

COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

June 11, 2026



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Scot Galliher

Joining conservation and agriculture

By Elena Spellman

From the fields of Silver Mountain Hay in Millerton, Scot Galliher monitors moisture levels in horse feed, oversees the restoration of historic farmhouses and discusses the architectural details of the towering red barn that has become a local landmark. Two decades ago, he was working on Wall Street after leaving a career analyzing satellite data for a NASA subcontractor. Today, Galliher owns one of the area's most distinctive agricultural operations — a farm he purchased not simply to grow hay, but to preserve open land threatened by development.

Unlike many farmers who inherit generations of family land, Galliher arrived at agriculture through conservation. After returning from abroad, he already owned another nearby farm and often passed the Silver Mountain property while driving his wife to the Wassaic train station. At the time, development pressure in the region was intensifying, and a developer had reportedly been close to purchasing the land before the deal fell through. Galliher stepped in soon afterward.

"I bought the farm to prevent that from happening," he said.

That philosophy still shapes the operation today. For Galliher, farming and land preservation are inseparable. The open fields and rural landscapes that define the Harlem Valley survive only because working farms continue to exist, he argues. Without economically viable agriculture, open land eventually disappears — either overtaken by development or left unmanaged.

That long-term vision is visible across the property, particularly in the massive red barn that has become one of the area's most recognizable agricultural structures. After the original dairy barn deteriorated, Galliher began studying historic barns throughout the Northeast before working with an architect to design a replacement that reflected both traditional agricultural design and modern functionality. The finished structure includes clerestory windows that flood the interior with natural

our community

light, an Olympic-sized indoor riding arena and infrastructure designed for a future equestrian facility. "I wanted to build an equestrian barn," Galliher said.

Although the scale of the operation is impressive, Galliher speaks about farming in notably practical terms. Much of what he knows about hay production was learned through direct experience.

"Farming is largely learned through experience," he said. "You learn by doing."

Producing premium horse hay, he explained, requires careful attention to weather patterns, moisture levels, grass composition and timing. A sudden storm can destroy thousands of dollars' worth of hay in less than an hour.

Galliher approaches haymaking with the precision of an engineer. Moisture levels must be carefully controlled to prevent mold, and different horses require different nutritional profiles. While many horse owners prefer softer second-cutting hay, Galliher noted that first-cutting hay is often nutritionally superior. "It is very difficult to make 50,000 feed-quality bales of hay year after year," he said. Still, despite the technical demands of the work, Galliher describes farming less as an occupation than a way of life. "Farming is not a job," he said. "It's a lifestyle."

He speaks enthusiastically about the smell of fresh hay after a successful harvest and the satisfaction of watching trailers return to the barn at sunset after long summer days in the fields. And after years spent in finance, he says he does not miss Wall Street very much.

"The reward system here is different," he said. "I think it's richer. I think it's more human."

Today, Silver Mountain Hay stands not only as a working agricultural operation, but also as a reflection of Galliher's broader philosophy — that preserving rural landscapes requires more than admiration. It requires active stewardship.



Scot Galliher at Silver Mountain Hay in Millerton.

“
Farming is not a job. It's a lifestyle.

SCOT GALLIHER



Silver Mountain Hay in Millerton.

PHOTOS PROVIDED

BOOKS

William Kinsolving reimagines the Rhinelanders Affair

By Andrew Bavis

A century ago, the infamous case of *Rhinelander v. Rhinelander*, also known as the Rhinelanders Affair, shook American society. The trial pitted mixed-race maid Alice Jones against the Rhinelanders, one of New York's oldest and most powerful old-money families, drawing national attention. Now, 100 years later, the trial and the lives of those involved are brought back into focus in new ways in William Kinsolving's latest novel, "Black and White and Read All Over."

The book explores the dynamics of power and privilege within a deeply racist and classist society through the lens of what the author describes as "a uniquely American Cinderella love story done in by money and family power."

It's important to note that this book is not a biographical account of the Rhinelanders Affair, nor does it pretend to be. Instead, it is openly and proudly a work of historical fiction that, rather than being restricted by the historical facts of the events it covers, integrates them into a story focused on the imagined emotions and inner lives of Alice Jones and her family. When asked about this creative decision, Kinsolving said that "what historical fiction allows is [to imagine] what's between the lines of history, what the historian is forbidden to do."

The book uses fiction to fill the gaps that court records and New York Times articles do not cover, and in doing so breathes new life into this slice of history. The result is a compelling love story between two people brought together by chance and torn apart by forces of race, class and power beyond their control, alongside a moving portrait of a family's resilience in the face of a legal system designed to work against them.

One of the core aspects of "Black and White and Read All Over" is its examination of the racism and class politics that defined the period in which the book is set. Because of its subject matter, the book's central conflict is inherently intertwined with the society of the early 20th century, a time when old-money families

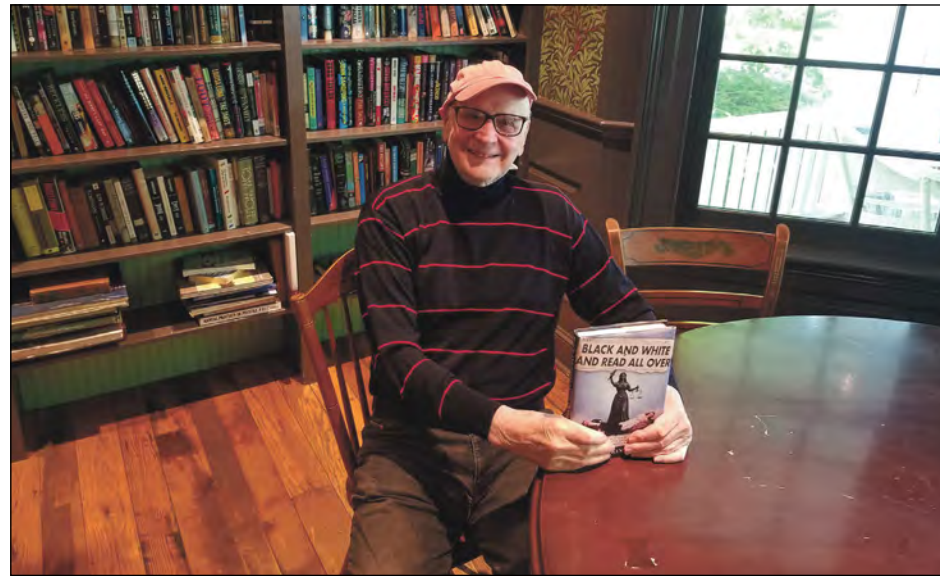


PHOTO BY ANDREW BAVIS

Author William Kinsolving explores race, class and privilege in his new historical novel, "Black and White and Read All Over."

held enormous influence in New York and the now-infamous one-drop rule — which classified anyone with African ancestry as Black — shaped racial identity and social standing. The novel leans into this reality, making the Jones family's status as a working-class, mixed-race household a prominent aspect of their identity and contrasting them with the white, aristocratic Rhinelander family, who serve as embodiments of the privileges and prejudices that dominated society.

