

PHOTO PROVIDED



Saluting Nonprofits
Live Music • Food • Fun

OUR TOWNS



Wanda Houston brings the 175th fair to a close on Sunday afternoon.



Food trucks sold ice cream, burgers, hot dogs, and fried classics all weekend.



The petting zoo at Eddie Collins Memorial Park was a big hit, 175th celebration lead organizer Lisa Hermann said.



Even volunteers, like Millerton resident Claire Goodman, enjoyed the petting zoo.

Sunshine returns for 175th wrap-up

Continued from Page A1

significantly affected by air quality concerns. The rain on Saturday forced some attractions, including face painting and musical performances, under the pavilion at Eddie Collins Memorial Park to protect equipment and keep visitors dry. Despite the rain Saturday, the parking lot at Eddie Collins Memorial Park filled once again on Sunday afternoon as families and community members enjoyed a petting zoo, inflatable bounce houses and obstacle courses, food and drink from local bars, breweries and restaurants, and live music on the lawn all afternoon.

Last weekend’s fair — the culmination of a week-long celebration that began with a parade and groundbreaking for the planned new pool a week prior — kicked off Friday afternoon, July 17, with community organizations and vendors setting up shop in the park. Attendees trickled in during the afternoon before swelling in numbers Friday evening as a drone light show began at 9:30 p.m. Hermann cited excitement for the village’s future as a highlight of the week’s events. Attendees to the park for the drone show admired the painted outline of the planned pool and cheered

when the lighted drones depicted a cheerful child jumping into a pool from a shaking diving board. The drone light show traced significant moments in Millerton’s history while also highlighting future projects. Hermann said her biggest takeaway was seeing attendees celebrate the village’s past while embracing what comes next. “There were some aspects of the celebration that also had to do with the pool and the next steps for Millerton,” Hermann said. “Seeing people get really excited about that — like the painting on the grass that 3M did — I think it was really great.”

Hermann expressed gratitude for the volunteers and village officials who helped organize the week-long celebration. She credited the community members who served on the Millerton 175th Committee with staying committed to the project over the past two years. She also thanked Village Hall employees and members of the highway department for their assistance with the fair, the week’s events and preparations leading up to the celebration. “There are so many people in the community that stepped up to make this possible,” Hermann said. “It wouldn’t have been possible without them.”

Millbrook Fire Department Carnival carries on despite rain, air quality concerns

By ELOISE PICKERING
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — Millbrook’s four day Fire Department Carnival that took place between July 15 through July 18 saw community turnout through rain, heat, and poor air quality. With a looming storm and Canadian wildfires lowering air quality, residents and families still lined Franklin Avenue during the July 18 parade, cheering on local fire departments. At 6 p.m. sharp, over a dozen fire apparatus, marching bands, and firefighters began rolling and marching through the heart of Millbrook from Front Street to Maple Avenue. Millbrook Mayor Peter Doro also marched in the parade with his two young boys, both waving American flags. The smell of burgers and the sound of rides filled the carnival as goers waited in lines, ate cotton candy, played games, and got their faces painted. Rain didn’t stop the party, as people took the break to eat, dance or try their hand at ring toss. The final day began with a parade that featured marching bands, fire trucks and apparatus, and firefighters from across Dutchess County. Afterwards, onlookers travelled to the carnival. Fire departments that participated in the parade were judged across various categories with over 10 winners. Proceeds from the carnival benefit the Millbrook Fire Department.



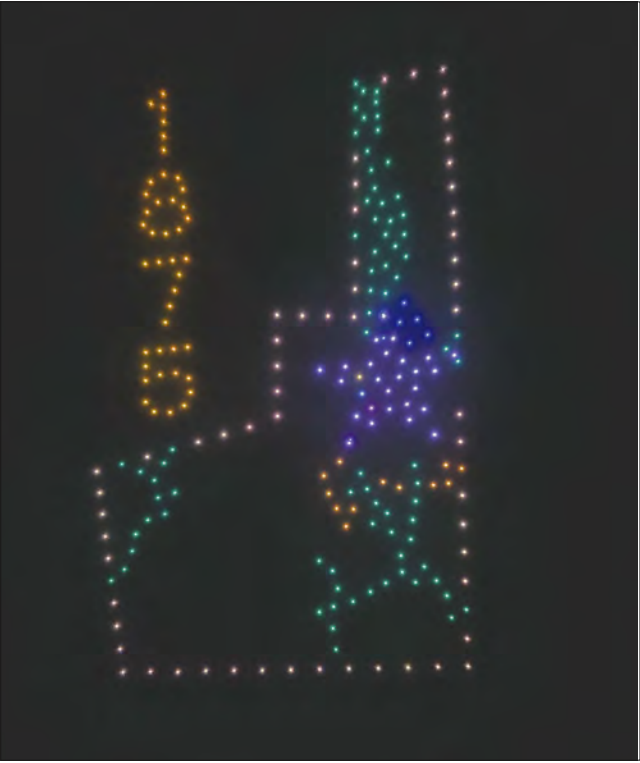
About to begin dispensing ride tickets at the opening day of the annual Millbrook Fire Dept. Carnival on Wednesday, July 15, the ticket booth was a focus for visitors as they awaited the opening and the start of the rides.



