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THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2014

## Faces of Memorial Day 2014



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN,  
SAM RATHBUN AND  
MARK NIEDHAMMER



A reminder of our country's sages-long call to military service, fifer Nate McGarry, above right, wore a Revolutionary War uniform at Salisbury's Memorial Day ceremonies. Brian Ohler of North Canaan, above, was guest speaker at Sharon's proceedings. And Samantha Silvernail of Salisbury enjoyed an ice cream cone during Salisbury's event. More photos, stories on town pages.

## Paley's Farm Market: plants, tools, but no food this year

By Tara Kelly

SHARON — Charlie Paley, grower, gardener, owner and operator of Paley's Farm Market has spent the last few weeks fielding the inevitable questions from his regular clientele, "When's the farm market going to open? When will the cheese be in? The bread? The wonderful pies and gelato?"

And then, he must deal with their disappointment when he tells them, "Not this year."

It's true. He's taking a break from the food. The rumors that he's closing, however, are completely unfounded. A quick look around the greenhouse makes it clear that business is going strong.

So what is behind this major change, and what does it mean for his customers and vendors?

"I'm taking a sabbatical," Paley said. It was a tough decision. He knew it would impact his staff, his customers and his purveyors. For their part, "They've been very understanding." In past summers, Paley said, "my time off has been measured in hours."

A letter posted on the Paley's Farm Market website explains a bit more of the thinking behind this change:

"We are going to give our

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PHOTO BY TARA KELLY

Charlie Paley stands surrounded by a vast variety of annuals, perennials, herbs and vegetables in one of his many greenhouses at Paley's Farm Market in Sharon.

## Love makes a garden grow

By Cynthia Hochswender

AMENIA — Longtime couples know that, after the bliss of a wedding, the challenge begins: How does one make love grow through the years?

An Amenia couple has found an innovative answer to this timeless question. For their wedding, they asked their guests to make donations toward a garden rather than buying traditional gifts.

Leo Blackman and Ken Monteiro, who had owned a property in Wassaic for 12 years, were married in June 2012. Instead of registering for pots and pans, "we asked for money to purchase plants," Blackman said.

The couple then went to the

Amenia Town Board and offered to create a public garden at Town Hall. Their offer was accepted with gratitude.

Blackman (who is 53) and Monteiro (who is 58) worked with friend and neighbor Marsha Kaufman, who is a garden designer, to come up with a garden plan that would be beautiful but also low-maintenance.

The result was a design featuring shrubs, crab apple trees, climbing hydrangea and columnar evergreen plants. In all, more than 400 plants were purchased.

Monteiro and Blackman also paid to for excavation and soil for the new garden, and will pay

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## NATURE'S NOTEBOOK BERNARD A. DREW

### Center wheel preferred

Spring wasn't officially here until I'd dusted off the tiller and churned up the soil in our 15-by-15-foot vegetable garden. It took me three sprays of starter fluid, 17 tugs on the rope, three patient walks around the crabapple tree to let the choke fumes evaporate and it started right up.

The garden spot has underlying clay, which nicely holds moisture in dry summer but correspondingly is slow to dry out in April. Or this year, in May.

Two runarounds with the tiller. It has only four rotating tines (it's a Troy-Bilt under another

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## Trust acquires farm development rights

By Patrick L. Sullivan

SALISBURY — The Salisbury Association Land Trust announced Thursday, May 22, that it has completed a deal on a 38-acre parcel along the Housatonic River in Salisbury. The land will stay as farmland with a plan that will protect river quality and allow public access.

According to George Massey of the Land Trust, the majority of the funding for the purchase is from the Natural Resource Damages (NRD) fund established by General Electric to restore, rehabilitate or acquire the equivalent of the natural resources and recreational uses of the Housatonic River that were injured by the release of PCBs from the General Electric facility in Pittsfield, Mass.

The NRD fund was initially a \$15 million pot split between Massachusetts and Connecticut as part of the October 2000 Consent Decree.

The Belter Land Protection Project required the support of three funders: the John T. and Jane A. Wiederhold Foundation, which provided \$150,000; the Connecticut Housatonic River NRD Trustee Council (representing the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Lou Hecht, left, and George Massey, right, co-chairs of the Salisbury Association Land Trust, with Housatonic Valley Association's Tim Abbott, Litchfield Hills Greenprint director, at the recently conserved Belter Farm parcel.

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), which provided \$335,000; and \$50,000 from the Salisbury Association Land Trust. The \$335,000 NRD grant was procured by the Housatonic Valley Association.

The location of the protected property is between Route 7 and the Housatonic River, half a mile south of Route 112 in the

southeastern corner of Salisbury, and was owned by John and Joyce Belter.

"I think the entire Belter family is happy that this land will always be used for agriculture," John Belter said. "I know that my dad and uncle, who farmed this land for so many years, are

See TRUST, Page A14

## Student documentaries tackle tough topics

By Leon Graham

Location: Torrington, Conn.

Crime: Statutory rape

Victims: Two 14-year-old girls

Perpetrators: Two 18-year-old high school football players

So began the 2013 saga that tore a high school and a community apart, with many students first defending the rapists and condemning the girls on social media. News coverage quickly expanded beyond Torrington to New York City and national television; the Torrington Register Citizen newspaper's handling of the case was roundly criticized as sensationalism by school officials.

Now in a documentary film — one of five to be shown in a Salisbury Forum-Civic Life Project (CLP) presentation at The Moviehouse in Millerton, on June 8 — Torrington High School students have edited down more than 50 hours of film

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