The book uses Alice's experiences, as well as those of her family, to show firsthand the realities of living in a white supremacist society and under a legal system dominated by wealth — realities that will likely resonate with many readers a century later.

Ultimately, "Black and White and Read All Over" is an engaging and thought-provoking novel that uses a tragic love story rooted in history to examine the enduring roles of race, class and power in American society.

For more about the author and to order the book, visit williamkinsolving.com

“What historical fiction allows is [to imagine] what's between the lines of history, what the historian is forbidden to do.

WILLIAM KINSOLVING

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PHOTOS BY D.H. CALLAHAN

The Driving Range is located at 138 Route 44 in Millerton.

BUSINESS

Finding a home on the range

By D.H. Callahan

Before Flynn Ryan, the owner of the Millerton Driving Range, moved from Arizona to Lakeville as a high school freshman in early 2020, he had only a passing interest in golf. He was a football guy in Arizona, but when he found out practice for the Housatonic Valley Regional High School athletes was an hour away, he joined the golf team.

A couple of years later, while working on a school assignment to improve the community, Ryan noticed the old driving range. The weeds and grass were up to his eyes. With no connections and no experience, he walked into Talk of the Towne Deli next door, asked for the landowner's number and called him right there from the parking lot.

What he got was one heck of a deal.

The owner, who didn't like seeing the range fall into disrepair, was thrilled that a local kid wanted to revitalize the business. He gave Flynn the first year rent-free, use of all his equipment, a little knowhow and, just like that, the high school junior became a business owner.

That's where it stopped being easy.

At first, Flynn wasn't very good at golf. But his personality compels him to dive deep into his interests and make himself an expert. It's the same drive that pushed him to learn how to trade stocks, futures and cryptocurrency as a teen, spending years failing before turning a profit. That first year on the golf team, he earned the honor of most improved.

If you've ever been to the range, you know how wonderfully casual it is. It's the kind of place where nobody cares how good you are. Where people intimidated by the sport can pick up a club and have a great time right next to a seasoned pro. Classic rock pumps through the speakers. There are chairs and a coffee table for people who bring their own picnics and parties. A rag-tag collection of clubs invites you to try them out for size. The balls come out of a vending machine. The place is the definition of laid-back.

Flynn's job seems like the easiest in the world. It is not.

During the warmer months, Flynn gets



Flynn Ryan on the Range.

to the range at 6 a.m., picking up balls in his golf cart. Of course, the back field, where the long balls end up, has to be picked up by hand, one ball at a time. On busy days, that can mean as many as 6,000 balls. Once a week, he mows the whole thing.

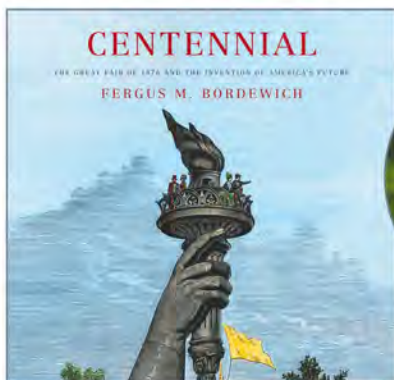
It might not sound like all that much, but consider that for most of the year Flynn is working toward a business degree at Old Dominion University in Virginia. When he's away, his family picks up the slack. His mother, Jennifer, chips balls into the center of the field with a pitching wedge before gathering them up, and his father, Michael, takes care of the mowing. Flynn keeps offering to hire workers, but his parents seem to love working for their entrepreneurial son.

While there's nothing solid on the books, Flynn dreams of expanding his business with more ranges in the future, as well as hosting events on the Millerton grounds. Until then, he'll keep the Zeppelin pumping, the ball machine loaded and the grass nicely shorn.

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THEATER

Ancram Center opens restored Annex building

By Natalia Zukerman

The Ancram Center for the Arts marked a major milestone May 22 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the opening of The Annex, a restored 1780s building adjacent to the organization's original Opera House theater in Ancram's Historic Hamlet District.

Founded in 2016, Ancram Center for the Arts has built a reputation for presenting adventurous contemporary theater and community-centered programming in an intimate setting.

The newly renovated building expands the arts center's footprint with housing for visiting artists and interns, along with additional classroom and gathering space for community programming and educational workshops. Upgrades to the overall complex also include ADA-accessible entrances and restrooms, reserved parking for patrons with limited mobility and a new outdoor seating area.

More than 60 people attended the celebration, held inside the theater against a backdrop of projected images documenting the restoration process, from demolition and foundation work to the final stages of construction.

Board Chair Cathy Redlich described the opening as a "pivotal moment" in the organization's 10-year history and credited co-directors Paul Ricciardi and Jeffrey Mousseau with helping shape a vision that connects art and community.

Among those attending the ceremony were representatives from the New York State Council on the Arts, New York State Homes and Community Renewal and the Ancram Preservation Group, all of which helped support the project through funding and preservation efforts.

In a statement, New York State Assemblymember Didi Barrett praised the project's impact on the wider community, noting that the Annex will provide housing, classroom space and expanded opportunities for residents and visitors alike.

The restoration project received support through the New York Main Street program, administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal, along with additional funding from NYSCA,



PHOTO BY B. DOCKTOR

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of The Annex at Ancram Center of the Arts. From left, Dan Sternberg, Ancram Center board member; Stephen Futrell, Ancram Center board member; Mary Barthelme, HCR; Kit White, APG; Andrea Barnet, APG; Crystal Loffler, HCR; Assemblymember Didi Barrett; Paul Ricciardi, Ancram Center Co-Director; Cathy Redlich, Ancram Center board president; Jeff Mousseau, Ancram Center Co-Director; Colleen Lutz, Ancram Town Supervisor; Jane Plasman, Ancram Center board member; Ivy Epstein, Ancram Center board member; Sheryl Boris-Schacter, Ancram Center board member; Lindsay Turley, NYSCA

the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York and the Ancram Preservation Group.