Among the first to try out the Paratrooper ride on Wednesday, July 15, opening day of the Millbrook Fire Dept. Carnival, were Alyssa Hotaling of Millbrook and daughter, Sophie (4).



Games of chance were set up and ready to go on opening day of the annual Millbrook Fire Dept. Carnival on Wednesday, July 15.



The drone light show on Friday, July 17, honored Millerton’s past and looked forward to its future.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
Coldworks Mechanical LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/28/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: P.O. Box 353, LaGrangeville, New York 12540-0353. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
07-23-26
07-30-26
08-06-23
08-13-26
08-20-26
08-27-26

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that an Application for Authority of Jones & Daughters Hudson Valley LLC, a foreign limited liability company, was filed with the Secretary of State of New York pursuant to Section 802 of the Limited Liability Company Law. The name of the limited liability company is Jones & Daughters Hudson Valley LLC. The jurisdiction of its formation is Connecticut. The date of its formation is January 28,

2026. The county within New York State in which the office of the limited liability company is to be located is Dutchess County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the limited liability company upon whom process against it may be served, and the post office address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process served upon the Secretary of State is Jones & Daughters, 34 Main Street, Millerton, NY 12546. The principal office address of the limited liability company is 34 Main Street, Millerton, NY 12546.
07-23-26
07-30-26
08-06-26
08-13-26
08-20-26
08-27-26

Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of Chapters & Charm LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on May 22nd 2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process

to: 16 Barton Street, Millerton NY 12546. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.
07-16-26
07-23-26
07-30-26
08-06-26
08-13-26
08-20-26

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). Name: Garnet IT Consulting LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on [07/01/2026]. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 22 South Randolph Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.
07-23-26
07-30-26
08-06-26
08-13-26
08-20-26
08-27-26

OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY ELOISE PICKERING

A sign along Kaye Road in the Town of North East marks the location of Taconic Plateau Foundation’s land along the Connecticut border.

Millerton nonprofit faces closure over tax exemption denial

By ELOISE PICKERING
Special to the Millerton News

MILLERTON — The Taconic Plateau Foundation, an environmental nonprofit, plans to appeal to the Dutchess County Supreme Court for a property tax exemption after a third denial by the Town of North East. The foundation said it may be forced to close.

Established in 2022, the foundation is a nonprofit organization that oversees 175 acres of land along the New York/Connecticut border for conservation, research and educational work.

“Our charge is to maintain it as a pristine natural resource for posterity,” said Jed Marcus, a director of the foundation. He said the goal is to protect the species that call the property home.

In addition to maintaining the land, the foundation hosts public activities and scientific research. Marcus said nonprofit volunteers do not just passively maintain the land, but rather actively engage and educate the community through their work.

As a nonprofit, the Taconic Plateau Foundation has been deemed tax exempt by the IRS and the State of New York, but is seeking to be exempt from local property taxes. Currently, the foundation pays \$6,643 in property and county taxes each year, Marcus said.

In 2025, the foundation recorded \$8,800 in revenue from grant money.

Marcus said that the 2026 request for property tax exemption under New York State’s Real Property Tax Law was denied, as it was found by the Town of North East that the property is not used exclusively for nonprofit purposes.

“That statement is so troubling because it’s just emphatically not true,” Marcus said.

Marcus said the town did not elaborate as to why it concluded the property failed to qualify. He argues the land meets the statutory requirements and pointed to prior court decisions recognizing environmental conservation as a charitable purpose eligible for a property tax exemption.

The 1982 case of New York Botanical Garden v. Assessors of the Town of Washington established environmental conservation as a charitable

activity that qualifies for real property tax exemption, he noted.

After the request was denied, the foundation appealed to the town’s Board of Assessment Review. Organization representatives received a determination letter on July 18 denying the appeal. Marcus said he was baffled by the denial.

“They just checked the box saying you’re not eligible for the request,” Marcus said.

Town of North East Assessor Katherine Johnson would not comment, citing an expectation of “continuing litigation,” but did not provide further details.

The Taconic Plateau Foundation plans to file an appeal by the end of July with the Dutchess County Supreme Court for a Real Property Law Article 7 hearing, which allows property owners to challenge property tax assessments in court. The court will review submitted documents, then decide whether to hold a hearing.

If the foundation is denied again, Marcus said it will likely go bankrupt.

“We have no assets, no money other than the land, and that will work well if we don’t have to pay taxes,” Marcus said. “If we have to pay taxes, basically, we’re going to go out of business. We just can’t raise that money.”

The foundation receives some donations that go directly toward taxes, and others that pay for conservation, charitable, or educational activities. Marcus said that there are less who contribute money for taxes than for other purposes, but the foundation can’t access the latter until the tax bill is paid.

