate with a chocolatier who doesn’t speak English one day, to perfectly ordering a croissant the next, I learned that confidence develops through constant practice, and being in the environment. Adjusting to the speed of the French language in everyday situations was initially a challenge, but it became easier over time. On our final night, we stumbled upon a local carnival in Nice, danced to the lively music, moving to the rhythm of traditional French beats. Laughter echoed across the streets, and a culture that had felt unfamiliar just a week ago had given us confidence and a genuine connection to the culture. It had become clear how far we had come in just one week. ■

John Read Science Olympiad team takes second at UConn Invitational

By Anne Young Albanese



Photo by John Lo
Hunter Lo, Ifidon Ahiokhai, Evan Bushey, and Alexei Tikhomirov put the final touches on their hovercraft to simplify its control.

Students on the John Read Middle School Science Olympiad Team A placed second out of 14 at the recent UConn Invitational competition.

Because of the number of interested students, John Read Middle School sent two Science Olympiad teams to compete. While Team B did not earn a medal and placed 13th overall, coach John Lo noted that the tournament offered a valuable opportunity to practice for all the students.

“It is also nice to see where you land placement-wise... We got a couple of placements – there are 23 events at Science Olympiad competitions.” He added, “Some placed first, some placed second, some placed third. Even for the students that didn’t place, they did contribute to the team.”

Students practice in different areas of the school. Lo is the volunteer coach who runs the program. Principal Jennifer Desmarais is the team advisor. There are also eight parents and seven town residents who volunteer to work with the students.

The teams now turn their attention to the state competition, which will be held later this month.

“This is one of our last opportunities before States, which is March 14,” Lo said. “The students just really want to continue to improve and take either practice tests or study events or test out their builds.”

Lo will soon be looking to recruit students in grades 5-8 for the 2026-2027 school year. He will notify students and parents in the spring with more details. ■



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Redding’s Big Outdoors: A tale of two Great Ledges / continued from page 1

As I approached the turn-away from the ledge, I paused for one last look at the vista. Down a little slippery hill, and along the trail. Walking along, I looked for the small post with the little yellow sign saying “Devil’s Den Main Entrance, junction 60.” I turned left on the trail, following the yellow blazes back up the hill. The trail threads through a small stand of pine trees as it approaches the second Great Ledge. Soon, I was at the Devil’s Den Great Ledge, also a lovely spot. The view here isn’t the same. There are many more trees in the way, but trees are a beautiful thing as well. It is part of why I like

to do this hike with both vistas; they are both lovely in their own ways. The Devil’s Den Great Ledge has a large sign in memory of Anna Lee and Theodore Read Dayton. A nice reminder of all the history and the forward-thinking people who have been so instrumental in preserving so much land in our corner of the world.

I hiked on, following the yellow blazes to the junction with the sign that says Dayton pointing left. This sign confused me the first time I saw it, because I assumed it meant Dayton Road – it does not. There is a Dayton Trail as well. At the sign I headed right, along the Deer Run

trail, winding my way through the trees. As I passed between sections of a fallen tree that had been cut and cleared from the trail, I was reminded to be appreciative of all the work that goes into maintaining these trails for all of us to enjoy. After what always seems longer than it should, the trail met back at the junction with the Pinchbeck Trail, near the Great Ledge Loop/Gene’s Trail.

Back down always feels too short, across the bridge and on my way home. I continue to be grateful to live in Redding and have places like this so close and easily accessible. ■

OBITUARIES

Beverly Kaye April 5, 1929 – February 6, 2026



Beverly Kaye

Beverly Kaye, a cherished mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend, as well as an enthusiastic contemporary art lover, talented artist, pioneering fashionista, proud New Yorker, and gifted plant whisperer, passed away peacefully at the Regional Hospice in Danbury at the age of 96.

Family was her world, and although Beverly didn't grow up with the love and support she yearned for, she always managed to keep her spark alive. In her teens, Beverly stepped into her own through dance, enjoying nights out with friends as they danced to the Fox-trot and Lindy Hop. She also loved spending her time at the cinema, where she would watch a marathon of movies, paying once and then hopping into different movies. Her all-time favorite movie was the iconic *Gone with the Wind*. Beverly also loved listening to music – especially Ella Fitzgerald and young Frank Sinatra because of how romantic the songs were. Her creative outlets and adventurous pursuits brought her true joy, whether through traveling abroad or heading to the shore. Beverly's true happy place had always been the combination of sun, beach, and ocean.

On September 19, 1952, Beverly opened the doors to her beloved sportswear store, Town Abouts, creating a welcoming and tailored shopping experience for all her customers. With her imagination and natural eye for style, she transformed her store into a space where women felt seen, confident, and inspired. As her shop grew in popularity, Beverly offered a range of fashion that met the evolving desires of her community. She selected every item in her stores, ensuring that each piece reflected

her taste and attention to quality (her father was a master tailor after all!). Beverly built a loyal following through her warmth and sense of community, and was able to open a second store, with locations in Elizabeth and Westfield, New Jersey.

Beyond her accomplishments as an entrepreneur, Beverly's biggest joy was her family and friends. She was a devoted mother to Rob and Judy, a proud grandmother to David, Zaza, Izzy, and Kelly. She adored her role as a great-grandmother to Nova, Zen, and Romy, adding so much love to their lives.

She found joy in life's little traditions, especially when it came to her favorite treats like the Baumkuchen from Munich – a dark-chocolate-covered tree cake she eagerly anticipated each year for her birthday and Christmas. As soon as it arrived, she would pop the tin into the freezer. In fact, anything and everything fresh went directly into the freezer to stay fresh longer. Her freezer was the holy grail of food! You could find the best treats in there. But whenever the freezer door would stay open for more than five seconds, her familiar voice echoed with urgency: "Close the freezer!!"

She loved being creative and always busy with a project, whether it be painting, crocheting, or beading flowers. Her interior design taste and truly exquisite eye for color was mirrored in her love for midcentury modern furniture and beautiful, intentional artifacts around the house. When it comes to creativity in the kitchen, Beverly claimed not to be a good cook, but her garlic cornflake-crusting fried chicken begs to differ. She also enjoyed tending to her gorgeously manicured and wild gardens that turned her home into a botanical paradise. Her green thumb was passed down three generations.

Beverly consistently appreciated the joyful moments in her life, and whenever others spoke of their blessings, she would cheerfully respond, "God provides!" Although her grandchildren initially rolled their eyes at the phrase, it eventually transformed into a meaningful lesson about gratitude and the belief that everything would unfold as it should.

As she got older, we found humor in her hearing loss. She once drew attention to the beautiful sounds she was hearing: "Oooh, do you hear the birdies singing?" But it turned out to be several car alarms blaring at once. Whenever anyone would let her know of misunderstandings, she'd break out in laughter. In the last couple of years, Beverly's hearing worsened exponentially. If you were someone she really wanted to listen to, she would hand you a microphone attached to her headphones, reminiscent of a tin-can and a string.