The opening comes as Ancram Center launches its 2026 season, which includes performances of "Letters from Max" by Sarah Ruhl in July, Todd Almond's musical memoir "I'm Almost There" in August and Caryl Churchill's psychological drama

"A Number" this fall. The center will also continue its popular "Real People Real Stories" storytelling series this summer.

"As Ancram Center enters its second decade, we are more than ever embracing our commitment to produce powerful works of theater that speak to this moment," said Mousseau.

"The times we are in call for question-

ing conventions and creative courage," added Ricciardi. "We also lean in on the unique shared experience that theater offers to take stock and reflect on what keeps us open and humane while living in uncertain times."

For more information and tickets to upcoming performances and workshops, visit ancramcenter.org

WRITER'S NOTEBOOK

Taiga brings Siberian-inspired dining to Hudson

By Elena Spellman

Walking into Taiga in Hudson for the first time did not feel like walking into a restaurant — it felt like stepping into a memory. As a Russian immigrant who grew up between cultures, I did not expect to find a place that evokes such a specific emotional response, both familiar and cinematic. Candlelight flickered against dark wood and vintage wallpaper while old Soviet-era music played softly in the background. The scent of herbs, smoke, tea and fresh blini filled the air — at once unfamiliar and deeply nostalgic. It became clear almost immediately why people speak about Taiga as more than simply a place to eat.

What makes Taiga unusual is that the

food is only part of the experience. The restaurant was created by Vlad Larvin and his partner, Waldemar Sirko. Larvin, originally from Biysk, a small town in Siberia's Altai region, worked in photography and fashion design before opening Taiga — fields that continue to shape every part of the restaurant today. Every detail — the lighting, photography, textures, music, pacing of the evening and even the scent in the air — feels intentionally designed to create emotion and atmosphere, not just visual style.

“We never wanted Taiga to feel like a traditional restaurant,” Larvin said. “We wanted it to feel emotional, immersive and deeply personal — almost like stepping into another world for a few hours.” That philosophy becomes immediately apparent the moment dinner begins.

Nearly everything at Taiga is made from scratch by Larvin, from delicate handmade dumplings to traditional blini and seasonal dishes inspired by Russian, Slavic and Central Asian influences. The menu changes frequently and reflects Larvin's Siberian upbringing near Kazakhstan and Mongolia, where food culture naturally blended European and Asian traditions. Many ingredients are sourced locally from Hudson Valley farms, while certain teas, herbs, honey and spices come directly from the Altai region of Siberia — creating a menu that feels simultaneously rooted in two different worlds.

As someone who grew up around Russian food, I expected familiarity. What surprised me was the emotional accuracy of the experience. The dishes had the warmth and intimacy of home cooking while still feeling refined and modern. Larvin credits his grandmother, who taught him to cook from a young age, with instilling an emotional foundation around food. “In our culture, food was never just food,” he said. “It was love, care, generosity, conversation and connection.” That idea seems to define the entire atmosphere of Taiga.

Unlike many restaurants designed for quick turnover, Taiga encourages people to slow down. Tables glow under candlelight while guests linger for hours over wine, conversation and shared dishes. The restaurant's Thursday movie nights



PHOTO PROVIDED

Taiga is located at 119 Warren St. in Hudson.

further deepen that atmosphere, transforming the dining room into what Larvin describes as a “candlelit cinema,” where carefully selected American, European and Russian films play softly in the background. The effect is surprisingly transporting.

At one point during my visit, I looked around the room and realized almost nobody was looking at their phones. People were talking slowly, laughing, sharing plates and leaning into conversations. That sense of emotional presence is precisely what Larvin hoped to create.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Vlad Larvin, founder and chef of Taiga.

“We want people to slow down, disconnect from the outside world and feel warmth, comfort, curiosity and connection,” he said. “Ideally, dinner at Taiga feels less like going to a restaurant and more like being invited into someone’s home late at night.”

Much of the restaurant itself was restored and designed personally by Larvin and Sirko. Vintage furniture, antique objects and much of the photography throughout the space were collected over years of travel or created by Larvin himself.

For many Americans unfamiliar with Russian or Eastern European culture, Taiga offers an introduction that feels intimate rather than stereotypical. But for

Russian-speaking visitors, the experience can feel unexpectedly emotional.

There is something moving about hearing familiar music while eating handmade dumplings in a candlelit room in the Hudson Valley. Something about it collapses distance. For a few hours, Hudson felt connected to another world entirely — one built around hospitality, memory and gathering around a table. And perhaps that is what makes Taiga so compelling. It is not simply serving food. It is creating atmosphere, emotion and human connection in a time when many people seem desperately hungry for exactly that.

Taiga is located at 119 Warren St., Hudson. For menus and reservations, visit taigarestaurant.com

“
We never wanted Taiga to feel like a traditional restaurant. We wanted it to feel emotional, immersive and deeply personal — almost like stepping into another world for a few hours.

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LIFESTYLE

The timeless appeal of the American farmhouse

By Kerri-Lee Mayland

They dot the landscape, standing beside winding country roads and rolling fields, their silhouettes as recognizable as church steeples and old stone walls. For hundreds of years, the American farmhouse has held an important place in the country's architectural history, especially in New England, where these homes feel deeply connected to the land itself.

Their enduring appeal may have less to do with the trends farmhouse style inspired and more to do with the comfort these homes create. Farmhouses offer a sense of warmth and authenticity, along with a design style that feels approachable rather than forced.

Maybe it is the worn stone paths leading to the back door, the creaky screen doors or the perennial gardens that grow a little wilder every year. Or perhaps it is the everyday, useful objects gathered naturally over time — mismatched chairs, weathered tables and open shelving lined with practical pieces never intended to be decorative.

Whatever the reason, authentic farmhouse style continues to resonate even as the mass-produced version of the trend fades from design circles, chain stores and Pinterest boards.

Classic farmhouse design has endured for hundreds of years because it was never rooted in excess or perfection. Authentic farmhouse homes were built around practicality, comfort and resourcefulness — qualities that naturally made the style budget-friendly long before DIY projects and “the collected look” became part of the design conversation. Furniture was repaired instead of replaced, family pieces were reused for decades, and simple materials like wood, stone and iron aged beautifully over time.

