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from *The Lakeville Journal*
The Millerton News and Compass A&E

Published on *TriCornerNews* (<http://www.tricornernews.com>)

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By Patricia Decker









There was a children's fun run, but 8-year-old Piper Seibold, right, competed on the 5-mile course designed for adults. She was the youngest runner in the race, and she finished with a time of 45:50.81.
Photo by Patricia Decker

SHARON — Richard Grudzwick, 21, from New Milford, Conn., was the first-place winner in the 32nd annual Sharon Classic Road Race on Saturday, May 6, with a time of 27:04.30. His time did not break the record set in 2015 by Amos Sang of Chicopee, Mass.; he finished the 5-mile course in 24:38.

The first female finisher was Annmarie Tuxbury, 23, from New Hartford, Conn., who crossed the finish line with a time of 30:15.27. The record for a female runner was set by Askale Merachi of Ethiopia in 2013, with a time of 28:28.

As always, the race day began with a Fun Run. This year's competitors in the age 2-to-4 category were Jack Flanagan, Lucas Wang, Charlotte Olsen and Stella Watson.

Next, in the under 7-year-old group, were Oliver Peterson, Julie Hijack and Siggy Lussier.

About 20 older children ran in the Not Quite a Mile run. Keegan Olsen, 12, finished first with a time of 4:08.

All the while, there was a family festival on the Green, with a silent auction, a bounce house, a workshop with Joseph Brien from Lost Art Workshop and the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau. The Sunday in the Country crew offered food and drink and there were plants, cookies and dog biscuits for sale.

Aimee D. Davis once again gave free massages before the race to the competitors.

The road race was again organized by Karen Dignacco, who is on the board of the Daycare Center and a runner herself.

There were 132 entries this year for the 5-mile run/walk and 116 finishers. The sky was overcast (although it never rained). Most of the runners said they felt the conditions were good for the event. Nonetheless, attendance was lower this year than in the recent past; there were 206 finishers in 2016 and 160 finishers in 2015.

The average age for the entire group was 36 years; the youngest runner was 8-year-old Piper Seibold of Sharon, who finished with a time of 45:50.81. She ran alongside Scott Dignacco, 18, of Sharon who finished with a time of 45:51.86. The eldest racer was 79-year-old RobertaMcNeill of Sharon, who finished with a time of 51:57.49.

Race results from Fast Track Timing can be found online at www.iresultslive.com/?op=statistics&eid=2581 [3].

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