Friends, family, and grandkids each had their own special name for her – Beverly, Mom, Grammy, Omi, Bev, Bevy, or even Bubbles. Her love for her grandchildren knew no bounds; she fostered their imagination with warmth, patience, and laughter, truly cherishing every moment spent together. She'd indulge every conversation, and e-mail funny stories or jokes. Appropos e-mail: she loved having the newest tech gadgets and got e-mail-savvy in the early '90s before any of her family members did.

Above all, Beverly offered a unique sense of stability and presence. Being with her meant feeling completely accepted and encouraged to be one's true self, which she also showed through her incredibly thoughtful gifts. Beverly cultivated a safe, creative, and nurturing environment where her grandchildren felt valued.

Beverly leaves behind a legacy not only as a creative businesswoman who empowered women through fashion but also as a beautiful, caring person who loved her circle of friends and family. Her gorgeous face was always plastered with a smile. She will be remembered for her creativity, strength, kindness, and generosity toward everyone who walked through her doors.

A celebration of Beverly's life will be held on April 4, 2026, in Connecticut. Details will follow.

Instead of flowers, the family kindly requests donations, in Beverly's memory to PBS/Channel 13 at www.thirteen.org. This was important to Beverly. Arrangements by Gray Funeral Directors, Westfield, NJ. Please go to: www.grayfuneralhomes.com to offer condolences. ■

Humor and talent will abound in *Rumors* by Neil Simon | By Pamela Brown

Laughter and conviviality will be in no short supply later this month, when a play reading of Neil Simon's popular farce, *Rumors*, is performed to benefit New Pond Farm Education Center.

"It's the funniest play I've ever seen or directed. It's a fast-paced, quick-witted, contemporary farce. The play revolves around four couples who meet in an upscale suburban home to celebrate one couple's wedding anniversary. Mayhem ensues as the party goes awry when the deputy mayor shoots himself in the ear," said Redding's-own Nancy Ponturo who is casting, directing, and starring in the play.

The annual fundraiser takes place at Pryor-Hubbard Hall at 30 Church Street from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 21. Light refreshments will be served.

Ponturo is bringing back the beloved comedy after directing *Rumors* in 2017 for the annual play reading.

"This year, when I was searching for a new play to direct, I kept saying to myself, 'Why can't I find another *Rumors*?' So, I chose to do a repeat performance. The atmosphere is always fun and casual. Friends gather to enjoy live theater, laugh together, and enjoy the evening's libations and delicious home-made desserts (lovingly baked by many New Pond volunteers)," said Ponturo.

In addition to Ponturo, the cast includes many local actors, including Bob Ponturo, Martin Robinson, Danielle Fitzsimmons, Michael Valinoti, Julia Levo, Dorothy Luongo, Chris Luongo, James O'Reilly, and Fred Newman. Ponturo was able to recruit six of the original nine actors who performed in the 2017 benefit (Nancy, Bob, Julia, Dorothy, Chris, and James).

A play reading, or, as Ponturo explains, a "script in hand," is a performance where actors read from scripts and follow minimal stage directions. Pryor-Hubbard Hall has been the venue for the fundraiser the last four years, and has a lovely stage and lighting, great sound, and cabaret-style seating for 150 people, according to Ponturo. "We'll have sound effects by Redding's own Fred Newman who has spent the last 20 years traveling and performing with Garrison Keillor and *A Prairie Home Companion*."

According to New Pond Farm's Executive Director Priya Desai,

Neil Simon's work is a perfect fit for the evening.

"His writing feels both timeless and deeply relatable. In the intimate setting of a play reading, the brilliance of his dialogue and the talent of the performers truly shine, creating a powerful shared experience," said Desai, noting the Play Reading has been a 10-year annual tradition to weave the performing arts into New Pond Farm's programming and to help support its educational programs that serve thousands of people annually. "It provides meaningful support and a deep sense of cultural connection for our community. The arts have been part of the Farm's educational philosophy, reflecting the belief that creativity is fundamental to how we learn and connect with the world around us," she said. "By bringing people together for a shared artistic experience, it strengthens community bonds and reinforces our belief that fostering imagination and human connection is fundamental to inspiring lifelong learning and responsible stewardship." Funds also help provide care for the Farm's animals and maintain the historic property to ensure it remains a vibrant place of learning, inspiration, and connection.

"This is a unique opportunity to experience exceptional live theater in a beautiful setting while supporting a non-profit that has served the community for over 40 years," added Desai.

Ponturo pointed out many of the actors also have a personal relationship with New Pond Farm. "I was the Artistic Director of the Summer Shakespeare youth program for 17 years, and the Enrichment Director for the first 12 years was Julia Levo and for the next five years was Dorothy Luongo. James O'Reilly was our summer intern as well. All of these gifted artists are donating their time and talents for this play reading," she noted. For over 30 years, the Farm has been a special place for Ponturo to take her children and, now, grandchildren. "I feel so fortunate to live around the corner from it. It's a silent gem and we are so fortunate to have it in our own backyard." ■

Seating is limited and reservations are required. Purchase tickets at newpondfarm.org or call (203) 938-2117

Jacqueline J. Fusek August 9, 1935 – February 19, 2026



Jacqueline J. Fusek

as both a student and musician, earning her positions of leadership and accolades in academia and musical organizations. She moved to Danbury after graduating from Montclair University and immediately became involved in the Danbury Symphony Orchestra as a violinist. Some years later, she earned her Master's Degree in Counseling from Fairfield University. She was known in the Danbury schools as an educator and a counselor, and as a school psychologist in Westport and Ridgefield.

Her musical avocation continued throughout her life. As an active senior, she performed with the National Senior Symphony Orchestra.

Jacqueline was also an active member of the Lions Club of Danbury, serving as chairperson of several committees, and a broadcaster for CRIS radio. We would

be remiss not to mention her 1962 title as the first Miss Danbury.

At the time of her death, Jacqueline and her husband, Emil J. Fusek, resided in Redding. An active member of St. Patrick Church, she served as a lector at Sunday Masses.

In addition to her devoted husband of 55 years, Jacqueline is survived by her loving sister, Eleanor B. Gradoia; her six nephews, Jeffrey, Gregory, and Stephen Case and Mark, Michael, and Eric Gradoia; and their spouses and children. In death, Jacqueline joins her younger sister, Adrienne Case; and her parents, Mary and Alexander Witulski.