The more recent mass-market version of farmhouse style often turned those authentic elements into a formula. Barn doors, overly distressed furniture, word signs like “Fresh Eggs,” and factory-made “rustic” decor flooded stores and social media feeds. What once felt collected and organic eventually became overly themed



PHOTOS BY MIKI SCARFO

Modern farmhouse designed by Tina Anastasia.



“
The best farmhouse spaces feel rooted in warmth and history, even when they're newly built.”

TINA ANASTASIA

and predictable.

Now, many homeowners seem to be gravitating back toward spaces with more individuality and character — homes that feel layered, lived-in and connected to real life rather than carefully staged.

Historically, New England farmhouses were designed around utility and survival. Large kitchens served as gather-

ing places and workspaces. Mudrooms handled snowy boots and muddy shoes after chores. Wide porches offered a place to gather after long days outdoors, while barns, sheds and stone walls became extensions of daily life on the land.

That practicality still resonates today.

Some of the most timeless farmhouse details are the ones that cannot be replicated overnight: a scratched pine table handed down through generations; vintage crocks discovered in an old barn; worn baskets from the town dump swap shop; iron hooks, enamelware and garden furniture softened by years of New England weather.

Interior designer Tina Anastasia offers ways to create a more classic farmhouse design.

“The best farmhouse spaces feel rooted in warmth and history, even when they're

newly built,” Anastasia said.

For a farmhouse project she designed in Kent, Connecticut, Anastasia layered weathered stone, antique barnboard and touches of plaid and metal to make the home feel connected to its surroundings.

“It's all about bringing in materials that contrast with the newness of a space and give it depth and character,” she said.

According to Anastasia, farmhouse style works best when homeowners steer away from trends and focus instead on unique finds with texture, age and practicality.

“These are the pieces that will give the home soul,” she said. “Not everything should look brand new.”

Farmhouses were never created to follow trends or become one; they evolved gradually over generations, building layers of history along the way.

Research and development on the river

Successful fly-fishing involves research and development.

A few weeks ago, on a chilly, raw morning on a somewhat swollen Beaverkill River in New York, Gary Dodson and I rolled up expecting to have the area to ourselves.

We did not.

There were four anglers clumped together right under the covered bridge where famed angler and fly-tier Theodore Gordon did a lot of his research and development. Gordon did his in the late 19th century, when R&D was a little easier in the sense that getting to the river meant walking or catching a ride from a passing horse and buggy. It would have been unusual to see four anglers anywhere, never mind in a bunch.

We bypassed these researching developers and made our way downstream. The river was high enough to make wading tricky and cold enough, at 48 degrees, to make the trout sluggish and uninter-



PHOTO BY GARY DODSON

Research and development on a cold, nasty day on the Beaverkill in New York. The author was particularly pleased his new right hip didn't present any difficulties.



Tangled Lines

Patrick L. Sullivan

ested in participating in R&D.

I managed a couple of bumps on small, heavy nymphs, and Gary caught a handful of dinker browns who, he said, had trouble getting their little mouths around a size 12 soft-hackle wet.

The important thing here was that my new right hip didn't give me any trouble.

"Let pain be your guide," said the doctor, Yoda-like, when he took me off the injured reserve list.

And by golly, he was right.

It is traditional to complain about the weather. It is also boring, so I won't do it, except to say that in the last few weeks sometimes it was cold and sometimes it was unusually hot, and none of it helped.

But it was good R&D.

Example: I was wet-wading the Housatonic and environs by the third week of May. This is the earliest I can recall doing this.

The Hous water temp was at or near 70 on May 20, which made me think it was time to deploy the Woolly Buggers in search of smallmouth bass. Since I had the wrong rod for the job, this was a sloppy and cumbersome maneuver. It resulted in one rainbow trout of modest size, no doubt a recent arrival from the hatchery, and precisely what I was trying to avoid.

But it was momentarily satisfying to have some development to go along with the research.

My friend Dave Edgerly came up, and we took a whack at the Blackberry, where the water temps hadn't reached the danger level, and we plucked a few from the foamiest, most aerated water we could find.

Years of R&D have taught me that, given the choice between breathing and any other activity, trout opt for the former.

So if things are slow in the long, slow, deep pools, find the white water and watch for a few minutes. Chances are you'll see trout sticking their heads up, grabbing whatever bugs are coming down

the pike.

In a situation like this, I take it straight to them, with a couple of heavy nymphs — one drab, one gaudy — launched straight into the foam.

How big and how heavy?

"Let pain be your guide." Or, in this case, "let getting hung up on a rock and having to rerig be your guide."

Start with the big ones. If you're getting snagged, switch out to the smaller ones. Eventually, through careful application of research and development, you will find the answer.

Or not.

Failure is a big part of R&D. If it starts to get on your nerves, just remember this:

In most endeavors, if you fail 70% of the time, someone will suggest a new line of work.

In baseball, a hitter who fails 70% of the time over a 20-year career goes in the Hall of Fame.

Fly-fishing is like baseball in this sense.

So relax and get on with the R&D, en route to the HoF.



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The basic hatchery rainbow as plucked from the Blackberry River. This one was hanging around in the most aerated water available, and took a heavy, sparkly Surveyor nymph.

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PHOTOS BY MADI LONG

A summer 2023 flight where all three pilots participated, each piloting a different balloon.

ADVENTURE

Taking a family business sky high

By Alec Linden

While some moonlighters may dread their weekend shifts, local NBT banker Darrel Long looks forward to his early morning side gig, since it involves flying high above the Northwest Corner hills glowing in the sunrise.

Perhaps better referred to as his “dawnlighting” operation, Darrel is the president and founder of North Canaan-based hot air balloon outfit Spirit Ballooning, which has been taking intrepid denizens of the region on daybreak flights across the southern Berkshires since 2009.

Darrel has been a licensed balloon pilot since 1994 when he flew his first solo voyage in a self-built balloon he called Spirit, now the company’s namesake. “I was not only a brand new student,” he said, “I was a test pilot in my own balloon!”

Luckily, the design was sturdy, proven by its place in the company’s three balloon fleet today, three decades later.

Darrel said once the balloon was built, he realized he needed a crew, so he got to building the next element in the process: a family. “We’ve got two sons and two daughters, and they’ve all been involved since they were born,” he said, explaining that the motivation behind Spirit Ballooning was partially to sustain the family’s passion as the kids developed their own interest in flying.

