



REGIONAL
Graduation
A2

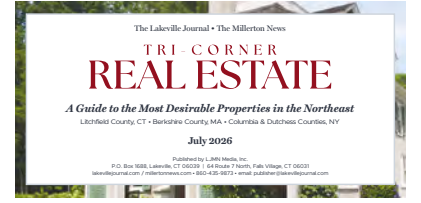


AMENIA
Local
splitter A3

COMPASS

Elyse Harney
receives
Honorary
Doctorate;
and more B1-4

Small Business Spotlight, A3



Special, Inside



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Cole Shapiro, left, shows a picture of the State Line Road house that he helped renovate taken during the early stages of rebuilding walls for the structure during an open house on Saturday, June 20.

Millerton renovation turns aging home into 'passive house'

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — A unique home renovation on State Line Road is joining the ranks of thousands of buildings across the U.S. that use little to no energy for heating and cooling.

Wendy Hill's home on State Line Road, which she rented for 10 years before buying the property

and embarking on the renovation in January 2025, will be a Passive House Institute US-certified "Passive House" once renovations are completed in the coming weeks.

Passive houses are buildings that rely on thick insulation as well as heat from the sun to cut down on energy costs. The concept was developed over the past 50 years as advancements in insulating building materials allowed for more ef-

ficient construction that uses little to no energy to maintain comfortable temperatures.

Hill's home is a standout from the typical passive house, primarily because of her decision to retrofit an existing home rather than build new.

But Cole Shapiro and his Kingston-based boutique contracting

See PASSIVE HOUSE, A8

As EMS costs continue to rise, Dutchess County looks for answers

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

Amid growing calls for action on emergency medical service contract costs, solutions are lagging as county officials explore options.

The county has allocated \$4 million for EMS over the last two budgets, hoping to combat rising costs, a diminishing workforce, and declining numbers of volunteers. But six months into 2026, data reflecting results from the infusion has been hard to come by — and the problems persist.

At issue is the very status of emergency responders: unlike fire and police departments, there is no state mandate for a town to employ EMS responders. The cost of these services falls to the individual towns, and they've ballooned in recent years: North East, Amenia, and Dover split a \$1.3 million contract, and Stanford pays \$768,000 for its ambulance services. "This is a runaway train," said county legislator Eric Alexander, who represents Amenia, Washington and

See EMS, A8

'Workers over billionaires' banner draws scrutiny from Amenia Town Board

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — A banner used during weekly political demonstrations in downtown Amenia has sparked debate over whether protesters can attach signs to town-owned lightpoles and other municipal property.

The issue came before the Town Board on Thursday, June 18, after protest organizer Kim Travis re-

quested clarification on whether a banner reading "workers over billionaires" violates the town's sign regulations.

Travis, who has organized regular anti-Trump demonstrations at Fountain Square since 2025, said Town Supervisor Rosanna Hamm contacted her before the meeting to say the banner was not permitted because it was secured to a town-owned light pole.

"Our temporary sign is exempt,"

Travis told the board, arguing that the group removes the banner and other materials after each protest and does not damage public property. She said nylon rope is used to protect the painted surface of the lamp post.

Town Attorney Ian Lindars disagreed, saying town code prohibits attaching signs to municipal property. "I don't agree with the

See BANNER, A8



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Kanchisar Jiradhanaiphath, left, and John Schildbach hope to open Muanjai Tea on Main Street in Millerton by late July.

Thai tea shop moving forward after winning Board of Health approval

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Owners of a Thai tea shop planned for Main Street expect to get started with interior renovations this week after receiving approval for septic system plans from health officials.

John Schildbach, who plans to open Muanjai Tea at 28 Main St. in July, said on Monday, June 22, that

the shop is awaiting one final approval from the Dutchess County Board of Health on the interior space itself and expects to begin installing counters and seating immediately after.

Discussions with the Board of Health over septic capacity caused earlier delays. Schildbach originally planned to have seating

See TEA SHOP, A8



CONTACT

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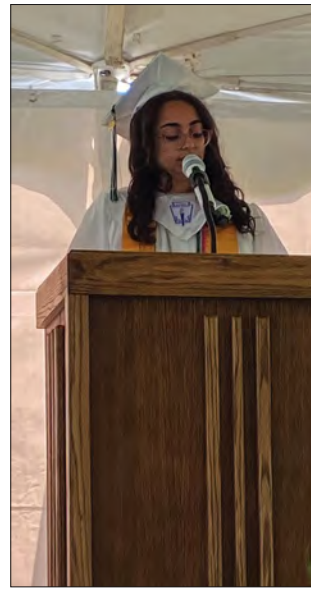
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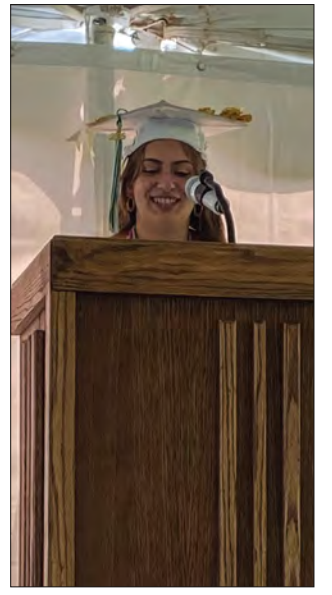
GRADUATION



The Webutuck High School Class of 2026 received diplomas at the 72nd annual Commencement ceremony, held on Saturday, June 20.



Class Salutatorian Zaina AbouEid presented the traditional speech to the graduates.



Class Valedictorian Giana Kall delivered the traditional valedictory address to her fellow graduates.

Community celebrates Webutuck High School's Class of 2026

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Fifty-one members of the Webutuck High School Class of 2026 received their diplomas during the school's 72nd annual commencement ceremony Saturday, June 20.

Family members, friends, educators and classmates filled a large tent on the high school grounds to celebrate the graduates, who will pursue careers, military service and higher education in the months ahead.

"You've made it," said Webutuck Superintendent Raymond Castellani during welcoming remarks to the graduates.

After 11 years of serving the Webutuck School District, Castellani began by announcing that he would be ending that service.

"I've witnessed extraordinary moments," Castellani

said. "Serving this district has been one of the greatest honors of my life."

Castellani spoke of the future to be faced by graduates.

"Change will happen faster than ever before. Technologies will evolve," Castellani told the seniors. "Kindness matters, integrity matters, character matters," he said, citing those qualities as ones that will carry the graduates through their future lives.

"Success is measured by

the difference you make in the lives of others," Castellani said, urging graduates to view any failures as lessons.

High School Principal Matthew Pascale began his remarks in praise of Castellani's leadership.

"You taught me how to lead," Pascale said. "Working in education is a vocation, not a job."

"You are standing at the starting line of what comes next," Pascale told the gradu-

ating class. "Go out and make a difference," he added, reminding the class that their success will be defined by how they treat others. Kindness and humility are key.

Pascale urged each graduate to save 10% of income. "Put it away," he said. "Pay yourself first. It isn't about greed, it's about security."

Elementary School Principal Amanda Coppola presented the commencement address, recalling that she

began her Webutuck teaching career as a fifth grade science teacher.

"While I was teaching you, you were teaching me," she told graduates.

"Life keeps evolving," Coppola said. "Keep going. Keep growing."

Salutatorian Zaina AbouEid brought appreciative laughs from her audience as she recalled jokes often voiced by Principal Pascale, jokes that were familiar to the class.

Thanking the various constituencies within the school and her family, AbouEid went on to exhort classmates to overcome fears.

"Fear is never strong enough to hold us back," she said.

"Anything is possible," said Valedictorian Giana Marie Kall, who said that her study of psychology has taught her that people really need to believe in themselves.

"Follow your heart. It's OK not to be perfect," Kall told graduates. "You are only in competition with yourself."

Kall went on to express thanks to the school's various constituents and her family.

Largest class since 2014 graduates from Stissing Mountain High

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The largest graduating class since 2014 — totalling 82 seniors — celebrated the end of high school on Saturday, June 20.

Seniors from Stissing Mountain High School had their graduation at the school on Church Street in Pine Plains. Cloudy weather threatened rain but didn't follow through as classmates, friends and family gathered to recognize the graduates' achievements.

Principal Christopher Boyd, School Board President Amy Fredericks, and Superintendent Dr. Brian Timm delivered opening remarks to a crowded auditorium of friends, family, and congratulatory balloons.

Dr. Timm urged the students to seek out growth through creative tension in their next chapter, and to embrace challenges as opportunities to grow. He extolled the group's determination, and encouraged them to remember Nelson Mandela's words: "It always seems impossible until it's done."

Then came the student



The Stissing Mountain High School Class of 2026 celebrates graduation as 82 seniors receive their diplomas.

speakers: Michelle Blackburn, Siena Millar, Salutatorian Violet Bliss, and Valedictorian Alyssa Fredericks shared messages of gratitude for the support they had received throughout their education, both from their family and community. "Pine Plains helped build the foundation we all stand on," said Valedictorian Fredericks.

This was the last step for a class that has, in large part, been classmates since kindergarten. They were together one last time on Saturday, awash in purple robes and graduation caps for the occasion.

The class of 2026 will be spreading out next year. Popular college destinations include Dutchess Community College, the SUNY system,

colleges in Boston, and the armed services. More than a quarter of graduates are starting full-time jobs after high

school.

The school's chorus performed twice during the graduation, singing the Pine Plains alma mater to introduce the student speakers, and Fleetwood Mac's "Landslide" to play them off.

Finally, it was time: one by one the 82 seniors shuffled off the risers to shake hands with the administrators, receive their diploma, and make that long walk across the stage to the jubilant hoots of their family and friends. As they processed off the stage and into those waiting arms, one chapter ended and another began.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice Notice of Filing Completed Assessment Roll with Clerk

Notice is hereby given that the Final Assessment Roll for the Town of Pine Plains in the County of Dutchess for the year 2026 has been completed by the undersigned assessor, and a certified copy is filed in the office of the town clerk on the 1st day of July, 2026, where the same will remain open for public inspection by appointment during normal business hours.