Donations in memory of Jacqueline J. Fusek may be made to The Danbury Music Centre, 256 Main St., Danbury, CT 06810. ■

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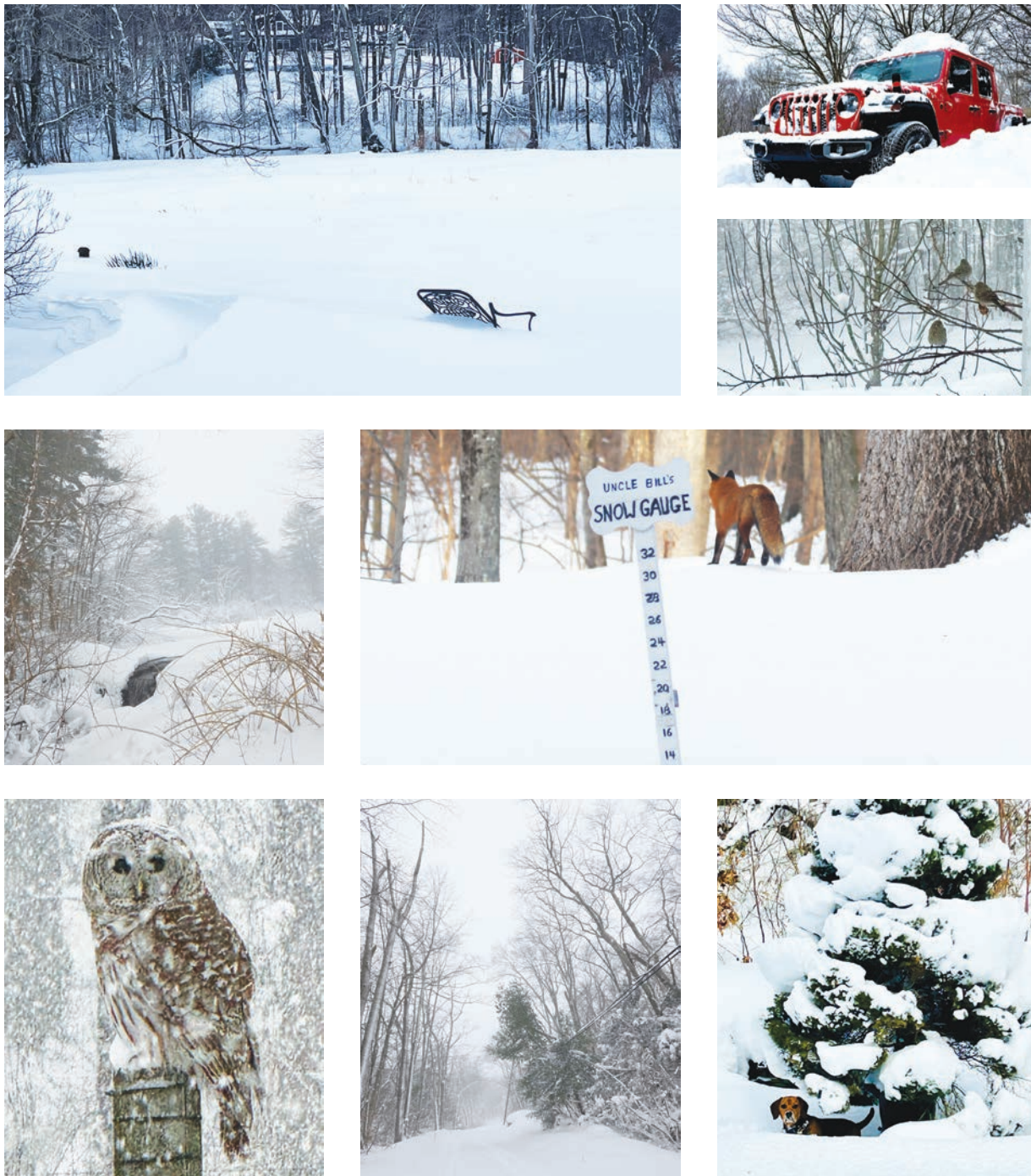
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Mother Nature puts on a show



(From top left, clockwise): Photo by Laurie Heiss / Drifts cover lawn furniture in a Cross Highway backyard; Photo by Bob Marty / Shoveling out cars has seemed like a perpetual chore this winter; Photo by Susan Clark / Birds wait patiently on rose canes for their turn at the feeder; Photo by Andy Bajorinas / A fox passes through a property on Tunxis Trail; Photo by Dale Walter / A beagle wades through chest-deep drifts; Photo by Fabian Burgos / Beeholm Road is covered during the blizzard on Monday, February 23; Photo by Marcus Farney / A barred owl on Lee Lane seems unbothered by the heavy snowfall; Photo by Fabian Burgos / A waterfall near Beeholm Road is surrounded in white.

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Road clean-up faced an uphill battle after blizzard / continued from page 1

up from the latest storm. But both noted that cities and towns have been tested severely by the severity of this winter.

“I’m sure that certain communities will have to tap their reserves” to cover overtime, supplies and other expenses related to snow removal, CCM Executive Director Joe DeLong said.

Last week, the Highway crew also was down two people and one truck, as a worker recuperated from an illness and another was away at a relative’s military graduation. “The snow was wet and heavy,” Gracy noted. “During the last big storm on January 25, when temperatures were in the single digits or lower, the snow was much lighter and easier to clear.”

The continued snowfall and persistent low temperatures have meant that sides of many narrow roads are already piled high when a new storm begins, requiring snow-plow operators to constantly push accumulated snow further back from the roadway. Snow from residential driveways can complicate matters, too: Professional snow-plow operators usually know to push snow far off roadways, but homeowners operating their own equipment often plow or blow snow into the street.

“Some people take the time to clear the road in front of their

house; others do not,” said Gracy. “In some cases, we’ve had to notify the Police Department to intervene.”

If there is a lesson learned from these recent snow events, in Gracy’s view, it is this: Winter is unpredictable. Both residents and municipalities cannot depend on the benign conditions of recent years to predict what will happen next.

“In recent years, we haven’t seen snow here until after the New Year,” Gracy said. At the very beginning of December, some areas of Connecticut received up to five inches of snow, and a December 26-27 storm produced a 10-inch snowfall.

Most residents heeded warnings to stay off the roads during the blizzard last week. As a result, there was just one stuck car that the Highway Department had to assist.

With roadways clear and schools and municipal offices open again, Highway Department crews spent the end of last week man-icuring the sides of roadways to ensure the snow won’t suddenly tumble back into the road as it melts.

The crew also cleared roadway edges for the possibility of yet another snowfall, though Gracy and his crew are optimistic that spring temps are right around the corner and that the bulk of snow-fall for 2026 is now in the rearview mirror. ■

REAL ESTATE

February 2026 real estate report

A look at trends in the local housing market | By Bill Whitehead and John Talley

February was a challenging month, given the first real New England weather in recent years with significant snowfalls and consistently arctic temperatures! Despite the weather, six properties did sell in Redding in February versus the same number in February 2025.

Year-over-year, inventories have remained very tight at 10 properties for sale versus 11 properties a year ago. We do expect that inventories will begin to increase in March as the weather improves, the snow melts, and the spring market begins to pick up steam.