The real purpose, though, is to share the joy of floating above the verdant morning landscape with others, Darrel explained: “We don’t really do it to make a lot of money, we mainly do it to share the experience.”

His daughter Madi, who is the Audience Development Editor for The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News, agrees. During a recent conversation, she recalled a young couple the family met at a balloon festival in Vermont over a decade ago.

“When we first started flying them, they were just boyfriend and girlfriend,” she said, but after a few years of taking them up, “we eventually got invited to their wedding.”

“They were our passengers, but then it became so much more than that,” she said, noting that similar experiences of building



Jordan Long checks the rigging as the balloon prepares to launch.

relationships came to define her upbringing around hot air balloons. She said that when she was growing up in North Canaan, she made many of her friends after having landed on their parents’ lawn in a balloon.

Madi put her pilot training on pause in high school and college to focus on other things, but recently she’s considering a renewed push for a license. After all, it’s in the Long family DNA – “People learn their ABCs, and we just, like, learned to fly balloons,” she said with a laugh.

Her older brother Jordan was the first of the Long children to get licensed when he was 19, and had built his first balloon by 20 – Foxtrot, which also is featured in the Spirit fleet.

Ryan, the eldest, is also licensed, and currently flies balloons in California but is soon to move back to the Northeast where he may help out with the family business, Jordan said.

Now 30, Jordan is a commercial airline pilot for JetBlue by day and globe-trotting balloon flyer by morning, having soared over the Alps, the lush fields of Ireland,



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The Spirit Ballooning crew and passengers on a flight from Great Barrington to Salisbury on July 25 of last year.



PHOTOS BY MADI LONG

Darrel Long shows off the burner flame, the primary instrument used in hot air balloon flight.

and most recently Northeastern Spain, amongst other destinations.

When he thinks about the differences in the two types of flight, he likes to remember a metaphor his friend, who also pilots both, once offered that likened airplane flying to the structure and order of marching band music.

“With hot air ballooning,” on the other hand, “it’s pure jazz.”

“You can have a destination in mind, you can start off in a known location,” Jordan said, “but in the meantime, you can improvise and float around, go on little

tangents with different wind patterns and over different natural features.”

Jordan explained that the farms, industries, towns, estates and landscape features of the Northwest Corner and broader region can make it feel like floating above history. “It just brings your hometown to life in a way you otherwise wouldn’t know about,” he said.

Despite having flown balloons in far-away places, Jordan maintained that “there’s no place like home.”

To find out more and to book a flight, visit spiritballooning.com

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THEATER

Theater thrives at The CENTER for Performing Arts

By Natalia Zukerman

For nearly three decades, The CENTER for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck has been a gathering place for actors, audiences and aspiring artists from across the Hudson Valley.

Founded as a nonprofit organization dedicated to making the arts accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds, The CENTER has grown from a summer theater under a tent into a year-round cultural institution. Since opening its permanent home in 1998, the theater has combined professional-quality productions with educational programs, youth performances and community events.

That mission remains at the heart of The CENTER's work today. Managing Director Kerry Dotson calls it "the Hudson Valley's home for affordable, quality theatre for almost 30 years," noting the ongoing effort to maintain "a balance throughout our season of plays and musicals, and of classic and contemporary pieces."

The organization strives to create an inclusive environment while offering opportunities for performers, technicians and students to develop their craft and engage with the performing arts.

"Many of the artists who call The CENTER home have extremely impressive theatre resumes," said Dotson. "Many of them started by trying for a professional career in theater, but it takes more than just talent and training. It takes a lot of luck and the right connections. Many of the artists who work on our productions are every bit as talented as those who work on Broadway productions," but never quite managed to be in the right place at the right time." She went on to say that many performers have had successful careers in theater or film, "but have retired and need the creative outlet that they find at The CENTER. The CENTER has become their second home," she said.

One of The CENTER's most distinctive traditions is its annual Sam Scripps Shakespeare Festival, now in its 20th year. Named for philanthropist Samuel H. Scripps, whose support helped shape the theater's development, the festival is performed on The CENTER's replica



of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, reconstructed each year and modeled after the historic London landmark.

While this year's Shakespeare season has concluded, audiences can still look forward to a busy summer lineup.

From June 5 through June 28, The CENTER presents "Legally Blonde: The Musical," the upbeat Broadway adaptation of the popular film. Filled with high-energy dance numbers, memorable songs and plenty of humor, the musical follows Elle Woods as she defies expectations and discovers her own strengths while pursuing a law degree at Harvard.

The summer season continues with Stephen Sondheim's acclaimed musical "Company," running July 10 through July 26. Widely regarded as one of the most influential American musicals of the 20th century, "Company" offers a witty and thoughtful exploration of friendship, marriage and modern relationships.

Rounding out the season is "Trenzas," scheduled for Aug. 7 through Aug. 9. The contemporary musical celebrates family, identity and cultural heritage through a collection of interconnected stories centered on Latina women and their experiences.



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA MICHAELS

Cast members of "Legally Blonde" rehearse offsite.

"Younger audiences are welcome to attend our Kids on Stage productions of 'Shrek Jr.' or 'School of Rock Jr.' in July and August," said Dotson.

In addition to its mainstage productions, Dotson added that the Black Box space — opened in 2024 — has become a "springboard for local playwrights and artists," expanding opportunities for new and experimental work while keeping production accessible and intimate. She

also emphasized that audiences can "look actors in the eyes," a reflection of the close-knit, community-driven spirit that defines the theater.

The CENTER continues to serve as a community hub for arts education, youth theater and special events throughout the year.

For tickets and more information about upcoming performances, visit centerforperformingarts.org.

LIBATIONS & ADVOCACY

Brewing community support in Catskill

By D.H. Callahan

On the western banks of the Hudson River, the town of Catskill is becoming a beacon of ethnic, religious and generational diversity. Partially fueled by the increased popularity of towns like Hudson and the gentrification that comes with it, residents of all stripes are making their homes in the once underappreciated town.

Among those putting down roots are Max Ocean and Zane Coffey, the founders and brewers at Subversive Malting and Brewing. In 2020, after a few years of searching for a place where they could craft their beers and build community, they landed on a modest lot with an old auto-shop big enough to house their equipment.