Assessor for the
Town of Pine Plains
Sara Foglia
06-25-26

Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of
Kaits Kleaning LLC. Art.
Of Org. filed with SSNY
on 05-22-2026. Office Lo-
cation: Dutchess county.
SSNY designated as agent
of the LLC upon whom
process against it may be
served. SSNY shall mail
process to: 24 Attlebury
Hill Road, Standfordville
NY 12581.

06-04-26
06-11-26
06-18-26
06-25-26
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07-09-26

**NOTICE OF
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OF FINAL
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NOTICE IS HEREBY
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ROLL FOR THE TOWN

OF AMENIA, COUNTY
OF DUTCHESS, FOR
THE YEAR 2026, HAS
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THE UNDERSIGNED
ASSESSOR, AND A CER-
TIFIED COPY IS FILED
IN THE OFFICE OF THE
TOWN CLERK OF AME-
NIA, 4988 ROUTE 22,
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06-18-26
06-25-26

A GIANT METAL MANTIS IS NOW PART OF A SUMMER CONTEST!

Izzy Fitch of Battle Hill Forge has strapped a giant mantis, built by artist Jim Hackett, to the roof of his car.

When you spot it, take a photo, post it on social media and tag [@battlehillforge](https://twitter.com/battlehillforge), [@lakevillejournal](https://twitter.com/lakevillejournal) and [@themillertonnews](https://twitter.com/themillertonnews).

On July 20, names will be drawn at random and gift certificates to Battle Hill Forge will be awarded.

www.lakevillejournal.com

www.battlehillforge.com

www.millertonnews.com

Local firewood splitter remembers a life of back-breaking labor

By **JOE BRENNAN**
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — It's been said that wood, as it burns, tells its history.

Phil Carroll has split and sold countless cords of dry highly flammable firewood over the decades and has narrated a lot of the history of his hometown, Amenia.

Carroll's story begins more than 80 years ago on the banks of what was once Lake Amenia. Right before Carroll was born in 1942, his brother drowned at that swimming spot at the end of Lake Amenia Road, where the dam used to be. Phil's mother was furious years later when she caught Phil skating across the frozen lake one winter day.

"She already lost one son to that lake," Carroll said.

But they didn't move out of their neighborhood to escape bad memories. Even after the dam broke, draining the lake into swamps nearby and forever changing Amenia's landscape, his family bought and traded the land, moved houses, improved them, stayed close and planted huge gardens, plowed them over and made their own little community of wood cutters. Everything today is impeccably cared for.

The wood cutting machines are clean but clearly well used. It is a place of steady purposeful work.

Before making his career as a firewood supplier, Carroll worked as a tractor-trailer driver cross country but didn't like it.

"You can't sleep in a truck and own a house," Carroll said. "Anybody who does that I think is crazy. You're paying for the house and you're out there."

Then he got the idea of selling bundles of wood he sourced from his own property and nearby forests. His family thought he was crazy. Nobody around here would pay for kiln-dried firewood so Phil started hauling four-foot lengths of wood south to Fishkill, Clark, and Wilkins, New York, eventually leading to connections to New York City.

He had cleared trees right across the lake, where developer John Lango carved out those homes on Broadway. It was a swamp then, part of the lake. Then he worked to clear the forests behind his house — by the Squabble Hole, where the old ore mine flooded and made a perfect swimming hole. Phil couldn't swim much, but the town boys dove off a rope halfway up Squabble Mountain.

He focused on distributing his wood Manhattan's East Side first because storefront owners would pay and he could double park his truck at less risk of \$600 tickets. In 1988, walking block to block,



PHOTO BY JOE BRENNAN

Phil Carroll stands near a pile of cut firewood he prepared for sale across New York. The Amenia native has been cutting trees and splitting wood for fireplaces for decades.

store to store, the small bodega owners saved him, and supermarket chain D'Agostinos took half a truckload but couldn't put a real wood pile in the basement or else risk burning down the borough.

"I used to buy 80 to 90 thousand dollars of wood a year, just for New York," Carroll said. "I've cut that down to 35 thousand now."

While visiting New York all those decades ago, Carroll fostered an appreciation for dancing at Korean nightclubs. A full day's worth of driving and delivering firewood would end with a high-energy fete dancing until the clubs closed at 3 a.m. Then Carroll would drive home.

Over the years, Carroll has recruited most of his family to join in on the business, including his son, Phil Carroll Jr.

Phil Jr. turned to the forest at 5 years old to work with his father. His job was marking logs with a 19 inch stick his father gave him, that had been measured and carved out for him as a template. Phil gave Phil Jr. a small hatchet, and not a Davy Crockett rubber blade, a real sharp edge and he marked off each section

with a chopped notch as his father came behind him and tore through the felled tree with his chainsaw.

The assembly line begins at the simple splitter. It's been sitting out in the split log walls around the driveway. These mostly go to the campgrounds like Copake. The air-dried local pieces take a year to cure and do not burn as good as his top-of-the-line stuff. J and J Lumber in Dover Plains bakes 19-inch lengths of vari-

ous hardwood for a day and a half until its water content is bone dry.

These he splits over and over again so most of the bundle's individual pieces are small and light enough to be picked up by anyone. The other pieces are even smaller, making for ready kindling although the whole pile will erupt in perfect flame, dry as tumbleweed.

Just look at the design of his signature product: the firewood bundle. It's got his name on top, easy to read, so the buyer knows he's getting the real deal from the master. The clear plastic is shrink wrapped so you can see that the wood and bark is clean and dry and free of bugs.

Phil, who still works selling firewood, takes pride in his product, he's been known to throw a bundle across the workshop, "Who the hell made that!"

And Phil's tireless, always figuring. As he looks out over his backyard, he's still thinking ahead. "Next year I'm going to get a guy I know to blow up that other side of the hill," Carroll said dryly. "I'd have twice as much flat land up here."

Voters approve Pine Plains school budget with nearly \$300K in cuts

By **GRAHAM CORRIGAN**
grahamc@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Voters approved a school district budget on Tuesday, June 16, that cut three staff positions to save nearly \$300,000 in expenses.

After the initial budget failed in May, Pine Plains Central School District administrators cut expenses to bring the tax levy within the state's tax cap. Since the revised spending plan complied with the cap, it required only a simple majority for approval.

The second budget passed

easily on June 16. The final vote count was 643 votes in favor, and 288 against.

The new budget is \$290,569 less than the first budget. The reduction primarily came from eliminating three staff positions — a head bus driver, typist and nurse.

The budget's passage now means the district will avoid much deeper cuts than what would have been required had it been voted down a second time. The mandatory contingency budget, which would have gone into effect, would have resulted in \$945,789 in additional reductions and a

freezing of capital projects.

The district has now moved forward with capital plans with the new budget in place. It has announced plans to replace the floor tiles at Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center and is continuing repair work on the roof at Stissing Mountain Jr/Sr High School.

The high school's tennis courts and track will also be resurfaced this summer. Work is expected to begin in late June, and will last until Sept. 1. During this time, Seymour Smith and the affected athletic fields will be closed.

Washington Parks & Recreation ready for summer season

By **GRAHAM CORRIGAN**
grahamc@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The town of Washington is rolling out its summer programming this month, and there's something on offer for everyone.

The town's major attraction, the park and pool located at 3774 Route 44, will be open daily starting on June 27, when the pool opens from 12 to 6 p.m. on weekdays and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends. Attendees can access basketball, pickleball, shuffleboard, and volleyball courts, as well as baseball and soccer fields, fishing access, and picnic areas. There are also pavilions avail-

able to rent for gatherings of up to 75 people.

Poolside concerts return this year as well. Music from Long Steel Rail, Big Ang, and Johnny Walkers will soundtrack the pool parties on Sunday afternoon throughout the summer.

There's one major change to the summer offerings: the summer camp program, a popular option for kids and working parents alike, has been extended to include an all-day option. Previous camp sessions were limited to three hours a day — now, camp hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with early drop-off and late pick-up available as well. Campers can participate in

group activities like swimming, athletics, and arts & crafts.

The first of three two-week camp sessions starts on June 29. Registration is open until June 22, or when full capacity is reached.

Small Business SPOTLIGHT

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Music Mountain Summer Festival

SUN., JULY 5 | 3:00 PM

Arianna String Quartet

Works by Felix MENDELSSOHN,
Gabriela LENA FRANK
and Pyotr TCHAIKOVSKY

Pre-Concert Talk by Fred Baumgarten | 2:00 PM

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OBITUARIES

Marilyn Josephine Kay

MILLERTON — Marilyn Josephine Kay (Masterson), 93, whose life was characterized by a quiet strength, graceful and cheerful presence, enduring athleticism and an abiding community spirit, passed away peacefully on June 11, 2026, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A long-time resident of Millerton, New York with her late husband and local veterinarian Kent Kay, DVM, Marilyn spent her final years surrounded by the love and care of her Minnesota family.



that became fast friends. Marilyn also believed in showing up for her community. She and Kent were pillars of their historic local church, St. John in the Wilderness in Copake Falls, New York. Whether she was lending her voice to the choir, serving on the vestry, or helping with church operations, Marilyn's faith was always paired with action.

A PE teacher at heart until the very end, Marilyn was happiest when she was moving. She shared her love of the water by teaching swimming and lifesaving. She was an accomplished skier, an avid walker in her later years, and a fierce, competitive tennis player who could still command a court in her 80s. Additionally, according to family lore, she was a champion napper and could catch a few winks when needed, anytime and anywhere, including the New York subway where she never missed her stop.

Born Feb.19, 1933, in New York City, Marilyn was the youngest of four daughters. Raised by a single mother, Marilyn learned early on the values of independence and determination—traits that would define her entire life. She excelled academically and athletically, attending Hunter College and channeling her passion for movement into work as a physical education teacher.

Marilyn's life took a beautiful turn when she married her husband, Kent Kay, DVM, a young man she had grown up with in New York City. Together, they made the bold choice to leave the city for a quieter life in upstate New York. Settling in the small town of Millerton, they built a vibrant, full life together, including a successful small town veterinary practice serving the surrounding dairy farms. Kent attended to the animals while Marilyn served as office manager and ran the business, all while balancing raising four sons. The boys worked in the clinic at an early age, growing up in a lively household surrounded by animals, both large (Sweetheart, a St. Bernard) and small (Charlie, a stray chihuahua),

Marilyn was predeceased by her husband of 68 years, Kent, and her son Timothy. She is survived by sons Christopher Kay of New York, New York, Eugene (Jane) Kay of Plymouth, Minnesota, and Clinton Kay of Boulder, Colorado; daughter-in-law Melanie Kay of Millerton, wife of her late son Timothy. Grandchildren include Emily, Jessie, Alexander, Alycia, Gabrielle and Genevieve Kay, and a great-grandson, Atlas.