The average sale price of homes in February was \$841,770, a decrease of 17% from February 2025. Year-to-date, the average price of properties sold in Redding was \$908,718, a 31% decrease from last year’s \$1,311,273. The average-price-per-square-foot of houses sold in February was \$384 (\$289 in 2025) with a year-to-date average of \$407 (\$378 in 2025). The average days-on-market in February was 192 versus 166 in February 2025; year-to-date, the average days-on-market was 153 versus 108 in 2025. ■

Bill Whitehead and John Talley are realtors with Berkshire Hathaway Home Services

February 2026													
Town	Current Inventory	Homes Sold		Average Days on Market		Average List Price		Average Sale Price		Percent Sale Price >/< List Price		Average Price/SqFt *	
	As of March 2	February	2026	February	2026	February	2026	February	2026	February	2026	February	2026
Redding	10	6	12	192	153	\$902,833	\$931,658	\$841,770	\$908,718	-7%	-2%	\$384	\$407
Ridgefield	19	9	22	109	102	\$1,613,333	\$1,316,136	\$1,565,333	\$1,310,232	-3%	0%	\$446	\$425
Weston	12	3	9	127	118	\$1,328,333	\$1,311,333	\$1,355,000	\$1,327,211	2%	1%	\$423	\$394
Wilton	21	6	10	61	91	\$1,218,833	\$1,338,200	\$1,298,683	\$1,408,021	7%	5%	\$533	\$492
Easton	8	4	10	57	95	\$1,043,500	\$1,015,000	\$1,069,250	\$1,012,780	2%	0%	\$339	\$336
Bethel	6	4	13	94	100	\$615,925	\$601,038	\$613,500	\$603,438	0%	0%	\$278	\$299
Newtown	39	15	32	102	97	\$613,573	\$688,084	\$625,367	\$690,274	2%	0%	\$307	\$288
Average	16	7	15	106	108	\$1,048,047	\$1,028,779	\$1,052,700	\$1,037,239	0%	1%	\$387	\$377

REDDING SOLD - February	Sale Price	List Price	%/ List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market
280 Newtown Tpke	\$408,000	\$399,000	2%	\$394	112
7 Peaceable St	\$460,000	\$480,000	-4%	\$511	52
22 Lonetown Rd	\$718,617	\$769,000	-7%	\$292	239
283 Redding Rd	\$939,000	\$949,000	-1%	\$399	203
28 Sunnyview Dr	\$1,150,000	\$1,195,000	-4%	\$312	234
56 Cross Hwy	\$1,375,000	\$1,625,000	-15%	\$393	309
Average	\$841,770	\$902,833	-7%	\$384	192

REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market	REDDING CURRENTLY FOR SALE	List Price	Price/Sqft*	Days on Market
71 Picketts Ridge Rd	\$539,000	\$580	49	229 Umpawaug Rd	\$7,495,000	\$1,116	297
429 Rock House Rd	\$769,900	\$299	16	63 Turney Rd	\$8,600,000	\$913	81
299 Redding Rd	\$979,000	\$374	59	123A Peaceable St	\$925,000	\$257	6
12 Werf Dr	\$1,750,000	\$434	58	36-40 Fox Run Rd	\$1,499,000	\$330	8
7 Long Meadow Ln	\$1,837,500	\$341	28				
2 Longwood Dr	\$1,849,000	\$295	59	Average	\$2,624,340	494	66

Listings continue on right side of table

** Calculated using livable square footage*

BOOK REVIEW

Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus

By Mary Shelley / Dover Publications / 155 pages / \$5.58

Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley is a literary horror classic. Published in 1818 when Mary was 20 years old, *Frankenstein* has been made into many films, beginning in 1910. A Google search uncovers that, “As of January 2026, a body of 469 known feature films, 236 short films, 93 TV series and 394 TV episodes feature some version or interpretation of the character Frankenstein’s monster.” It is reasonable to claim that, over time, the story has been shaped by films. Legitimate insights and screenplay bowdlerization have altered the story over the years, so that the monster, never named in the book, has assumed, in popular imagination, the surname of his creator. The 1931 film, starring Boris Karloff, took great liberties with the story, but created a perennial eponymous monster that resonates today. The 1974 Mel Brooks film, *Young Frankenstein*, was a popular horror comedy based on the 1931 film.

Over time, the story has evolved around its basic theme: If scientific man presumes to create life, (uniquely the province of God), bad things will happen — guilt, the loss of happiness, and death become the ultimate consequences. Psychological, social, and existential interpretations have grown around the monster’s enduring place in popular imagination. Among this year’s Academy Award nominees is the latest film iteration of *Frankenstein*.

Lord Byron, poet, friend, and neighbor to Percy Shelley, and his lover at the time, Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin, brought a challenge: “We shall each write a ghost story.” Only Mary’s effort succeeded. So, what did Mary Shelley think would most terrify the readers of her day? Alienation. Fear of separation, social ostracization, isolation, frustration, anger, despair, and resulting atrocity make the emotional center of Mary Shelley’s enduring story. Otherwise, for his presumption to trifle with life, guilt destroys the possibility of happiness for Victor Frankenstein. No quarter is left undisturbed. The monster foretells his intrusion into the wedding of his creator and then kills his bride on their wedding night. He later kills Victor, who is in mad pursuit. It’s worth noting that Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin eloped with Percy Shelley after his first wife’s suicide during their affair while she was writing the book. Universal components of horror that have frightened the imagination of readers and then filmgoers for more than two hundred years. Freudian, religious, social, existential, and psychological critiques, have been given over the years, a testimony to the book’s

emotional connection to the human condition.

Mary Shelley was the daughter of a well-known writer, William Godwin. Her mother, Mary Wollstonecraft, also a writer, died shortly after her birth. She grew up intelligent and well-educated but was not formally schooled. In her response to Lord Byron’s challenge, Mary creates an inhuman monster deprived of companionship and universally loathed, who is attacked. The monster therefore becomes angry and aggressive. The atrocities the monster leaves in its wake are not cries for help but rather signals of despair at being misunderstood. Victor is consumed by guilt when he learns of the creature’s murders, and he, too, later dies at the hand of the creature he made.

Frankenstein, the novel, is a surprising 18th century travel log. Mary Shelley evokes pre-industrial Switzerland, France, Germany, England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the polar ocean. Her characters travel paths through woods, go on boats, swim in rivers, lakes, walk on mountains and glaciers, and sail the seas. Before trains, travel took a very long time. It was slow, inconvenient, and sometimes impossible in cold seasons. It was not uncommon to have an accompanying companion to put off loneliness (Victor’s travel companion in Scotland, an old chum, Henry Clerval, is killed by the monster). Poverty was common, and people outside of town not on farms lived in cottages, hovels, or caves. Society, and therefore justice, was uneven. In the book, evil advice from a cleric causes an innocent servant girl, Justine, to give a false confession that results in wrongful conviction (and death). For context, it is worth mentioning that, in America, in 1792 (the same decade referenced in Mary Shelley’s novel) the Salem Witch Trials saw not one, not 10, but 20 women hanged for witchcraft in Massachusetts.

Justice depends on reason and intellect to attenuate human fear and ignorance of an age. Frankenstein’s monster is brutally treated by humankind and responds aggressively. When references to reality are intertemporarily abridged, a ripple effect based on fear and ignorance threatens order and peace. And religious exaggerations fan flames of guilt and fear, to poor result, as Mary Shelley perceived. Perhaps this is her true horror story. What fascinates is that for 200-plus years and counting, her monster is our mirror. ■

Review by Tom Casey, author of *Human Error, Strangers’ Gate, and Unsettled States*

LIBRARY CORNER

AI as a helpful colleague

By Erin Shea Dummeyer

Several Mark Twain Library staff members are participating in something called the “AI for Non-profits Sprint” Connecticut cohort and after only a few sessions, it has been transformative for us. We have one staff member acting as an “AI Fellow” who leads an internal AI team in creating guidelines for staff and coordinates peer learning sessions for us.