As their business grew, fueled in no small part by their fast and flawless menu of elevated tavern fare, so did the number of customers who called themselves regulars. Among those regulars was David Quituisaca, donor organizer and volunteer coordinator at Columbia County Sanctuary Movement, or CCSM.

Founded in response to the political rhetoric of the 2016 presidential campaign, CCSM provides support for immigrant communities while advocating for policy changes at the county, state, regional and national levels. They've partnered with many local businesses in a symbiotic fashion, receiving funds and donations while helping to educate employees and patrons about their rights, and what non-targeted citizens can do to help protect their neighbors. In addition to their work in Columbia County, CCSM also teams up with other immigrant support groups in places like Millerton and Salisbury to educate vulnerable residents and community members alike.

After seeing reports and footage of the increasingly violent tactics used by the federal government in its efforts to arrest and deport Spanish-speaking residents, Subversive wanted to do something to help. Around the National Day of Protest against ICE's tactics in January, Ocean reached out to Quituisaca and asked what they could do. It was quickly determined that a limited run beer and community launch party was the way forward. But what kind of beer would it be?

Subversive is known for their carefully crafted brews, which, while adored by their



5% of proceeds from Chinga La Migra will be donated to Columbia County Sanctuary Movement.

customers, aren't always the most accessible to the casual sipper. For this run, they wanted something unique enough to talk about, but easy enough for non-craft beer fans.

What they decided on was creating a more accessible light beer using the yeast from Modelo's internationally popular Mexican-style cerveza. They call it "Chinga la Migra." Subversive committed to donating 15% of all sales to CCSM, a pledge they anticipate will net thousands of dollars when all the beer is sold out.

While the beer and the event will undoubtedly help CCSM's efforts in raising awareness and garnering funds, Quituisaca notes that their efforts are nonstop. He notes that recent high-profile immigration enforcement tactics have underscored an ongoing need for support, including financial donations and access to larger spaces for classes and seminars on how to navigate an increasingly aggressive federal enforcement environment.

Though the fight may persist, with partners like Subversive, the migrant community and their supporters can kick back with a cold beer every once in a while to celebrate this vibrant community, and all they have to offer.

Subversive Brewing is located at 96 W. Bridge St., Catskill. More info at drinksubversive.com



PHOTOS PROVIDED

Max Ocean at the Subversive Taproom in Catskill.

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Tri-Corner Calendar

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

■ JUNE 11

Caterpillars and Native Plants with Michael LaScaleia

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Michael LaScaleia, a post-doctoral fellow at Arnold Arboretum, leads a talk on caterpillars, native ecosystems and invasive species from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Following the presentation, participants will walk to the Salisbury Land Trust's Vincent Field to observe meadow activity firsthand. Registration requested at scovillelibrary.org.

■ JUNE 12

Poetry Workshop with Sally Van Doren

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Sally Van Doren's workshop is an immersive experience in writing, reading and lis-

tening. An inspiring poem and well-chosen prompts unlock the imagination to create new work. 2 to 4 p.m. Registration required at scovillelibrary.org.

Helpful Neighbors by Robert Lyons

The Grace Note at Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. 7:30 p.m.

A reading of a new play by Robert Lyons. Gloria is getting on in years. She lives alone and needs some help. Her long-time neighbor helps manage her money. Her brand-new neighbor helps in her tomato garden. Suddenly Gloria finds herself in a cosmic clash of good vs. evil. But who is which? Tickets: thestissingcenter.org.

■ JUNE 13

Current Fiction Book Group with Claudia Cayne

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Led by Claudia Cayne, this informal group is open to all. Claudia's selection for this month is "heart be at peace" by Donal Ryan, winner of the Orwell Prize for Fiction 2025 and the Irish Book of the Year. 4 to 5 p.m. Registration not required.

Behind My Eyes I Saw Me

Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 7 Fulfilling Lane, Kent, Conn. June 13 (through July 26)

A two-person exhibition featuring new landscape paintings by Gregory Henen and still life painting by David Konigsberg.

Meet the Director: The Keeper + Q&A

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. 7 p.m. Director Jon Bow-ermaster will join in for a discussion and Q&A after a screening of his documentary film about John Lipscomb, one of more than 300 "Keepers" around the globe, looking out for their respective rivers. Tickets at themoviehouse.net

"Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Appleness" Community Picnic and USA 250th Event

Town Green and Bunny McGuire Park, North Canaan, Conn.
The Friends of the Canaan History Center, the Town of North Canaan and the Exchange Club host a free community picnic and USA 250th celebration June 13 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Festivities include the raising of a Colonial-era "Liberty and Property" flag atop a 70-foot Liberty Pole, Revolutionary War reenactments, cartridge-making demonstrations, colonial games, sack races and family activities led by Canaan Kids' Artspace. Friends' Farm Market will provide hot dogs, apple pie and fruit tarts. Fun for all ages. For more information, call 860-453-4435 or visit northcanaan.org.

Stissing Center 2nd Annual Art Auction

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. 5 p.m.

Stissing Center's 2nd Annual Art Auction features exceptional pieces donated by collectors and celebrated artists from around the world and around the corner. This is your opportunity to acquire extraordinary art while directly supporting the arts in Pine Plains. All proceeds benefit Stissing Center's vital arts and cultural programming, ensuring creativity continues to thrive in our community. Bid on remarkable works and invest in Pine Plains' artistic future. Event info: thestissingcenter.org.

Children's Stop-motion Animation Workshop

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. 10 a.m.

Stissing Center's Summer Children's Series launches with a free Children's Animation Workshop led by teachers from The Art Effect in Poughkeepsie. This pay-what-you-can event coincides with Pine Plains' Community Day celebration, offering young artists hands-on creative exploration. Explore the wild and wacky world of human animation, which is stop-motion animation using only our bodies to create the illusion of movement! Capturing live-action footage in stop-motion animation format is a fun and freeing way to get creative without making a mess. Make yourself float in mid-air, experiment with silly movements, and create a fun and funky video to share and enjoy. All participants receive their animations by the workshop's end. Event info: thestissingcenter.org.

Coco's Carnival Dance and Headpiece Making Workshop

Torrington Historical Society, 192 Main St., Torrington, Conn.