Arrangements are being made by Peck & Peck, Copake, N.Y. A memorial service is planned for the fall in Copake Falls, N.Y. Memorials may be given to Church of St. John in the Wilderness, P.O. Box 180, Copake Falls, N.Y. 12517, or to the Animal Humane Society.

Natacha (Nathalie) Kondratiev

MILLBROOK — Natacha (Nathalie) Kondratiev was born on August 4 1960 in New York City. She grew up, with her five siblings, in Flushing, NY. Natacha went to school at the Lycée Français in New York City. She spent many summers in France with her family where she was able to indulge her love of horses daily, almost to the exclusion of all else. She loved horses from early childhood, and that love dominated her life until the very end.



Natacha went to NYU with the intention of studying for a degree in veterinary medicine but switched majors and received a BA in French. She continued her love for horses in her late teens by taking riding lessons from professionals at Waterfall Farm in Danbury, Connecticut. When Paul Okolowicz moved Waterfall Farm to North Mabbettsville Road in the Millbrook Hunt Country, Natacha followed him there, eventually becoming employed as groom and riding instructor.

When Waterfall Farm ceased operations after many years, Natacha's reputation as a reliable and caring horsewoman was such that she had many offers to work in other Millbrook barns. She worked for Dr. David Hammond's

veterinary practice as a foal watcher as a supplement to her barn duties at the various stables in the area.

Natacha also gave her love to the beagles and bassets of the Sandanona Harehounds. She lived for many of her last years at the Thorndale kennels, feeding and looking after the fifty hounds that lived there two. She was quick to adopt old beagles from the pack, giving them a homeplace for the remainder of their days.

When not caring for horses and hounds, Natacha could be found immersed in the stories of fiction and fact that tantalized her curious mind. She was an avid reader and friends knew that a gift card at the local Merritt Book Shop was always welcome.

For the last decade of her life, Natacha was plagued with severe heart ailments and other health problems. She persevered with good humor and courage until her body could no longer keep her soul and spirit within. Natacha died in Vassar Hospital, with her siblings beside her, on Saturday, February 21, 2026.

A private burial service for the family was held at St. Peter's Cemetery, Lithgow, Millbrook, NY, on June 24th, 2026.

Donald Harry Duncan

MILLERTON — Donald Harry Duncan, 78, a lifelong area resident died peacefully on Tuesday, June 16, 2026 at his home in Millerton, NY, surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of Sharon E. (Drake) Duncan and loving father of Bruce, Alex and Steven Duncan, adored grandfather of Sydney, Chelsea, Bailey, Gabriel, Ariana, Braeden and Tony and caring brother of Patricia Flood and James Duncan.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday July 1, 2026 from 11am to 12pm at South Amenia Presbyterian Church, 229 South Amenia Road, Wassaica,

NY 12592. A funeral service will begin at 12pm at South Amenia Presbyterian Church. Reverend Zora Cheatham will officiate. A communal reception in Don's honor will be held immediately following the service in the fellowship hall next door to the church. Burial at Irondale Cemetery will take place in the future. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or to plant a tree in Don's memory, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

Jeremiah Joseph Larsen

Harwinton — Jeremiah Joseph Larsen, 44, of 274 Litchfield Rd. died Sunday June 14, 2026 at the Yale New Haven Health Center in New Haven. Jeremiah was born May 9, 1982 in Bristol, CT. He was the son of Jeffrey L. and Ruth M. (Wilkinson) Larsen of Harwinton, CT

Jeremiah graduated from Lewis Mills High School in Burlington. He worked for several local landscapers in the Northwest Corner including Leno's Lawn Service, Green Acres Landscaping and most recently Paul Kaminski Landscape Management in Harwinton. Jeremiah was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved spending time with his two sons, Hayden and Finn Larsen, of East Canaan, CT and extended family. He and his ex-wife Jessica Strattman continued to work closely to

provide the best for Hayden and Finn. Jeremiah also was known for his love of cutting grass.

In addition to his parents and sons Jeremiah is survived by his brother Zachariah W. Larsen and his fiancée, Marcie Perswald both of Bristol, CT and Zachariah's daughter Skyla Larsen of Norfolk, CT along with numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday June 25, 2026 from 11:00 am until 12:30 pm in the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St. North Canaan, CT 06018. We will then process to Hillside Cemetery in East Canaan, CT for a graveside service 1:00 PM. Memorial donation may be sent to Hayden and Finn Fund 274 Litchfield Rd. Harwinton, CT 06791.

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The Lakeville Journal - The Millerton News



Worship Services

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9 South Main, Sharon CT
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Transitioning through prayer
All welcome to join us
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www.christchurchsharon.org

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OUR TOWNS

Patchin's Mill renovations move forward with foundation restoration

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Machinery still sits inside the grist mill.

PINE PLAINS — Patchin's Mill, a historic grist mill that played an important role in the region's agricultural history, is undergoing its first major round of restoration work in years as preservationists work to stabilize the deteriorating structure and eventually return it to operation.

Restorative work to the foundation began last week under the supervision of Keith Sisco, Bill Hedges, and other members of the historic preservation association Friends of Stissing Landmarks.

"We would love to be able to restart the mill," said Sisco, a FOSL board member, who said it stopped operating decades ago but still has what's needed to get it up and running again. "The belts are still on the pulleys."

The mill, however, still needs repairs from the ground up. FOSL took the first big step in 2023 by clearing out the debris and overgrown plant life that had surrounded Patchin's Mill just north of Pine Plains in the in-

tersection of North Main Street and Silvernail Road.

The next phase started this month. The mill has twice been hit by vehicles, and one side of the foundation is badly damaged as a result. FOSL spent the first week stabilizing the structure and hauling out the collapsed foundation wall.

The project has been made possible by fundraising, and the non-profit FOSL raised the capital to hire a mason, Robert Koch. Koch has been overseeing the restoration and is building a bi-level foundation of stone and brick. After the mortar sets, a team from Syracuse will come to Pine Plains to replace the in-

terior timber beams that have decayed over time.

FOSL is hoping to raise \$150,000 for this first phase of the project, which will include the adjacent and over-stuffed mill house across the street. The previous owner used the space for storage, according to Bill Hedges, one of the FOSL members leading the restoration. "We want to return the mill to its former glory," he said.

Patchin's Mill's origins date back to the 1740s, when surveyor Charles Clinton made a note in his field book about the Shekomeko Creek waterfall a half-mile north of Pine Plains. But it took 60 years for a mill to actu-

ally go up, and back then it was called Hoffman's Mill. The Hoffmans bought the land from the Grahams (of Graham-Brush House fame), and built a grist mill. In turn, Mark Patchin bought the land — and the mill — from Hoffman's grandson in 1873.

The grist mill is a simple yet ingenious device. Using the weight and force behind the water's fall, two stones rise and fall to crush raw grain into usable flour. Wheat, rye, cornmeal, and buckwheat were some of the grains processed at the mill during the 19th century. The current structure was built in 1917 and known as Shekomeko Stream Mill. At one point, a second mill on the opposite bank — a sawmill — was also in operation.

But grain production moved elsewhere, and the mill ceased operating in 1945. Many of their relics and belongings are still onsite, and Sisco says they've hired a historian to catalogue the documents and photographs unearthed during renovations.

"We hope to have it resemble how it was when it was a working mill," said Sisco.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE A5

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

LET'S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

Summer is here, bringing long days, local events, gardens, lake time, family visits and, for some, a chance to slow down.

What are you looking forward to this summer? Is there a place you plan to visit, a restaurant you want to try, a show or concert you hope to see, a trail you want to explore or a summer tradition you never miss?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, June 29 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

Should communities hold on to fireworks, embrace drone shows or find room for both?

"We vote drone show, but we might be a little biased."

— Millerton's 175th Anniversary Team

"Silent fireworks!"

— Kimberley Travis, Amenia

"I love the drones. I have pets and the noise from the fireworks scares them to where one has seizures and that's not a pretty site to see. Also, think of the people that suffer from PTSD."

— Jo Little, Pine Plains

"Drones also allow people to demonstrate their skills and personalize the content of the show. Less air pollution, no risk of fire or accidental injuries from fireworks. My dogs have never been comfortable with the noise of fireworks either. That's a vote for Drones here. Happy, safe 4th everyone."

— Trina Rosas

"There's nothing like fireworks. Maybe Gen Z likes drones more because technology is all they've known."

— Joanna Zammiello, Poughkeepsie



Commencement, Wing at 105, library, crime

The following excerpts from *The Millerton News* were compiled by Kathleen Spahn and Rhiannon Leo-Jameson of the North East-Millerton Library.

June 27, 1935 Millerton High School Commencement Marked By Large Attendance

A large attendance marked the thirty-sixth commencement of Millerton High School which was held in the

FROM THE ARCHIVES *The Millerton News*

school auditorium on Monday night. Diplomas were awarded to ten graduates by Elmer W. Simmons, president of the Board of Education. They were Marion Winifred Agnew, Dorothy Louise Barth,

George Herbert Brewer, Ruth Elizabeth Conklin, Edna Mae Francis, Edythe Marion Gup-till, Margaret Mary Lilley, James Tripp Miller, Frances Heneritta Wooding and Anthony Arthur Yakubowski.

Ruth Conklin, valedictorian, was presented the Alumni Scholarship by Miss Blanche Bates, president of the Alumni Association, just before the presentation of diplomas.

June 24, 1976 'Wing' In Wingdale: Anne Wing Levings: 105 And Still Going Strong

It is often said that the pity of growing really old is that you outlive your friends. That statement is only partially true for Anne Wing Levings, who celebrated her 105th birthday at the Lovely Hill Nursing home in Pawling on Sunday, June 13. Nearly 75 visitors and friends were there helping her to celebrate. She has outlived many of her dear friends, but because she remains so dear herself, she keeps acquiring new ones along the way, including a reporter doing a routine story.