This morning during a breakout session with other non-profit leaders in the Connecticut cohort, I described my greatest AI challenge as, “not thinking of AI as something I can use until a time-consuming project is nearly complete.” I think this says a lot about how the AI landscape is changing, with tools like ChatGPT, Claude, and

Gemini now more pervasive in the workplace. It feels like we are on the precipice of truly changing how small non-profits can get their work done. It feels a little like how I imagine the invention of e-mail changed the workplace.

As an example, last year we completed work on our three-year strategic plan which required a team of Mark Twain Library staff members to travel to Middletown once a month to learn how to lead strategic planning sessions for stakeholder groups. At the time, the only AI tool I was familiar with was ChatGPT, and it seemed like the only thing it was good for was making writing sound robotic. But now, I realize I could have asked ChatGPT to teach me things we

learned at the strategic planning cohort like, “Walk me through the steps of leading a scenario planning workshop,” or “Send me interview questions I can ask a stakeholder that will help identify trends in our community as well as risks and opportunities for our future.” I was the human who would ultimately have to lead a scenario planning exercise or conduct an interview, but ChatGPT was that colleague I could turn to for help on where to start. I really feel like there is so much possibility with AI in the workplace, and my colleagues and I get excited whenever we learn more about it. ■

Erin Shea Dummeyer is Director, Mark Twain Library

Animals “in all their beautiful glory”

Redding painter celebrates four-legged creatures in Ridgefield Library exhibition

By Pamela Brown



Painting by Christine O’Keefe

Ever since painter Christine O’Keefe can remember, she has loved animals, and that passion has made them into her muse. “My greatest joy is working on a painting of an animal that I’ve connected with — no matter what the animal. They’re all very real and present to me and I don’t like to part with them,” said O’Keefe, a Redding resident who will be showcasing and selling a selection of her oil paintings in a solo exhibit, *4 on the Floor*, at the Ridgefield Library Gallery at 472 Main Street from March 7 through April 3. A public reception will be held Saturday, March 7 from 2:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

The exhibit’s theme is four-legged animals, both domestic and wild. “Those of us old enough remember manual transmissions in cars — a stick shift, which I still drive and prefer — as being called ‘4 on the floor,’ for the four gears. Dogs, horses, cows, etc. have ‘4 on the floor’ (paws and hooves), so I always referred to the paintings I’ve done of dogs in cars as ‘4 on the floor,’” explained O’Keefe.

O’Keefe often uses photos for reference when creating a painting. “Although when I can, I like to spend a little time with the animal to sense their personality, especially for commissions. But I’ve done several portraits of pets that have passed and worked exclusively from photos,” she said.

Recently, O’Keefe has started painting wild mustangs. “I’ve always loved horses and used to ride and jump when I was younger. I’m supportive of the movement to preserve the land and herds that have been under attack by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) out West, with brutal roundups for slaughter. I have befriended a few photographers who document these incredibly beautiful creatures and their situation, and they have allowed me to paint some of the horses,” said O’Keefe. “There is one painting in the show of a horse I fell in love with: Sorcerer. A black and white mustang stallion, posed on the prairie. I titled it *The Last Roundup*. Before I finished it, he was taken in a BLM roundup.”

In a bit of miraculous news, O’Keefe later discovered Sorcerer was rescued and taken to an animal sanctuary.

O’Keefe finds inspiration everywhere, even including the Caraluzzi’s parking lot. “I’d be on the lookout for a dog hanging out a window, have a little chat with the dog, and take pictures. As a child, a dog was always a treasured member of our family,” said O’Keefe. “When we were being driven to school, my dad’s hunting dog, Suku (a springer spaniel), sat in the passenger seat with the window down, in the winter, while the three of us sat in the back freezing to death. That was when I realized that dogs like to pass as ‘humans’ and are thrilled with experiencing people and places through that magic, moving portal, the car window.”

O’Keefe discovered the joy of painting at age 60. “My brother was an incredible artist, and my lifelong regret has been not letting him teach me years ago,” said O’Keefe, describing herself as a classical realist. She started taking classes in drawing and oil and followed it with six years of studying at Silvermine Arts Center in New Canaan along with attending workshops with well-known artists. “I want to capture what I see in a certain gesture or stance in an animal that conveys a feeling, or an aspect of its personality. There may be a way they’re standing, holding their head, a look in their eyes. I’m interested in presenting them, in all their beautiful glory, so you, the observer, can see it.” ■

4 on the Floor is on view at the Ridgefield Library through April 3

Redding... longtime a haven for artists

By Lisa Goldstein

When Annie Evans moved to Redding nearly two decades ago, she had no idea so many fellow artists lived in town. The Emmy award-winning television writer, whose work in children’s television includes writing for *Sesame Street*, likes to hike and take her dogs outside when she is not in the throes of writing for a TV show.

Documentary filmmaker Cindy Meehl came to Redding in 1997 specifically for its pastoral setting. “My life dream was to live on a farm, and I never thought I would find one so close to the NYC area,” said Meehl. “I heard Redding was a hidden gem that had an abundance of artists, writers, and creative interesting people. That turned out to be joyously true!”

Evans and Meehl will be on a panel discussion at Mark Twain Library on Thursday, March 12 at

7:00 p.m. along with famed jeweler Robert Lee Morris and internationally renowned artist Rob Mars to kick off a four-part series called the “Secret Lives of Artists.” The series aims to offer residents and neighbors the opportunity to get to know many of the talented artists who live within our community.

“We wanted to mark the fact that these people are here in Redding, and to get their voices out of the shadows and have the Redding community hear them,” explained Tom Casey, a fiction writer who lives in Redding and is one of the brains behind the series. (Editor’s Note: Casey is also the *Sentinel*’s book reviewer.)

Casey met fellow author (and series initiator) Carolyn Prusa at an event held for authors at Mark Twain Library where they realized they both often worked in solitude

and could use some camaraderie. The two were keenly aware that many more creative minds live and work in similar atmospheres — at home in the woody Connecticut neighborhoods around them. For Prusa, holding these panel discussions is a way to celebrate the many creative pioneers in our midst.

“We hope to touch on topics creative people similarly grapple with, their different processes, what inspires them, how to keep your spirits up in the face of rejection,” she said.

Redding has a long history as a haven for artists. It started back in 1852 with the arrival of the railroad, making Redding more accessible to the art scene and artists in New York City. It was expected to be a place for part-timers, according to a memoir by Monique Watson Wiedel, *When Two Worlds Met:*

The Arts and Farming Community of Long Ridge Road. But, as Wiedel noted in her memoir, the opposite occurred. “Many of them became permanent residents and brought talents, variety, and benefits to the neighborhood.”