The Torrington Historical Society will host Coco's Carnival Dance and Headpiece Making Workshop, presented by Coryse Villarouel. The family-friendly event celebrates the traditions of Caribbean Carnival through dance, storytelling, and a hands-on art activity. The program includes a performance by Coco's Caribbean Dancers, a reading of Villarouel's children's book "Coco's Carnival Connection," and a workshop where participants create their own Carnival headpiece to take home. Registration requested at torringtonhistorical society.org

"A Goodnight Kiss"

Five Points Arts Center, 855 University Drive, Torrington, Conn. June 13-14

Award-winning playwright Cinzi Lavin's historical drama "A Goodnight Kiss" will be presented Saturday at 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. The production tells the true story of a young schoolteacher-in-training and a Connecticut soldier whose romance unfolded during the Civil War; adapted from more than 90 real love letters discovered in a Connecticut attic. Produced and directed by actress Kathy Kelly, the production stars David Macharelli and Olivia Wadsworth. Tickets: bit.ly/4uq0SA8

Bald Eagle Talk at Hotchkiss Library of Sharon

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org
Celebrate America's 250th with a presentation by Master Wildlife Conservationist Ginny Apple at 11 a.m. Apple will discuss bald eagles' remarkable recovery from near-endangerment, their growing population in Connecticut and their role in the ecosystem, accompanied by a slideshow presentation. The free program is part of the library's America's 250th series. Registration is required at hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org. For more information, call (860) 364-5041.

Pine Plains Community Day

Pine Plains, N.Y.
Join for a day of family fun, free food and live music. The day begins with a free community breakfast hosted by the Pine Plains Fire Co. and ends with live music at the Back Beer Garden. For a full schedule of businesses and events, contact mcliverty@mac.com or lenoracha@aol.com



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Wanda Landowska's World

Lakeville United Methodist Church, 319 Main St., Lakeville, Conn. Crescendo's Christine Gevert presents a solo harpsichord recital for Crescendo's season closer honoring legendary keyboard player Wanda Landowska at 4 p.m., exploring Baroque works by composers including Johann Sebastian Bach, François Couperin and Domenico Scarlatti. Tickets at crescendomusic.org

Family Day: Something's Fishy! / Teen Art Studio

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. Family Day runs from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and features live music story time with Michelle Begley at 11 a.m., drop-in art-making, scavenger hunts and games at noon, and an interactive "Something's Fishy!" program at 12:30 p.m. with fish-themed art activities and an indoor fishing derby. Free admission for families. Teen Art Studio runs from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for ages 13-18, offering guided creative exploration with a teaching artist; \$5 materials fee, advance registration recommended. americanmuralproject.org

In Plain Sight: The Luminous Plein Air Landscape Opening Reception

Tyte Gallery, 3280 Franklin Ave (2nd Floor), Millbrook, N.Y. Tyte Gallery presents In Plain Sight: The Luminous Plein Air Landscape, featuring plein air paintings by Scott Balfé, James Coe and Tarryl Gabel. The public is invited to an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. to meet the artists and learn more about their creative processes. The exhibition highlights luminous on-site landscape paintings inspired by the Hudson Valley and beyond, continuing the centuries-old tradition of painting directly from nature. The show remains on view through Aug. 2. Admission is free.

Modernist Smocking Workshop with Annie Coggan

Fiddlestyx, 85 Sharon Mountain Road, Sharon, Conn. Russell Janis Projects hosts a one-day workshop exploring the history and contemporary applications of smocking, with hands-on instruction and a collaborative large-scale textile. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; lunch and materials included. Limited to 12 participants. Sign up at shop.russelljanis.com

Stissing Center Art Auction

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Second annual fundraiser featuring -50 works across media with silent bidding and online preview. Proceeds support arts programming. 5 to 7 p.m.

American Women: An All-Women Show

Eckert Fine Art, Washington, Conn. Noon to 5 p.m. (through July 10)

To mark the nation's 250th anniversary, this group exhibition highlights the contributions of female artists across generations, featuring painting, sculpture, printmaking and photography by 16 artists.

JUNE 14

Simone Dinnerstein & Baroklyn

Gordon Hall, Music Mountain, 225 Music Mountain Road, Falls Village, Conn. GRAMMY-nominated pianist Simone Dinnerstein brings her string ensemble Baroklyn, which Simone founded and directs, to Music Mountain at 3 p.m. Tickets at musicmountain.org

Pianist Simone Dinnerstein with Baroklyn

Music Mountain, Gordon Hall, 225 Music Mountain Road, Falls Village, Conn. GRAMMY®-nominated pianist Simone Dinnerstein, who *The New Yorker* describes as an artist of "lean, knowing, and unpretentious elegance," performs with Baroklyn (the string en-

semble she founded and directs) in a concert presented by Music Mountain as part of their Summer Chamber Music Series. The concert will feature music by J.S. Bach and Philip Lasser from their album *Complicité*, as well as Philip Glass's *Suite from The Hours* from their album *Hourglass*, out on June 5. 3 p.m. Tickets at musicmountain.org

Close Encounters With Music Season Finale: Romance of the Romani End-of-Season Concert and Gala

Mahaive Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass. Close Encounters With Music concludes its 34th season with "Romance of the Romani," a program inspired by Roma musical traditions and their influence on European classical composers. The concert features works by Joseph Haydn, Johannes Brahms, Joseph Joachim, Béla Bartók and David Popper, highlighting fiery rhythms, folk influences and virtuosic showpieces. 4 p.m.

JUNE 20

"Four Rational People" Screening & Q&A

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. Director Tristan Cook and founding member of the Emerson String Quartet Eugene Drucker will participate in a discussion and Q&A following a screening of "Four Rational People," a documentary chronicling the Emerson String Quartet's final season after 50 years of performances and nine Grammy Awards. The film explores friendship, aging and the group's enduring musical legacy. 7 p.m. For tickets and information, visit bit.ly/TMH-four-rational-people.

A Day of Dance with Pilobolus at Innisfree

Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y. 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Pilobolus and Innisfree Garden will present a daylong series of outdoor movement workshops for families,

children, adults and older adults. Workshops include "Creative Movement for Families" at 10:30 a.m., "Family Alphabet Workshop" at 12:30 p.m., and "Connecting with Balance" for older adults at 2:30 p.m. Participants may register for one, two or all three sessions. Space is limited and advance registration is recommended at innisfreegarden.org/events.