Millerton Free Library Fund Drive Takes Off

The Millerton Free Library Fund Drive got under way this week. In a letter sent to all Millerton residents, the library campaign committee solicited support to achieve its \$30,000 goal. The mailing included a brochure outlining the needs and the plans for the new Library building on Main Street.

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

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Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week's publication. No more than 500 words. Send to editor@millertonnews.com. Include town and phone number for confirmation.

June 28, 2001 Millerton Crime Wave Investigated

MILLERTON — Three separate incidents of burglary in the past three months have become the subject of local talk concerning the safety of local businesses and residences.

Millerton Postmaster Retiring After 12 Years

MILLERTON —After 12 years as Millerton's postmaster, Martin Cavally has decided it's time to hang up the mail bag. Mr. Cavally, who was raised in Dutchess County, joined the U.S. Postal Service in 1968.

"Northern Dutchess is my home," explained Mr. Cavally, who has lived here most of his life. Although born in Manhattan, Mr. Cavally attended school in Poughkeepsie and earned his associate's degree from Dutchess Community College.

Mr. Cavally served two years in the Army and was stationed in New York City and then in Dutchess County. He also served a brief stint in Vietnam. He married Claudette Wyant in 1966. The couple has a daughter Kelly and a granddaughter Chiara, living in Rensselaer.

Why did Mr. Cavally choose a career with the post office? "The retirement [benefits]," he admitted. After working part time for IBM and the state of New York, he was offered a position with the post office.

The greatest game ever played?

This year's NBA Finals, in which the New York Knicks beat the San Antonio Spurs to end a 53-year championship drought, was tense and tight throughout. Game Four, in which the Knicks overcame a 29-point second half deficit to win 107-106, is universally acknowledged to be the masterpiece of the series. But it was more than that: it was the greatest game ever played in the history of American team sports.

That's a bold statement, for sure. But I don't believe I'm suffering from recency bias. Nor am I saying this because I'm a 66-year-old lifelong Knicks fan who was wrapping up junior high school when they last won the title. Hear me out:

A truly great game requires the coming together of several elements. First, the stakes must be high, which eliminates games played during the regular season no matter how extraordinary they are. Playoff games are a must, preferably in the championship round.

Second, the drama must be of the highest order, which usually involves overcoming seemingly insurmountable odds in the form of a massive comeback. High drama certainly can come in other forms, such as Don Larsen's perfect game in the 1956 World Series or Wilt Chamberlain's 100-point game in 1962, but those are superlative individual achievements. What most sports fans consider a great game usually involves a thrilling team comeback.

Third, a great game should have an iconic, signature play, such as Bobby Thomson's bottom-of-the-ninth home run to beat the Dodgers and advance to the 1951 World Series, or LeBron James's full-court rundown to block Andre Iguodala's layup to win the 2016 NBA Finals.

Game Four had it all. The stakes were massive. A Knicks

GUEST COMMENTARY James Speyer

win would put them up 3-1 in the series and in the catbird seat, given that only one team had ever come back from a 3-1 deficit to win the Finals. A Spurs win would, after their Game Three win, even the series at 2-2 and return the momentum and home-court advantage to them. To be sure, it was not an elimination game for either team. But it was critically important.

The comeback was insane. The Knicks were getting demolished. The Spurs were unstoppable. They made fourteen threes in the first half, a Finals record for any half. They led 76-49 at the half, the most first-half points ever scored by a road team in a Finals game. They led by 29 at the 9:40 mark of the third quarter. During the entire 2025-26 regular season and playoffs, no team had overcome a 29-point deficit, at any point in the game. At that point, the Knicks had a 0.4% shot at winning.

And then it happened, slowly at first, with the Knicks chipping away — hitting singles, as Jalen Brunson said after the game. By 9:33 of the fourth quarter they had cut nine points off the lead—but they were still down by 20, and still had only a 0.4% chance to win. In the last thirty years of playoff basketball, teams other than the Knicks were 3-751 when down by 20 or more in the fourth quarter.

In the next nine minutes the Knicks erased all but a point off the lead. And with two seconds remaining, OG Anunoby capped it all off with the greatest single play in Knicks history. In an astonishing display of athleticism and grace under pressure, OG swooped in from beyond the three-point line, soared over two Spurs defenders, and

tipped in Jalen Brunson's missed three-pointer for the win. The degree of difficulty was off the charts.

In that moment millions of hyperventilating Knicks fans lost their minds.

The Tip, as the play will forever be known, was, in Kareem Abdul-Jabbar's eloquent words, "as beautiful an encapsulation of the majesty of sports as anything you're ever likely to see. The seemingly impossible happened."

The Tip completed the greatest comeback in NBA Finals history and the second greatest comeback in NBA playoff history (after the Clippers' 31-point third-quarter comeback in the first round of the 2019 playoffs).

So there you have it: super-high stakes, an unprecedented comeback, and the most unforgettable of game-winning plays. Can any other game match that?

I don't think so. Let's look at some of the usual contenders.

The 1951 Giants game ending with Bobby Thomson's home run — "the shot heard round the world" — was perhaps the most famous baseball game ever played. But that was not a World Series game (it was a playoff game to decide the National League championship), he hit it with one out, not two, and it helped the Giants overcome a three-run ninth-inning deficit — impressive but not in the same league as surmounting a 29-point disadvantage. What's more, it was a pop fly that traveled just 315 feet — dramatic for sure, but not

comparable to the stunning magnificence of OG's play.

Tom Brady's Patriots overcame a second-half 28-3 deficit to win the 2017 Super Bowl: the greatest comeback ever to win the championship. But it lacked an iconic last second, score-flipping, game-winning moment.

The helmet catch — David Tyree's unbelievable grab of Eli Manning's desperation pass to sustain the drive that allowed the New York Giants to beat the hitherto-undefeated Patriots in the 2008 Super Bowl — was amazing, but that game involved nothing like the Knicks' comeback.

Game Six of the 1986 World Series is also a good contender, since it was an elimination game for the Mets and they came back in the bottom of the tenth with two outs, no one on base and losing 5-3. But they won that game on a wild pitch and the famous Bill Buckner error, and it's hard to say that a game ending on miscues should be considered the greatest game ever.

Sports fans are a disputatious lot, and I'm certain good arguments can and will be put forth for other worthy contenders that I haven't even mentioned. But right now nothing else comes to mind. So I'm just going to say it (again): the greatest game ever played in the history of American team sports took place in New York City at Madison Square Garden, the Mecca of hoops, on June 10, 2026.

James Speyer lives in Sharon. He is very happy.

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PASSIVE HOUSE *Continued from Page A1*

firm Building House took on the task, implementing a modern take on a two-story Cape Cod-style design with a basement garage utilizing the existing foundation.

Shapiro led a presentation on the construction of the home and discussed some specifics about passive home building at an open house at Hill's home on Saturday, June 20.

The retrofit required the original home — built in 1992 — to be torn down to its studs and the roof removed so the entire structure could be rebuilt to passive house certification standards, Shapiro said.

"This is our first retrofit,"

Shapiro said. "Good bones, a little rundown."

From there, with nothing but the existing foundation and timber studs where the house used to stand, Shapiro's crew began building up the walls, installing new windows and eventually building a brand new roof.

Shapiro joked with attendees, saying that the site of the nearly-demolished house was a shock in early construction.

"No matter how good you are as a builder at setting expectations with your client, nothing prepares them for this," Shapiro said. "There was probably a lot of tears during those early days."

The walls and windows are

important aspects of a passive house build, Shapiro explained. The structures must be airtight to minimize heat loss as much as possible. Walls also have to be much thicker than typical, and are packed with high-efficiency insulation and membranes that allow moisture to escape the structure while trapping air and heat.

The windows and doors used in the build resemble vault doors, with thick frames and a flanged shape that locks in air. Passive houses are required to be essentially airtight because leaks contribute the most to heat loss in a structure.

Passive houses seek to ad-

dress this issue by sealing the building and using special air circulation systems that release stale air and ingest fresh air from the outdoors. Hill's house uses what's known as an "energy recovery ventilator," or ERV, to ventilate the home without compromising heating efficiency.

ERVs transfer moisture and heat between the expelled inside air and ingested outside air, allowing fresh air to enter the home without compromising the home's other heat-trapping measures.

The build process wasn't entirely straightforward, Shapiro said. One hurdle was the electrical and plumbing work that Shapiro said poked holes

in the house's airtight seal and caused unacceptable air leaks. Crews had to conduct tests and patch holes to fix the leaks and bring the house into compliance with passive house certification standards.

"Our plumber-slash-electrician just could not understand what an air barrier was," Shapiro said. "And I think at

some point seemed to be making a sport of turning our air barriers into Swiss cheese."

Airtight design requirements still allow for homeowners to open their doors and windows to let in a nice breeze, which Hill demonstrated at the open house by letting in a gentle summer breeze.

EMS *Continued from Page A1*

a portion of Pleasant Valley. "So the first stop is to slow it down."

"I was pleased when the county executive agreed that this needs to be a priority," said Chris Drago, who represents northern Dutchess in the county legislature, "but this continues to be a Band-Aid solution."

That's due in part to a lack of competition. Empress EMS is the region's primary EMS provider, and it just acquired Northern Dutchess Paramedics in late 2025. The company is the only provider of advanced life support services, commonly known as ALS, like ambulances. Basic life support, or BLS, which entails non-invasive life-saving techniques, can be administered by volunteers or first responders.

Even those BLS volunteers, however, are subject to the inherent challenges of providing timely support in rural areas such as north Dutchess. Round-the-clock coverage for an area that receives lower call volume gets expensive fast.

The high costs run parallel with Empress' profit model. That hasn't led to any complaints about their service, but as Rep. Drago put it, "I feel we need to take profit out of the equation of saving people's lives."

There are three primary ways the ambulance service makes money: billing patients and receiving reimbursements from insurance companies, taxpayer subsidies, and inter-facility transport. The latter involves moving patients to better-equipped facilities, usually in a non-emergency capacity.

In short, the more a patient uses an ambulance, the greater the profit. That's led to northern Dutchess County to receive less attention than communities in the south — Empress ambulances tend to concentrate in the more populous southern towns,

where call volume is higher. The vast majority of grants that fund fly cars, which are vehicles with basic medical equipment that allow for EMTs to provide some immediate triage care, awarded as part of the county's EMS initiative, went to mid- and southern Dutchess towns.