Perhaps our most famous resident, American humorist Mark Twain arrived in 1907. American playwright Rachel Crothers, known as the “Neil Simon of her day” bought her home here a few years later, as did composer Charles Ives. Katherine Dreier, credited for bringing modern art to the public by co-founding Société Anonyme, moved to West Redding in the 1920s and often hosted art gatherings at her estate “The Haven.” Photographer Edward Steichen came in the late 1930s, followed by the composer Leonard Bernstein and artist and illustrator Arthur

Shilstone in the 1950s and ‘60s. The 1970s brought actress and environmentalist Carmen Mathews, who founded New Pond Farm, and the artist James Grashow, known for his cardboard sculptures. Grashow was profiled in Meehl’s recent documentary *Jimmy & The Demons*, which premiered shortly before his death last September.

Illustrator and author Tasha Tudor, known most notably for her pictures in a 1962 edition of *The Secret Garden* and a 1944 version of *Mother Goose* moved here in the 1930s dreaming of living a “more rural life.” As Meehl indicated, the proximity to New York City also remains a big draw. When Rob Mars and his family were looking for a more rural setting than their home in Queens, the artist known for his mixed media pop art still

Continued on page 9

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Entrepreneurs create national pet care marketplace with PetWorks

By Justin Reynolds



Photo courtesy of Kevin Kinyon

Redding residents and childhood friends Kevin Kinyon and Michael Caldwell are partners once again in running Petworks.

After experimenting with a few careers in his 20s, Kevin Kinyon realized he'd been bitten by the entrepreneurial bug.

In 1997, he cofounded GigMasters – an online marketplace for booking live music and entertainment – alongside Michael Caldwell, a childhood friend.

Though they grew up together on Long Island, their bond didn't truly deepen until after college when both were living in New York City. That's when their entrepreneurial journey took off.

Today, practically every business seems to be digitally native. But back in the '90s, the internet landscape was entirely different.

"We invented online booking for local bands," Kinyon said. "We were ahead of our time, the only game in town. We created that space."

Being on the cutting edge paid off. After hiring a team, securing office space in Georgetown, scaling, and eventually relocating the business to South Norwalk, The Knot – a popular wedding planning

platform – acquired GigMasters in 2015.

"They'd taken an interest in us because they were an online magazine at the time and didn't have booking systems in place," Kinyon explained. "They knew about us because we were doing a lot of wedding bookings even though we were originally built for entertainment and music. They reached out, invested in us, and we partnered together for three years before they bought us out completely."

Caldwell stayed on for a couple of years after the acquisition; Kinyon took a breather to do some consulting work and spend the bulk of his time raising his daughter, Katie, now 16.

Fast-forward to today, and Kinyon and Caldwell – both Redding residents – are back at it with a new venture called PetWorks. Described by Kinyon as a "North American pet care marketplace where pet parents can go book pet care services they often struggle to find elsewhere," PetWorks was cofounded by Caldwell and his wife, Danielle, in 2019. Kinyon came on as an investor and co-founder in 2020.

"He's the tech and product guy, and I'm the marketing, customer care, sales, and everything else guy," Kinyon said. "It's the

same scenario as GigMasters: We weren't funded, so we're running the company lean and mean. We don't have any full-time employees yet, but we do have digital marketing interns and a few other helping hands to manage the business."

PetWorks caters both to "pet pros" – those providing professional pet services – and to pet parents. While PetWorks offers in-person services, Kinyon says the platform's most popular pet care services are virtual: think animal nutrition advice, pet loss grief counseling, animal behavior assessments, lost pet finding, and even pet psychic readings.

"Sessions are typically conducted between pet pros and pet parents via our proprietary video chat tool," Kinyon said. "Of course, the online sessions can be done from anywhere."

Additional services include pet portrait art, pet transportation, animal chiropractic care, and dog training.

"I guarantee you'll either find pet care you need or pet care you didn't know existed," Kinyon said.

As of February 2026, PetWorks boasts a group of 5,000 vetted pet care professionals across the United States, along with 80,000 pet parent users.

To date, PetWorks has done over 10,000 bookings. Some highlights that stand out for Kinyon include helping a distraught customer find and book help during a difficult time, assisting a pet parent in finding wellness care that she couldn't find anywhere else online, and helping pet care professionals who might not otherwise have marketing resources or expertise take their local businesses national, Kinyon said.

Kinyon moved to Redding in 2007; he lives with his wife, Bernadette, and daughter – and, of course, their pets: two dogs, Pebbles and Bailey, and two cats, Moosh and KAT.

"We love it here – even with all of the snow shoveling," he said with a laugh.

As a serial entrepreneur, Kinyon marches to the beat of his own drum and is comfortable not knowing what tomorrow will bring. He and Caldwell are excited with their current venture and plan to keep building PetWorks to its full potential.

"I just want to have fun, do my best, and make the world better," he said. "That's what it's all about." ■

For more information, visit petworks.com

Redding... longtime a haven for artists / continued from page 8

wanted "to enjoy the cultural amenities and energy that only a large city can offer." Now more than a decade later, he said they couldn't be happier. "A town once home to Mark Twain, Edward Steichen, Charles Ives, and so many other

creatives and fascinating individuals... There's something inspiring about living in a place with such a rich artistic and literary history."

Veteran television producer and painter Bob Marty, a longtime Redding resident and a creative

force unto himself, will moderate all four of the conversations in the series. Marty and his wife Julie, who is an abstract painter, own the Georgetown Arts & Cultural Center (GTownArts.com), an art gallery and project space in Georgetown.

"I was happy to get involved as soon as I heard the idea," said Marty. "At our gallery, we offer a gathering place for artists and art-lovers in Redding and the surrounding area, so this is a natural way to extend our gallery's mission; to share

a love of the arts with even more of our neighbors."

Additional programs in the series will take place at Mark Twain Library in April, September, and November this year, with artists to be announced at a later date. ■

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THE NATURAL WORLD

The Outside Story: Seeds, frazil, and flocs

By Steven Arcone



Illustration by Adelaide Murphy Tyrol

Mile-long Trout Brook cuts downhill through heavily bouldered glacial moraine in the Indian Ridge area of western New Hampshire. Like any woodland brook, it features waterfalls, cascades, pools, and coves. By mid-December it is usually frozen over, with audible water running under the ice and snow. Only a mile from my home, I often visit this brook from mid-November until late March to see the splash-enhanced bulbous icicles and frozen foam.

During some recent winters, however, climate change has brought unseasonably warm spells, incomplete ice covers, decreased water levels, and insignificant snowfall, all of which expose ice formations normally unseen. These formations are known as frazil (often referred to as “frazil ice”), and they don’t begin in water, they begin in the air.

Ice first forms in air because water turbulence prevents freezing even when its “supercooled” temperature is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, and brooks and many parts of rivers are highly turbulent. Even on Trout Brook’s widest pools, where you might see a leaf moving only a mile per hour or less, the water below is swirling, churning, and mixing. Experiments have shown that vapor in cold air, which will

not spontaneously freeze until its temperature reaches about negative 42 degrees Fahrenheit, will nonetheless freeze against dust or organic matter to form microscopic “ice seeds” at far warmer temperatures. In woodlands, airborne bacteria and fungal spores most commonly host ice seeds.