Chore Service Garden Party

Skiff Mountain Farm, 3 West Woods Road, Kent, Conn. Celebrating 34 years of service. 5 to 7 p.m. choreservice.org

JUNE 21

Annual Summer Solstice Feast at Foxtrot Farm & Flowers

Foxtrot Farm, 6862 Route 82, Stanfordville, N.Y. Celebrate summer's bounty with a feast in the flower

fields at Foxtrot catered by Westerly Canteen. Start the night with drinks in the garden, then transition to the fields for a long-table feast, where Kate Farrar will create a table of early summer blossoms. 6 p.m. Reservations required at bit.ly/3RCFWYc

JUNE 25

BUGS!

Foxtrot Farm, 6862 Route 82, Stanfordville, N.Y. June 25 to 29

Foxtrot Farm & Flowers presents "BUGS!," a group exhibition curated in partnership with artist and curator Charlotte Woolf exploring insects, ecology and interdependence. Featuring more than 40 artists from across the U.S. and Canada, the exhibition highlights the vital role bugs play in sustaining ecosystems, with a focus on queer ecology and environmental connection.

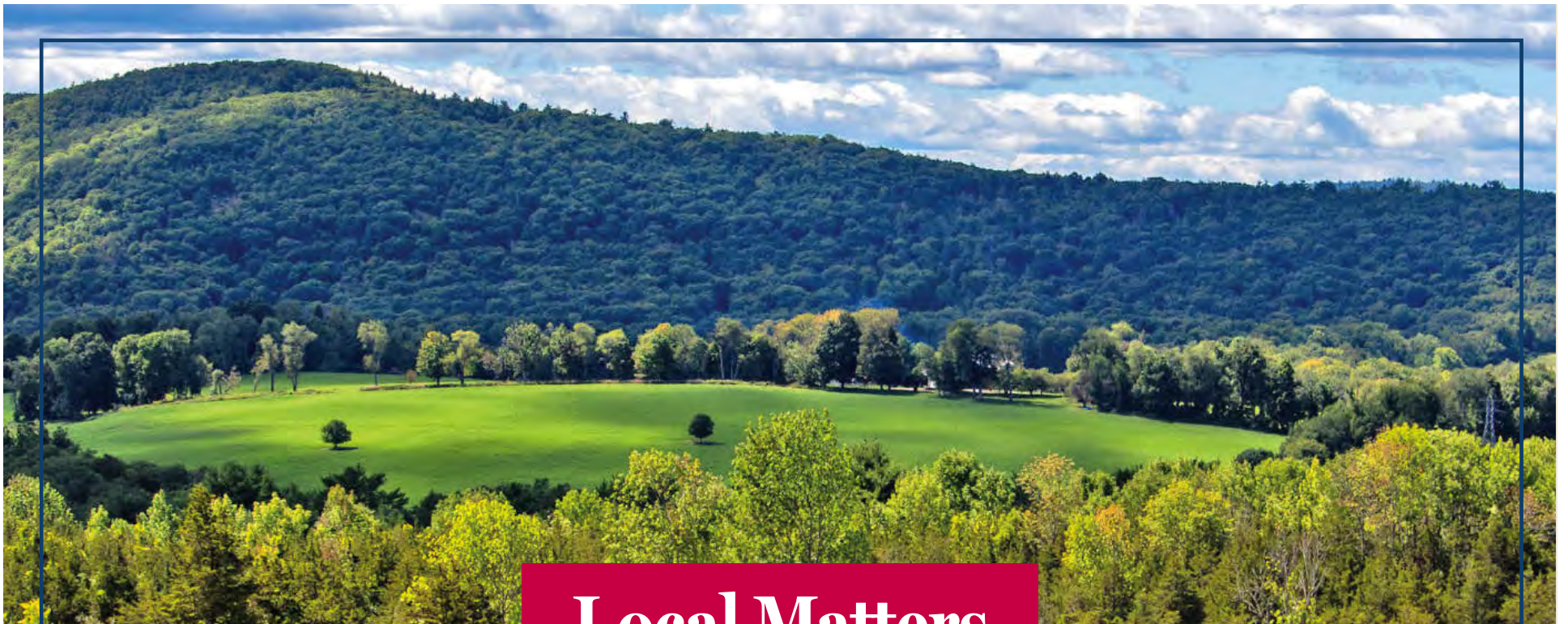
Programming includes farm activities with Dutchess County Combworks, tattoo pop-ups, workshops, readings and an opening celebration with food from Chaseholm Farm, Thistlepass Farm and Fair Play Hospitality. The opening celebration takes place Friday, June 26, from 6 to 10 p.m.

JUNE 26

Happy Hour Piano Series: Broadway Singalong with T.J. Thompson

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. From 5 to 7 p.m., AMP's monthly happy hour series features an audience-participation Broadway singalong with pianist T.J. Thompson, blending live music and libations in a casual, interactive setting. Tickets are \$8 in advance. americanmuralproject.org





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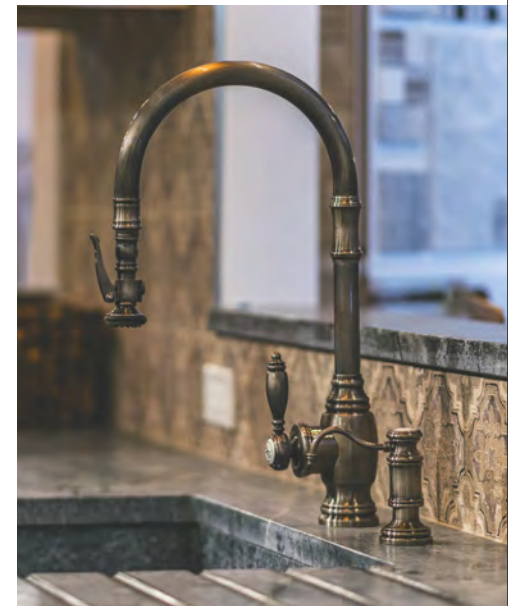
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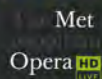
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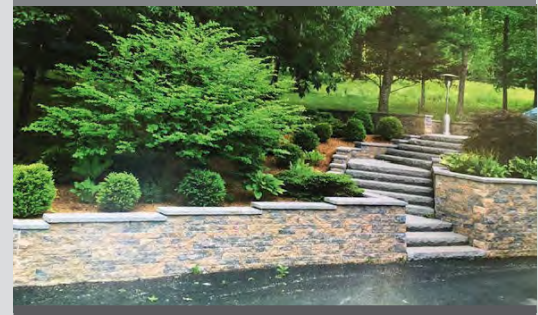
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