But help may be on its way. Northwell Health is a health-care provider that has been expanding north from its base in Long Island and New York City. It recently acquired Sharon Hospital in Connecticut, and has been speaking with lawmakers about providing supplemental ALS coverage to the area. At a March meeting in Milan, Northwell representatives made their pitch to town officials and emergency response leaders from northern Dutchess.

In the meantime, Northwell is implementing its own ALS program at Sharon Hospital. It involves employing hospital-based paramedics to provide a number of services. Instead of waiting for a call to come in, these paramedics will be an extra pair of hands in the emergency room and provide inter-facility transportation, in addition to their emergency response duties.

"We wanted to facilitate a dependable and effective movement of critical care patients," said Matthew Casavechia, Director of Emergency Services at Northwell. "We want to have a paramedic following these patients after they've been discharged, integrated into the larger continuum of care...it's proven to be very effective in the general Sharon Hospital area."

For now, Northwell hasn't been integrated into the northern Dutchess emergency response pipeline. But that day may be fast approaching. "We're eager for them to come online as an EMS provider in Dutchess County," said Rep. Drago. "We could use their help."

TEA SHOP *Continued from Page A1*

for 20 people inside the shop, but health officials required him to scale back that plan. The shop's septic system was approved with the condition that only 14 seats be installed inside the shop.

He said the build out will likely take at least three weeks longer, meaning the storefront is not expected to open prior to Millerton's 175 celebration running from July 11 to July 19. But Schildbach is planning to operate a pop-up tent offering a limited variety of tea drinks during the celebration.

Schildbach also plans to

distribute 25% discount coupons to shoppers that stop by the pop-up. Customers can then use those coupons once the shop opens to get a discount at the shop once it opens later in July.

"It's a little bit of a discount for people who want to try us out," Schildbach said.

Schildbach announced plans to open the tea shop with his wife, Kanchisar Jiradhanaiphat, in late April. The shop will occupy the storefront formerly occupied by Candy-Os on Main Street.

"This isn't going to be a bubble tea shop," Schildbach

said in April, describing a menu that seeks to bring authentic Thai tea culture to Millerton.

Highlights will include nom yen — a pink milk tea made with sweetened condensed milk and flavored syrup — as well as coffee cham yen, a blend of coffee and tea. The menu will also feature Thai tea ice cream floats, lattes and matcha drinks.

But the pair don't want to limit the menu to just desserts and sweets. Schildbach said they are aiming for a sophisticated — yet affordable — menu that offers an

authentic, approachable take on Thai tea shops.

That desire for authenticity will be built into the space itself, Schildbach said. Plans for the tea shop include adding a wall to create a service window typical of Bangkok tea shops, accented with tile and wood details.

The goal is to fit in with Millerton's current lineup of Main Street businesses, while providing a unique experience for locals and visitors alike.

"It's going to be like you're in a tea shop in Thailand," Schildbach said.

BANNER *Continued from Page A1*

interpretation of the code," Lindars said, adding that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that lamp posts are not considered to be available for public use.

"You cannot tie signs to town property," said Councilmember Nicole Ahearn.

Amenia's Town Code regulates signs as part of the town's zoning ordinance under chapter 121-39. Those regulations include a blanket ban on placing signs on "municipally owned property" without prior approval from the Town Board.

Hamm said her office did not receive formal complaints about the sign, but she had received phone calls and noticed complaints on Facebook.

In response, Travis defended the sign and the weekly protest.

"We must all stand up," Travis said, arguing that the protest is only for one hour.

Councilmember Walter Dietrich supported the usage of the banner, indicating that the protesters are not placing a permanent sign on the post.

Hamm recognized that the protesters nor the sign block the sidewalk or impede pedestrians. She indicated that



PHOTO PROVIDED

A white banner reading "workers over billionaires" has become a part of regular weekly anti-Trump administration protests led by Amenia resident Kimberley Travis.

she would like more time to consider the issue.

During public comment, resident Ken Topolsky spoke in support of allowing the banner, while resident Judy Moran said she was con-

cerned about how sign regulations could be interpreted in the future if exceptions were made.

Lindars agreed that the board could delay a decision, and board members

ultimately agreed to seek additional clarification on the sign regulations before taking any action.

"Nothing can be tied or attached to town property," Ahearn reiterated.

Correcting Errors

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Letters to the Editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday, July 6th

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our
community



PHOTO BY ROBERT BRISTOW

Pilar Proffitt with some of her art presented at Galerie Dernier Cri in New York City.

The Renaissance spirit of Pilar Proffitt

By Richard Feiner & Annette Stover

Pilar Proffitt is forging a remarkable artistic path grounded in her long history in Northwest Connecticut. Proffitt is a true Renaissance woman with a quirky sense of humor — a visual artist, architect, designer of interiors, furniture and products, and curator of home furnishings.

Her latest grand project is still quite literally under wraps. Large windows obscured by construction paper on a bustling avenue in Manhattan prevent passersby from peeking into the 15-story boutique hotel designed and furnished by Proffitt for an international hotel group, which is nearing completion. The hotel's lobby, restaurant, common areas and rooms stand out

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

MUSIC

A classical summer begins: eight Tanglewood picks

By Thomas Jensen

The Tanglewood classical music schedule is loaded with gems. Here are eight to consider:

Thursday, July 9, 8 p.m., in Ozawa Hall. The dynamic duo of Augustin Hadelich, violin, and Seong-Jin Cho, piano, take on works by Brahms, Janacek, Beach and Prokofiev. Whether you get seats in the hall or sit outside on the lawn, you will not regret getting to this one.

Friday, July 10, 8 p.m., in the Shed. Seong-Jin Cho plays Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 and excerpts from "Swan Lake." This special evening features dancers from Boston Ballet and will be wonderful for the ears and the eyes.

Saturday, July 18, 8 p.m., in the Shed. The BSO, with Joe Hisaishi conducting, Jean-Yves Thibaudet on piano and

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

COMMUNITY

At 95, Elyse Harney celebrated with Honorary Doctorate

By Natalia Zukerman

On May 19, Elyse Deublein Harney returned to St. Joseph's University in New York City, her alma mater, where she graduated in 1952. Before the crowd gathered for the university's 107th commencement ceremony, the Salisbury resident, entrepreneur and community leader received an honorary doctorate and delivered the commencement address to the Class of 2026.

The recognition arrives at a meaningful moment for the Harney family. In February 2027, Elyse Harney Real Estate will celebrate its 40th anniversary, joining Harney & Sons Fine Teas, co-founded by Elyse and her husband, John, in 1983, as one of two enduring family businesses that have shaped both the region and the family's legacy.

At a moment when many people are expected to reflect on their accomplishments, Harney used her commencement address to talk instead about possibility.

"God has a job for you," she told the graduates. "Something that you alone can do."

That line may very well be the organizing principle of a life that has included hotel management, raising five children, launching two businesses, serving on local boards, helping found the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service and, somehow, still finding time to reopen conversations about preserving historic institutions.

One of the most striking parts of Harney's address centered on beginning again.

When she and her husband



PHOTO PROVIDED

Elyse Deublein Harney (center) celebrates with Keith Harney, Elyse Harney Morris, Paul Harney and Michael Harney after receiving an honorary doctorate from St. Joseph's University.

were 50 years old, the partners of the White Hart Inn in Salisbury, where John was general manager for many years, decided to sell. Suddenly, the couple needed a new source of income.

John launched what would become Harney & Sons Fine Teas, and Elyse opened a real estate office across the street.

"Simple as that, I did," she told graduates with characteristic understatement.

Of course, anyone familiar with the growth of Elyse Harney Real Estate knows there was nothing simple about it. What began as a small local office became one of the most respected real estate firms in the region, helping define the market across northwestern Connecticut, the Hudson Valley and the Berkshires.

Her commencement address wandered delightfully through subjects that rarely appear together: Nobel Prize-winning genetic research, French entrepreneurs, Catholic education, self-driving cars, German teachers and divine purpose.

At one point, Harney reflected on the women who educated her at St. Joseph's.

"They made it very clear we could do whatever we wanted to do, if we were willing to work for it," she said. "Being a woman was not a handicap."

For graduates entering a world transformed by artificial intelligence, political upheaval and economic uncertainty, Harney offered neither nostalgia nor easy reassurance.

"AI is here," she said. "We have to learn to use it and to

control it."

After discussing technology, entrepreneurship and faith, Harney turned to the subject of consciousness. Quoting author Michael Pollan, she shared the final lines from his new book, "A World Appears: A Journey Into Consciousness," that she said had stayed with her:

"Consciousness is a miracle, truly. It is the most mysterious of things, and yet it can be put in one short sentence: I open my eyes and I see the world."

Then she offered her final message to the graduates.

"Open your eyes and see the world."

At 95, Elyse Harney is still opening her eyes and seeing the world. Thankfully, she's still telling the rest of us what she finds there.

THEATER

Take a trip to WWII England with the Sharon Playhouse's 'Swingtime Canteen'

By D.H. Callahan

Dateline: 1944. A platoon of our boys are stationed in London, waiting to be sent to the mainland to fight the Axis powers and liberate Europe. While they wait, a group of glamorous gals from Hollywood are sent over to distract them with singing, dancing and a few memories of home.

That's the scene at "Swingtime Canteen," the new production now on stage at the Sharon Playhouse.

From the moment you enter the playhouse, the stage takes you right back to another time, with recruitment and War Bonds posters setting the tone alongside soldiers' footlockers and blankets. When the lights go down, the smiles of the cast light up the room, and the audience is quickly recast as a troupe of American G.I.s.

What follows is a jukebox musical in the truest of sense, bouncing from one 1930s hit to more "contemporary" 1940s tunes and back again, all performed with the kind of polished finish audiences have come to expect from the Sharon Playhouse.

The gals in the band are our entire cast, and they spin yarns in between numbers, throwing the spotlight back

and forth between the five singing-and-dancing sensations. But they don't stop there. Between piano, saxophone, drums and even a banjo, they work with the musicians on stage to create that quintessential '30s

and '40s sound.