The ice seeds eventually fall into the supercooled turbulent water. Just as ice particles tumbling through air amazingly form symmetrical snowflakes, ice seeds tumbling within turbulent water collide, break (forming more seeds), and grow into tiny symmetrical discs. Most discs are elongated into forms known as spicules, typically one millimeter or less long. These forms are what scientists refer to as true frazil. Discs tend to stick together upon collision to form what is known as flocs. Their diameter can exceed a few inches as more discs and water freeze to them. Dipping a fish net into a brook after a cold night will likely catch several.

Frazil freezes against cold shores and gets caught in coves, accumulating to make what river engineers call border ice. This ice first appears as a random mesh with space for frazil to grow. Within hours, flat, inch-long, tree-like crystals with branches at different angles appear. If crystals are not obvious to your unaided eye, try a close-up cell-phone picture to see their beauty. Break off a chunk to find jumbles of inch-sized flocs, and crystals that have grown into vertical plates on the undersides. Within a day or two, borders will have grown into a solid white mass, far different than the fresh, transparent, bubble-rich ice we see on our New England lakes.

Frazil and flocs freeze and accumulate against submerged

shores, mid-stream rocks, and river bottoms, all of which have been supercooled by the water. Engineers call this accumulation anchor ice. A few years ago, when I was exploring Trout Brook in late February, I found myriad flocs accumulated against shoreline rock walls, on mid-stream boulders, and piled on the beds, as I expected. By early March, the ice and snow were gone, Trout Brook was roaring, and moss and lichen on rocks and trees were fully visible. Though it felt like winter might be over, cold weather later that month brought me back to see plenty of fresh crystalline borders and anchor ice.

Visiting Trout Brook throughout the long winter has allowed me to see the many forms of ice and to understand how the story of ice forming might unfold again and again throughout future winters. As you walk through your winter woods, I hope you might stop at a brook or stream to notice ice. Look around at the lichen on the trees and any moss or fungi that may be exposed on the ground. Some bacteria are still active in cold weather, and a gust of wind can launch bacteria and fungal spores from their places into the air. These will attract more vapor, creating ice seeds, which will eventually become ice crystals. ■

Steven Arcone is a semi-retired research geophysicist whose professional career included 43 years at the U. S. Army Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, New Hampshire. The Outside Story is assigned and edited by Northern Woodlands magazine and sponsored by the Wellborn Ecology Fund of New Hampshire Charitable Foundation: nhcf.org.

Notes from a neighbor

Let it snow, but not so much

By Carter Wiseman

Years ago, New Englanders were braced for winters defined by lots of snow. Only a few years back, there was so much in our area that we bought a plow attachment for the little John Deere mower we used to cut our grass. But it couldn’t handle more than about six inches of the wet stuff. I remember neighbors flashing \$20 bills at passing plow-equipped pick-ups to clear a driveway.

But in the past few years, we have had a mere dusting. However one feels about climate change, heavy snow seemed to be a thing of the past. And then this January and February, we got whacked with two storms that dumped nearly two feet apiece. This has scrambled my ideas about dealing with the winter I thought I knew. It used to be something we prepared for. In the fall, I would saw and split the wood from the trees that had fallen behind our house over the summer, looking forward to cozy fires in January and February. I swapped the sandals in the closet for the high-top boots that would let me leave the house without swamping my New Balance runners. And I would let the faucets drip in the back bathroom to make sure the pipes didn’t freeze.

But the past couple of mild winters made me drop my guard. When it came time to replace the tires on my car, I passed up the pricey all-weather Nokian option in favor of standard Goodyears. I didn’t stock up on ice-melt as I had in past years, and I dumped the plastic ice scrapers deep in the garage next to the grass clippers and badminton rackets.

My worst mistake was failing to take my roof rake out of storage. I had bought it at Home Depot years

ago when snow was a sure thing, and an earlier storm had created the dreaded *ice dam*. This happens when snow on the roof melts. If the roof is well insulated, the water drips harmlessly off the edge. But if the roof’s edge is colder than the slope, a barrier of ice builds up, and sends the water back up under the shingles – and into the house. My wife and I realized that we had a problem when freezing water began dripping on our heads at about 2:00 a.m. and resorted to attacking the problem in our jammies with a hair dryer. Not smart!

Lulled by recent warming, this year I skipped raking our roof, and sure enough, the dams began. Happily, an online hacker recommended filling socks with ice melt and laying them across the dams to create channels for the water to exit. I am usually wary of on-line solutions, but this one worked, and it reminded me that I should never skip the roof-raking again, or any of the other sensible precautions I had abandoned.

I was not alone. I read on the local website of neighbors desperately seeking plumbers who could deal with burst pipes and roofers who could clear ice dams. Since then, however, the weather has eased up. If global warming continues in the coming years, I won’t miss the ice dams, not to mention the driveway that made it a candidate for Olympic hockey.

But I will miss knowing what to expect. There is something comforting in arming oneself against adversity. If the enemy melts, what is there to fight for? ■



Celebrate America’s 250th Birthday with a concert of patriotic music featuring the Greater Bridgeport Symphony performing the music of Redding’s own Charles Ives. The Symphony will also play popular American music with the students of Joel Barlow High School.

HELP MAKE THIS CELEBRATION HAPPEN
Become a sponsor and bring the Greater Bridgeport Symphony to Redding

Visit Redding250.com to learn more!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

\$ = fee applies
R = registration required

This Week's Featured Events

Bardin-Niskala Duo

Sunday, March 8
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Video and immersive musical performance, including three premieres by immigrant composers
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org/events
\$

Music on the Hill presents: Song is a Strong Thing

Sunday, March 8
4:00 p.m.
The Festival Chorus of Music on the Hill presents a celebratory concert in honor of Black History Month.
Temple B'nai Chaim
82 Portland Avenue
musiconthehillct.org/events
\$

The Secret Lives of Artists – An Allen & Helen Hermes Art Series Panel Discussion

Thursday, March 12
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Get to know celebrated artists living in our community
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Want to feature an upcoming event?

E-mail us at advertise@reddingsentinel.org for more information.