"Swingtime Canteen" transports its audience to a time when, unlike today, there was very little division among

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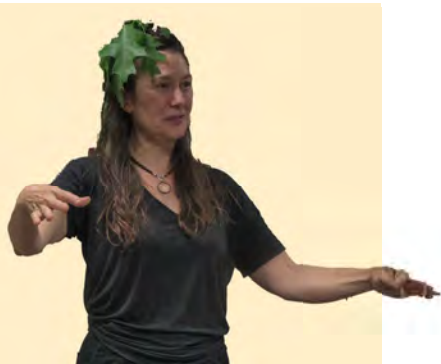
INSIDE

OUR TOWNS

Highland gardener advocates for 'wild' approach

CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events





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WBSL FM 91.7
Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

... Pilar Proffitt

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

for their attention to design — from the furnishings, colors and fabrics to the mosaic floor tiles, hardware, wrought-iron gates and stairs, selection of antique books, and the art on the walls. The collection includes paintings by Proffitt, photographs by Wassaic Project co-Executive Director Jeff Barnett-Winsby, time-lapse photography by Xan Padron and classics from the Warhol Factory.

Proffitt and her husband and business partner, Robert Bristow, are well-known leaders in the art and architecture communities, and their home, studio and workshop in Lakeville; store and office at 16 Main St. in Salisbury; and gallery space in Norfolk are vibrant hubs for arts and design in the region.

Proffitt has been coming to the area since she was a teenager. Originally from Puerto Rico, her moved to the New York City area in the 1970's. Her artist and architect father encouraged her interests in art and design and her deep desire to create. At school, she excelled in math and art and soon realized that this was all she wanted to do. "Think logically and then break the mold with creativity," she said.

Armed with a degree in visual art from Trinity College, she pursued advanced studies at Berkeley and Pratt before receiving a master's degree in architecture from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia, where she met Bristow. Both landed apprenticeships in Boston and were drawn to the arts community in Norfolk centered around the Yale Summer Arts Program. The area quickly became their personal and family anchor.

They started Poesis, a furniture design and manufacturing studio, with a small loan from



PHOTO PROVIDED

A rendering of King Winery, one of Pilar Proffitt's current interior design projects.

“Think logically and then break the mold with creativity.”

PILAR PROFFITT

her mother. They landed a major house project and soon met a hotelier at a party who hired them on the spot to design a hotel in Washington, D.C.

Proffitt said, "I was hooked because it combined everything I wanted to do creatively: design experiences in the broadest sense with all the supporting pieces of the puzzle — furniture, objects, art. My father felt that architecture was the Renaissance profession: It holds the seeds of art, design, engineering and all the other ingredients. For me, it all starts with art."

Proffitt is devoted to the area. She and Bristow raised their family in Lakeville. Their daughter Grace, a sculptor, attended Hotchkiss and is pursuing her MFA at University of

Pennsylvania. Their daughter Ellis, also a graduate of Hotchkiss and Trinity, is a mathematician and aspiring actress in Los Angeles; and their son Sam attended Salisbury School and is a junior at Trinity, majoring in art history with a minor in architecture. They all are carrying forward the family's passion for arts, architecture and design.

Proffitt's interior design work and unique furniture pieces welcome visitors at Hotchkiss' Art Center, the Scoville Memorial Library, her own whole hOuse shop in Salisbury and, soon, across the street in the new Jam Food Shop, which is expected to open this fall.

The region's many museums and galleries include some of Proffitt's favorites, from Mass MoCA and the Clark to Salisbury's Geary, Mad Rose in Millerton, Jack Shainman in Kinderhook and Art Omi in Ghent. Proffitt loves the connections and new opportunities brought to the community by the in-

crease in full-time residents, as well as impromptu get-togethers with friends — recently watching a Knicks playoff game at the tavern bar at the White Hart. Moments like that keep her grounded here.

In addition to the White Hart, Proffitt is a fan of area restaurants, including Fern for a quick pasta at the bar; Isabela in Amenia, where Michelin-starred chef Jose Ramirez Ruiz is from Puerto Rico; and Clare de Boer's Stissing House in Pine Plains.

A perfect day for Proffitt is spent working in her studio overlooking Lake Wononscopomuc, without distractions, rain or shine. It is a quiet and peaceful place that supports her many architecture and design projects. When asked what she would say to a younger version of herself just starting a career, she responded, "Don't be so shy. As one of my professors told me, 'Sometimes you just have to crash the party.' Draw, write, run, play tennis. And travel!"



PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

Ken Musselman with his paintings "Red Apple #2" and "Nine Servings Daily." His show, "Time Passages," opens Saturday, June 27, at Hunt Library in Falls Village.

ART
Ken Musselman marks new chapter with farewell exhibition

By Robin Roraback

Hunt Library in Falls Village will host a farewell show of the work of well-known local artist Ken Musselman, beginning with an opening reception on June 27 from 5 to 7 p.m. The show will run until July 31.

Musselman, a longtime resident of the Northwest Corner, recently moved to Woodbury, Connecticut, where he will begin a new phase of his life.

After the loss of his wife of 43 years, Cathy, three years ago, the prolific artist took a break from painting.

"I am finally getting back on my feet," he said. "I am beginning to paint again."

"Time Passages" is a collection of his paintings from past years. With this show, he said, he will be "getting rid of the old and starting new." He intends to "move in a different direction," which involves a monochromatic palette. "I am in a sepia mood right now," he explained.

Musselman has long been known for his whimsical paintings. He recalled his first one, depicting deer ice skating, which was sold at P S Gallery in Litchfield.

He explained how he gets his ideas. "I sit and visualize things," said Musselman. "I paint from my head."

He is also known for local landscapes, still lifes and flowers. His wife was from East Canaan, and her family's Ford Farm inspired many of his paintings.

Musselman, who always loved drawing, was studying to be an aviation struc-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4

ART

Bugs! crawl their way into Upstate Art Weekend

By D.H. Callahan

Artist and curator Charlotte Woolf thinks bugs get a bad rap. Her new multimedia show at Fox Trot Farm and Flowers in Stanfordsville seeks to change how people see these creepy-crawly creatures.

This time of year, there's no way to escape the onslaught on bugs closing in from the wild. The little flyers and crawlers somehow penetrate even the tightest window screens. If there's a crack in a floor board, it might as well have a big neon "Enter" sign. Like zombies from "Night of the Living Dead," they approach with dispassionate determination.

But bugs aren't just trying to make you squirm. Woolf's show, "Bugs!," highlights the underappreciated roles that insects, arachnids and myriapods play in our lives. They break down natural waste, serve as food for birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and mammals, and pollinate about 75% of the food humans eat. Without bugs, our world simply doesn't work.

To shine a different light on them, Woolf has enlisted more than 40 artists working in a wide variety of media, from fiber artists and tattooists to writers, sculptors and painters for a full weekend of art and activities.

The "Bugs!" show is part of Upstate Arts Weekend, an ever-growing celebration of the arts happening throughout the Hudson Valley. This year, the weekend kicks off on Thursday, June 25, at Olana State Historic Site, the estate of celebrated American painter Frederic Church, whose 200th birthday will be part of the celebration.

Events are being held all over the valley, including a dance party at Assembly in Kingston on Friday night. Beyond the official gatherings, Upstate Art Weekend is a chance to find new art and interact with artists and like-minded creative people.

The shows themselves are far too numerous to list. Even the official Upstate Art Weekend website has more information than a

CONTINUED ON PAGE B4



PHOTO PROVIDED

"Butterfly in the Stomach" by Hanna Washburn at "Bugs!" part of Upstate Art Weekend.

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COMMUNITY

CHORE Garden Party raises support for seniors, caregivers

By Ruth Epstein

Community members gathered at the hillside home of Jamie Delany and Michael Cullen on Saturday, June 20, to help ensure that their senior and disabled neighbors are able to remain independent.

The event was the annual CHORE Service garden party. The organization provides a variety of everyday support services people rely on, such as help with errands and light housekeeping, while also providing employment opportunities for local residents.

As guests strolled through the expansive gardens and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, cocktails and one another's company, they were thanked by staff and board members for their support.

"Because of your support, this past year has been one of meaningful growth and impact," Jane MacLaren, CHORE Service director, told the audience. "Together we provided nearly 10,000 hours of essential services — an 18% increase over last year — and served 254 residents in our community. We also provided part-time employment to more than 50 caregivers."

She shared the story of one couple in which the husband is slowing down. While he is largely independent, his wife does not feel comfortable leaving him alone for long periods. Her life had



A large crowd gathered at the home of Jamie Delany and Michael Cullen for the annual CHORE Service Garden Party.

PHOTO BY RUTH EPSTEIN

become centered on caregiving, and she felt the need for some time for herself.

She called CHORE, and now, once a week, a caregiver takes her husband out to run errands, giving him an opportunity to stay active and connected while providing her with a break from constant responsibility.

"That's the difference a few hours can make," MacLaren said.

She announced that CHORE is expanding its services to include nonmedical respite care for unpaid caregivers like this wife. The organization also plans to expand its transportation program in response to growing demand for rides to medical appointments and

social events.

"We look forward to sharing more about these new and expanded initiatives with you in the coming weeks and to demonstrating how your support continues to shape our neighbors' lives."

Board Vice Chairman David Becker spoke about the Fund the Cause initiative, which has a goal of \$30,000. The funds will be earmarked for transportation to medical appointments.

He noted the beauty of the Northwest Corner but said its lack of transportation options can create significant challenges for many residents.

"Uber doesn't exist in this part of the state," he quipped, adding, "No one

should miss medical appointments because they don't have a ride."

Among the attendees was Darcey Markelon of Litchfield, a CHORE caregiver. She signed up four years ago after retiring as a special education teacher in New Milford. She currently has two clients, and her enthusiasm for the work quickly became apparent.

"I've always enjoyed working with the elderly; it's so rewarding," Markelon said. "My clients and I have developed close relationships. I look forward to seeing them every week, and they look forward to seeing me."

For more information, visit choreservice.org

... 'Swingtime Canteen'

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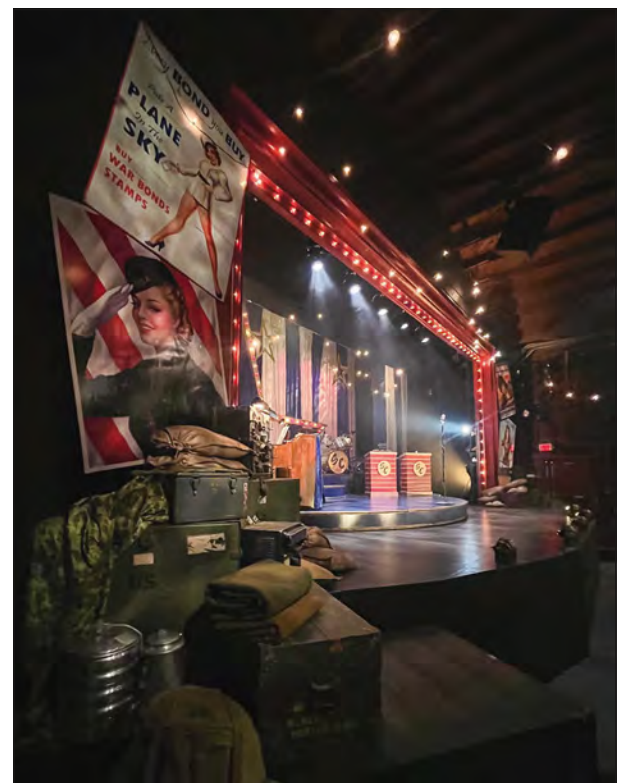


PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

The set for "Swingtime Canteen" transports the audience to WWII London.

Americans. The war they were fighting had a 97% initial approval rating from U.S. citizens. In a year when the nation is celebrating its 250th anniversary, the production serves as a reminder of a moment when Americans largely shared a common purpose and a

common enemy. Even if the swinging songs of the '30s and '40s aren't your thing, the production is a marvelous little escape to a time when life was a little simpler and the lines between good and evil were a little clearer. For showtimes and tickets, visit sharonplayhouse.org

... Bugs!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

mere mortal could comprehend. But with a little determination, visitors can sift through filters to organize events by region, medium or price, though many of the shows are free to the public. There's even a feature to help plot an itinerary, complete with recommended routes

based on drive time, location and preferred pace, making it easier than ever to see as much art as the human heart desires.

For more info about Upstate Art Weekend, visit upstateartweekend.org and for more info on "Bugs!" visit foxtrotfarmflowers.com/events.

...Tanglewood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Song Hee Lee, soprano, will perform Hisaishi's "Adagio for Two Harps and Strings," Ravel's Piano Concerto in G, Hisaishi's "Da-Ma-Shi-E" and Hisaishi's "Symphonic Suite from Princess Mononoke." The multitalented Hisaishi will be the most accomplished Japanese artist to grace the grounds since Ozawa's time. Not to be missed.

Sunday, July 19, 2:30 p.m., in the Shed. The BSO, with Andris Nelsons conducting, Daniil Trifonov on piano and Thomas Rolfs on trumpet, presents a powerful program: Haydn's Symphony No. 22, "The Philosopher"; Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1; and Beethoven's Symphony No. 2. This is quite a lot to take in. Rolfs remains one of the orchestra's most compelling virtuosos, and his trumpet playing is always worth hearing live. Trifonov, legendary on piano, playing another Russian legend's finest music; extraordinary. Then, Beethoven. Better get there early.

Friday, July 24, 8 p.m., in the Shed. The BSO, with Andris Nelsons conducting and the brilliant Augustin Hadelich on violin, performs Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5 and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 3, "Polish." Hadelich is worth seeing again and again; the tones he produces are so sweet.

Saturday, July 25, 8 p.m., in the Shed. The BSO, with Andris Nelsons conducting and Paul Lewis on piano. The super-catchy Mozart Piano Concerto No. 27, K. 595, will have Lewis demonstrating his artistic command of tempo and tone while dancing and blending delightfully with the



PHOTO BY ARAM BOGHOSIAN

Aerial view of The Shed at Tanglewood.

orchestra. Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 4 follows after intermission, and you'll practically float home.

Thursday, July 30, 8 p.m., in Ozawa Hall. The Danish String Quartet, which brings a lot of energy to the stage, performs Stravinsky's "Suite Italienne," Beethoven's String Quartet No. 16 in F, Op. 135, and arrangements of Danish folk songs. Come to hear Frederik, Rune, Asbjørn and Fredrik. Skål!

Friday, July 31, 8 p.m., in the Shed. The BSO, with Esa-Pekka Salonen conducting and Yefim Bronfman on piano. The power of Wagner's "Prelude and Liebestod" from "Tristan und Isolde," followed by Sibelius' Symphony No. 7 and Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor," will leave you feeling like you are the new emperor.

Other events of note: Friday, July 17, 8 p.m., in the Shed. The BSO per-

forms John Adams' selections from "Nixon in China." Also, don't miss Laurie Anderson's curated series of events Aug. 13, 15 and 16.

For a full schedule and tickets, visit bso.org/tanglewood

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The documentary *Bar None: Cannabis Redemption* will screen at Stissing Center in Pine Plains Saturday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m. Although cannabis is now legal in much of the U.S., hundreds of thousands still carry the weight of past convictions — and tens of thousands remain behind bars. The film follows 13 people caught in the justice system who've turned their lives around by entering the legal cannabis industry. The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the film's creator. Tickets are available at thestissingcenter.org

Tri-Corner Calendar

JUNE 25

Delano Dunn: Echoes in the Margin
Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Road, Amenia, N.Y.
Wassaic Project presents *Echoes in the Margin*, a solo exhibition by Delano Dunn curated by Mickalene Thomas and hosted at Troutbeck. Through collage and mixed-media works, Dunn reimagines how Black identity and desire have been shaped, represented and understood. Opening reception June 25 from 5 to 7 p.m. Exhibition on view through Nov. 29. Free. More information at wassaicproject.org.

Dine Out for a Cause

The White Hart, 15 Under Mountain Road, Salisbury, Conn.
Dine out at The White Hart and a percentage of the proceeds will support Housatonic Valley Association that works to protect the lands and waters of the Housatonic River Valley.

BUGS!

Foxtrot Farm, 6862 Route 82, Stanfordsville, 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. 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

REAL PEOPLE REAL STORIES

Ancram Center for the Arts, 1330 County Route 7, Ancram, N.Y.
Ancram Center's annual storytelling series returns with original stories from four local residents. Guided by program director Paul Ricciardi and lead teaching artist Sarah Katan, storytellers Jolie Kobrin-sky of Hudson, Steven Favreau of Ghent, Joan Coombs of Stockbridge and Bonnie Long of Taghkanic share personal narratives about risk-taking, family, community and the value of money. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at ancramcenter.org.

Connecticut Tunes and Tales of the Revolution

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
Musician and storyteller Kent Besocke presents "Connecticut Tunes and Tales of the Revolution" at 6 p.m. on the library lawn. Featuring songs and stories accompanied by guitar, banjo and mandolin, the program explores Connecticut's role in the American Revolution. Bring chairs, blankets, food and beverages. Free.

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

JUNE 27

Opening Reception: "Life2: Bonnie Kozek"
The GOOD Gallery, 23 South Main St., Kent, Conn.
Opening reception 3 to 6 p.m. for Bonnie Kozek's new exhibition.

Homespun Kent: Revolutionary Households

Kent Historical Society, 4 Studio Hill, Kent, Conn.
Come partake in Kent Falls brew, cider, wine and nibbles and bring an appetizer to share (or a picnic to enjoy on the lawn) at 5 p.m. and discuss the Crown and the case for independence.

Christian Sands Trio at Music Mountain

Gordon Hall, 225 Music Mountain Road, Falls Village, Conn.
Christian Sands, Piano, Isaac Levian, Bass, and Ryan Sands, Drums, play the music of Dave Brubeck. Christian Sands is one of the most exciting voices in jazz today, known for his dynamic blend of swing, blues, gospel, and Afro-Caribbean rhythms. 7 p.m. Tickets at musicmountain.org

"Constance Old: Notes from My Kitchen, 2007-2026"

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org
June 27 through Aug. 22

The Cornwall Library presents an installation of collages by Constance Old, created from self-adhesive stickers and upcycled materials, exploring themes of consumer excess, material reuse and contemporary life. An artist's reception will be held June 27, 5-7 p.m. (in-person only). Registration is requested at 860-672-6874 or CornwallLibrary.org. The exhibit remains on view through Aug. 22.

Explore the Native Gardens of Falls Village

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On the Falls Village Green

Pick up a brochure with a map and a self guided tour of the pollinator pathway from Railroad Street to the David M. Hunt Library. 12 p.m. Garden tour of the library native plant gardens with the garden's designers Page Dickey and Deborah Munson. 10:30 a.m. Special Native Plant Saturday Story time at the library for kids of all ages, with stories, a snack and a flower bookmark craft.

Film Screening "Bar None: Cannabis Redemption"

Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
At 7:30 p.m. in Banning Hall, get ready for the Hudson Valley premiere of the award-winning documentary "Bar None: Cannabis Redemption." Through the stories of 13 formerly incarcerated individuals who became advocates, entrepreneurs and leaders in the legal cannabis industry, *Bar None* explores second chances, equity and justice in a changing society. A live Q&A with the filmmaker and several documentary subjects will follow the screening. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

Barnum Festival Champions on Parade

Shelton High School, 120 Meadow St., Shelton, Conn.
The 2026 Barnum Festival Champions on Parade returns

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

at 6 p.m. for the first East Coast Drum Corps International show of the summer: The Hurricanes, a nonprofit organization, prides itself in being the only world class all-age drum corps in New England, and draws its members from throughout Connecticut, New England as well as New York. Gates open at 5 p.m. Tickets are available at the door or online at Tiketor.com/Hurricanes.

Barbara Grossman: How I Got Here: Space, Color and Pattern

Washington Art Association, 4 Bryan Plaza, Washington Depot, Conn.
June 27 to Aug. 8

This retrospective exhibition features paintings from across Barbara Grossman's career, exploring her longtime interest in color, pattern, interior spaces and the human figure. Grossman is a member of the National Academy of Design and a founding member of New York's Bowery Gallery.