ARTS

Sunday, March 8

Bardin-Niskala Duo
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Video and immersive musical performance, including three premieres by immigrant composers
The Granite
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Temple B'nai Chaim
82 Portland Avenue
musiconthehillct.org/events
\$

Thursday, March 12 – Saturday, March 14

Joel Barlow High School presents Pippin
7:00 p.m. Thursday – Saturday
2:00 p.m. Saturday
Joel Barlow High School
100 Black Rock Turnpike
jbhs.booktix.com
\$

Thursday, March 12

The Secret Lives of Artists – An Allen & Helen Hermes Art Series Panel Discussion
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Get to know celebrated artists living in our community
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Saturday, March 14

Kathleen Parks of Twisted Pine
7:00 p.m.
Fiddler, songwriter, and singer
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org
\$

Sunday, March 15

Connecticut Master Choral Spring Concert
3:00 p.m.
Patriotic and American music in honor of America 250
First Congregational Church
164 Deer Hill Avenue
Danbury
cmchorale.org
\$

Sunday, March 15

ClueDunnit?! Improv Performance
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Interactive, improvised murder mystery
The Granite
5 North Main Street
thegranitechurch.org
\$

Friday, March 20 – Saturday, March 21

CS Lewis Live on Stage - The Great Divorce
7:00 p.m.
Anthony Lawton brings to life Lewis' vision of the struggle within the human soul.
First Congregational Church
Ridgefield
103 Main Street
Ridgefield
firstcongregational.com

CHILDREN | TEENS

Monday, March 9

Kindergarten Story Time with Bus from RES
3:10 p.m.
Ride bus from RES and enjoy books, stories, songs, and snacks
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Friday, March 13

In the Kitchen: A Tex Mex Fiesta
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
For grades K-4, build kitchen skills and create meals to share
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

Friday, March 13

Lucky Bingo
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Bingo night for grades 2-8 hosted by Park and Recreation
Redding Community Center
37 Lonetown Road
reddingct.gov
\$, R

Thursday, March 19

3rd Annual College Fair Hosted by Westport Day School
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Learn about and meet representatives from colleges that specifically offer learning supports
372 Danbury Road
Wilton
eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-college-fair-hosted-by-westport-day-school-tickets-1982356592933
R

Thursday, March 21

YMCA Site-Wide Easter Egg Hunt
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Riverbrook Regional YMCA
404 Danbury Road
Wilton
wiltonymca.org/easter-egg-hunt
\$, R

FOOD | WINE

Wednesday, March 18

Meet the Brewer Happy Hour
5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Free samples and tastings
Nod Hill Brewery
137 Ethan Allen Highway
nodhillbrewery.com

Friday, March 22

5th Annual Afternoon of Casks Festival
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Pints, oysters, music, and food
Nod Hill Brewery
137 Ethan Allen Highway
nodhillbrewery.com
\$, R

HEALTH | WELLNESS

Tuesday, March 10

Yoga & Sound Healing by Firelight
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

NATURE

Saturday, March 7

Woodcock Walk
5:45 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
Walk to look and listen for the American Woodcock
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
R

Tuesday, March 10

Taking Great Landscape Photographs
7:00 p.m.
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

Wednesday, March 11

Nature Book Club: H is for Hawk
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Books available at Mark Twain Library
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
R

Sunday, March 15

Sundays on the Farm: Family Hike
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Bring the family for a morning of fun
New Pond Farm Education Center
101 Marchant Road
newpondfarm.org
\$, R

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Mondays – Fridays

The Breakfast Club
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Ongoing Alcoholics Anonymous meetings, every weekday
Christ Church Episcopal
184 Cross Highway

Tuesdays, March 3 – April 7

Ken Burns's The American Revolution weekly screening
1:00 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.
Six-episode documentary series, screened with 10-minute break each session
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road
RSVP to mstillman@townofreddingct.org or (203) 938-9725
R

Thursday, March 5

Waterpower, Workers & Woven Wire – How Gilbert & Bennett Fits the Textile Industry Pattern
7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Held in partnership with The Granite and Town of Redding
Mark Twain Library
439 Redding Road
marktwinlibrary.org
R

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
44 Portland Avenue
bethlehemlutheranct.org

Calvary Independent Baptist Church

Adult and Child Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. / Worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Nursery provided for all services.
711 Redding Road
cibredding.org

Christ Church, Episcopal

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
184 Cross Highway
christchurchredding.org

First Church of Christ, Congregational

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
25 Cross Highway
firstchurchredding.org

Long Ridge United Methodist

Sundays at 11:30 a.m.
201 Long Ridge Road
Danbury
longridgeumc.com

Sacred Heart / St. Patrick Parish St. Patrick Church:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
Monday-Friday: 8:30 a.m.
Confessions:
Saturdays 4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. and Mondays and Thursdays 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. and before/after Weekday Mass
Eucharistic Adoration:
Mondays and Thursdays 7:00 p.m.
169 Black Rock Turnpike
sacredheart-stpat.org

Georgetown Oratory of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., and 12:00 p.m. (Latin)
Tuesday and Thursday: 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday: 6:00 pm. (Latin)
Holy Days: 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
First Fridays and Saturdays: 8:30 a.m.
Confessions:
Saturdays 7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. and Wednesdays 5:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration: Saturdays 5:00 p.m. following Vigil Mass
30 Church Street

Temple B'nai Chaim

Friday, March 6
Family Shabbat
6:00 p.m.
82 Portland Avenue
templebnaichaim.org

MEETINGS

Thursday, March 5

Redding Safety Committee
4:00 p.m.
Virtual

Thursday, March 5

Region 9 Board of Education
7:00 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Friday, March 6

Region 9 Board of Education Select Committee on Academic Rigor, Standards, and Grading
8:30 a.m.
Joel Barlow High School / Room A108
100 Black Rock Road

Monday, March 9

League of Women Voters
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Conference Room
100 Hill Road

Monday, March 9

Board of Ethics
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Conference Room and Virtual
100 Hill Road and Zoom

Monday, March 9

Republican Town Committee
7:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, March 10

Planning Commission
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, March 10

Redding Fire District #1
7:00 p.m.
Redding Ridge Firehouse
186 Black Rock Turnpike

Wednesday, March 11

Commission on Aging
9:00 a.m.
Heritage Center
37 Lonetown Road

Wednesday, March 11

Zoning Commission
7:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Thursday, March 12

Gilbert & Bennett Wire Mill Advisory Committee
6:00 p.m.
Town Hall / Conference Room and Virtual
100 Hill Road and Zoom

Thursday, March 12

Redding Fire District #2
West Redding Firehouse
306 Umpawaug Road

Monday, March 16

Board of Assessment Appeals
4:30 p.m.
Town Hall / Hearing Room
100 Hill Road

Tuesday, March 17

Region 9 Board of Education
7:00 p.m.
Joel Barlow High School / Library Learning Commons
100 Black Rock Turnpike

Wednesday, March 18

Water Pollution Control Commission
7:30 p.m.
Virtual

*See meeting agendas and details at reddingct.gov/events

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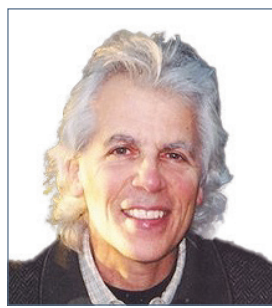
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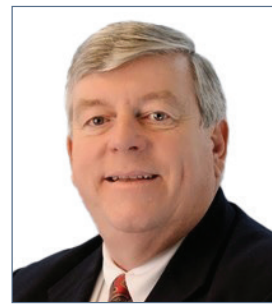
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As the clocks turn ahead this Sunday, trust your next move to local experts who understand timing, strategy, and opportunity.

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