Opening Reception: Saturday, June 27, 4 to 6 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Homespun Kent: Revolutionary Households Opening Reception

Seven Hearths, 4 Studio Hill Road, Kent, Conn.
The Board of Trustees and staff of the Kent Historical Society present the opening reception for *Homespun Kent: Revolutionary Households*. 5 p.m. RSVP required by emailing director@kenthistorical-society.org

"Women Laughing" Screening & Q&A

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y.
A panel discussion with directors Liza Donnelly and Kathleen Hughes, moderated by filmmaker Pamela Hogan, will follow a screening of "Women Laughing," a documentary exploring the history and impact of women cartoonists at *The New Yorker*. 7 p.m. For tickets and information, visit bit.ly/TMH-women-laughing.

Sigrid Gray Lecture: "On the Edge: Mills Park Community Experiment"

Spencertown Academy Arts Center, 790 NY-203, Spencertown, N.Y.
Spencertown Academy Arts Center's Hidden Gardens Lecture Series presents horticulturist and designer Sigrid Gray at 9:30 a.m. Gray will discuss the transformation of a small village green in Kinderhook into a meadow park, exploring the challenges, community response and lessons learned through the project. Tickets are \$20 and include refreshments. Registration is available at spencertownacademy.org

JUNE 28

Closing Party: Sara Farrell Okamura

LABspace, 2642 NY Route 23, Hillsdale, N.Y.
Closing reception for Sara Farrell Okamura's solo exhibition of paintings, "On The Precipice." 1 to 5 p.m.

PRIDE at The Alander

North Star at the Alander, 7519 State Route 22, Copake, N.Y.
Cap off Pride month with a BIG DJ dance party in the Star Lounge and outdoor area. 4 to 8 p.m.

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary Summer Art Show

Merwinsville Hotel, 1 Browns Forge Road, Gaylordsville, Conn.
June 28 through Sept. 11

2 to 4 p.m. Opening reception June 28 featuring works by more than 20 local artists exploring the theme of America's 250 years, along with strawberry shortcake, iced tea and lemonade. An end-of-show celebration will be held Sept. 11 at the annual meeting. Artwork is for sale, with proceeds benefiting ongoing preservation of the historic 183-year-old hotel. Admission and Sunday tours are free; donations are welcome. Information: merwinsvillehotel.org or 860-350-4443.

... Ken Musselman

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

tural mechanic in the Navy when he painted a mural in the mess hall. He recalled, "They told me, 'You're wasting your time being a mechanic.'" So he painted murals and created technical illustrations instead.

After the Navy, while living in Florida, an opportunity arose for a job as a graphic designer at Dotty Smith's in Lakeville, a women's fashion and jewelry company that closed in 2001. Musselman applied and moved to the region where his wife had grown up.

Later, he worked full time as a painter, with work in five galleries. He was in his studio "14 hours a day, seven days a week" to keep the galleries supplied.

"Time Passages" contains favorite Musselman themes, including cows, local land-

scapes, still lifes, flowers and barns, on both large canvases and 4-by-4-inch canvases, in styles ranging from whimsical to realistic.

He is now semi-retired. Future plans include painting portraits inspired by family photos. "I'm not going to chase it anymore. I'll let it come."

Musselman is concentrating on a "leap of faith, a new chapter in life."

For more information, visit huntlibrary.org/art-wall/.

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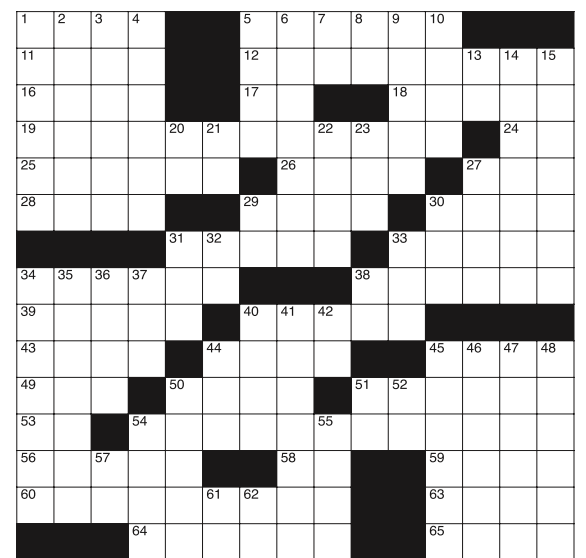
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal S. American rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Excitedness
16. Armed Forces branch
17. Actor Harris
18. Middle Eastern capital
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Popular computers
27. Reduce light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Absence of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Whittles
34. Impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. ___ Clapton, musician
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. Singer Hansard
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Former AL MVP Vaughn
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
64. Relating to passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

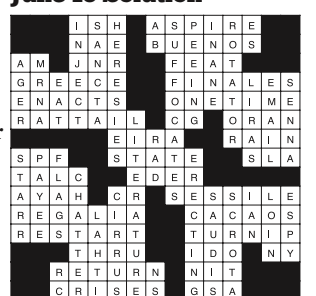
CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless fluid
2. Of a main artery
3. Photographer's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But ___"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. ___ Lang (country singer)
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Wildebeests
13. Equal to one quintillion bytes
14. Japanese three-stringed lute
15. Type of cat
20. It cools your home

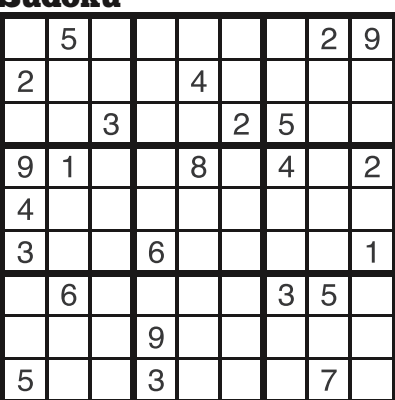


21. The ancient Egyptian sun god
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. Measurement unit
30. Body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Snack food
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Pitching statistic
38. ___, myself and I
40. City in Utah
41. They play in the trenches
42. "Can't Touch This" rapper ___ Hammer
44. Type of tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick

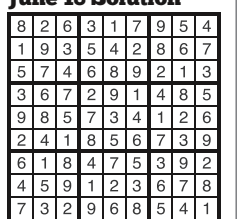
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OUR TOWNS

Highland gardener advocates for 'wild' approach

By **NATHAN MILLER**
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — A crowd of about a dozen gardening enthusiasts from across Dutchess County took a free lesson in wild gardening on Saturday, June 20.

Jessica Williams of Odd Duck Farm in Highland, New York, led a talk on "re-wilding" garden spaces in the Millbrook Library's basement as part of an ongoing series of talks organized by the Millbrook Garden Club.

Williams, an avid gardener and florist, has been focusing on native, pollinator-friendly plants in her gardening efforts to promote biodiversity on her property and ecological health in general. She said she's driven by an appreciation for bugs and allowing nature to take its course — even if that means letting plants die when a typical gardener might fight harder for life.

"I believe in survival of the fittest in the garden," Williams said.

Williams advocates for gardeners to change their perspective and stop seeking to eradicate bugs and critters from gardens. She described the food chain as a delicate balance, where insects and the plants they eat form a base that all other life sits on top of.

"They can live without us, but we need them," Williams said.

As an example, Williams

produced an oak twig she grabbed from a tree in her yard the morning of the talk. Leaves were tattered and chewed on, evidence of an insect feast that Williams said should be seen as a beautiful sign of an active ecosystem.

Part of building an appealing ecosystem for local bugs is planting local plants. Williams told the crowd that 70-80% of biomass should be native plants. She suggested planting an oak tree to meet that quota, saying one tree would then allow gardeners to plant whatever other flowers they wanted without worrying about exceeding their foreign

plant ratio.

Maintaining a 70-80% ratio of native plant biomass helps to ensure that local bugs have plenty of food to eat. And well-fed bugs make for well-fed birds, Williams said.

Williams also encourages variety in a garden. She said that a mix of flowers, shrubs and trees both improve aesthetic value and provide a variety of good food and habitat for bugs and birds.

"It's important to keep the neighbors happy, too," Williams said.

Another unorthodox tip was to embrace decay. Williams explained that soil is

composed of broken down biological matter and letting plant trimmings and leaves return to that soil will only improve garden health.

"It just disappears," Williams said.

One technique she supports is the "chop and drop" method. It's intended for gardeners that may not have room for a dedicated compost pile, and advocates for dropping plant trimmings directly into the garden bed and leaving it there to rot and decay into the soil.

That strategy actually serves multiple purposes. Decaying plant matter will

return useful nutrients for plant health to the soil and the sticks and leaves provide habitat for bugs.

Williams specifically called out fallen leaves during the fall as especially beneficial. She supports letting leaves lay where they fall whenever possible, but said that collecting leaves and spreading them in places like garden beds and compost piles can also be a good use.

But, with all things gardening, Williams said nature should be a guide in the proper way of doing things. A layer of leaves that's too thick can

essentially strangle a plant. Instead, gardeners using the material as makeshift mulch in their garden beds should apply the leaves in a thin layer that mimics a naturally wind-swept covering.

Williams maintains that 100% native gardening is not necessary as long as gardeners make an effort to plant as many native plants as possible. Many annuals and bulbs are beneficial to pollinators and bugs despite being foreign. She recommended alliums, cosmos, salvia, sunflowers and herbs such as basil, thyme and lavender.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Harlem Valley area activity report June 12 to June 18

June 12 — Deputies responded to Baxter Road in Pawling for a neighbor dispute. Both parties were served with trespass notices advising them to stay off of each other's property.

June 12 — Deputies responded to the Wassaic Train station in the Town of Amenia and took custody of Tai Chopping, age 54, who was wanted by the Columbia County, New York, Sheriff's Office on an active Bench Warrant for failing to appear

in court in that jurisdiction. Chopping turned over to Deputies of Columbia County Sheriff's Office for further.

June 12 — Deputies arrested William Ball, age 35, for driving while intoxicated and aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the first degree as a result of traffic enforcement on Winchell Mountain Road in the Town of North East. Ball to appear in the Town of North East Court at a later date.

June 15 — Deputies responded to High Meadows Trailer Park in the Town of Dover to investigate a do-

mestic dispute at that location. Matter resolved without further police intervention.

PLEASE NOTE: All subjects arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in local courts later.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office tip line at 845 605 CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

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We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

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