The Taconic Plateau Foundation has set aside a \$20,000 donation for litigation. If it didn’t go to court, that money would have gone towards programming and research.

The organization gets its funding through grants and donations, and the staff is made up of volunteers. Recently, the organization has had a challenging time receiving funding.

“We’ve gotten our money through grants, but we’ve kind of come to the end of the line because nobody wants to give a grant that’s simply going to go to the town to pay taxes,” Marcus said.

Washington officials begin pool renovation talks

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Washington’s town board will begin workshopping plans for renovations to the town pool next week.

At a regular meeting on Thursday, July 9, the board discussed a preliminary feasibility study on the pool and surrounding park. A monthly workshop, hosted at Town Hall, will begin to address concerns and solidify plans on how to improve the park. The first session will take place on Thursday, July 23, at 6 p.m.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend, but only as observers to the proceedings.

The feasibility study was originally presented in May.

It was prepared by Mike Murphy, the Chairman of the Reimagine the Town Park Committee, and found that residents are interested in a variety of recreational improvements. The proposals include pickleball courts, extended park hours, splash pads, a third pavilion, a new pool, and updated playground facilities. Murphy estimates the cost at between \$2.5 and \$3.7 million.

In other business, discussions over the town’s mass appraisal grew heated.

Assessor Lisa Evangelista detailed her findings, and emphasized the incompleteness of past data collection and site surveys. She claimed at least 100 properties are still missing from their collected data. Washington’s last home

valuation took place in 2006.

The town debated the merits of passing off the task to an outside mass appraisal company, and pushed to determine a timeline for completion of the town-wide property assessment.

Part of the board’s concern stemmed from the shifting nature of property values: if data collection takes too long, the information collected at the beginning could be out of date by the end of the process.

Washington and Millbrook’s wide array of properties, from single-family homes to large farms, present unique challenges. The board agreed to begin discussions with mass appraisal firms in an attempt to expedite the process.

An application for high-

density housing at the former site of Green Briar Nursing Home was also discussed. The proposal would include a number of townhouses and standalone homes, for a total of 12 units. The board highlighted the complications of the application — either a use variance or rezone would be required to facilitate the build.

The town board also approved several motions. The first will allow Washington to sell surplus highway vehicles at public auction. Another motion concerned town employees’ unused sick days: under the new resolution, town employees will be able to convert unused sick days to retirement funds at the time of an employee’s retirement, with a maximum allowance of 120 days.

On-Duty Pine Plains police officer resigns after Route 199 crash

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — An on-duty Pine Plains police officer who was involved in a July 6 crash has resigned from the department, Town Board members were told during their July 15 meeting.

Officer Brian Johnson’s resignation comes after he struck a 2003 Lincoln while he was traveling on Route 199 on July 6. According to State Police, Johnson failed to stop in time, totaling the vehicle.

The two occupants of the Lincoln sustained minor injuries. Johnson and Officer Aaron L. Fantroy, who was riding in the passenger seat of the patrol vehicle, were transported to Northern Dutchess Hospital. Fantroy was later transferred to Albany Medical Center for additional treatment.

State Police determined the crash was non-criminal. Investigators cited driver inattention or distraction as the cause, though they found Johnson was not using a cell phone or the patrol car’s in-car computer immediately before the collision.

During the meeting, Officer John L. Hughes confirmed Johnson’s resignation from the Pine Plains Police Department. Johnson was a recent graduate of the New York State Police Academy. It is unclear whether his resignation was related to the crash.

EMS response data questioned

The board’s agenda also included an EMS update from Pine Plains Rescue Squad 2nd Lt. Nelson Zayas. Zayas noted that Dutchess County has yet to release any reports or analysis on EMS calls in 2026.

The county had previously released quarterly reports in 2025 that detailed EMS response times and responding agencies. Zayas’ own statistics were pulled from raw data he has collected over the course of the past year.

As he did in April, Zayas said county data on response times and non-response rates does not account for situations in which volunteer EMTs respond directly to a scene without utilizing an ambulance.

Of the second quarter’s 65 emergency calls received

by Pine Plains Rescue Squad, 12 categorized EMS as late — meaning the response took more than nine minutes — or unresponsive. Zayas argues that number is actually three, and gave an accounting of each specific call. In some cases, ambulances were beaten to the scene by EMS volunteers. In others, a vehicle was out of service for repairs.

“I’m trying to give the public a view of what’s going on behind the scenes,” Zayas said, “and that things are not actually as bad as they look on paper.”



126TH ANNUAL
TWIN LAKES DAY
August 8, 2026
Camp Isola Bella
410 Twin Lakes Road, Salisbury

10:00 a.m.
Annual Membership Meeting

1:00 p.m.
Twin Lakes Day, with fun for all ages!
Swim and kayak races, much more.
Free and Open to the Whole Community.
Rain date is August 9

twinlakesorg.org



SAT., AUG. 1 | 7:00 PM
“Let’s Dance!”
With Swingtime Big Band
Music Mountain’s 20-piece “House Band”
Performs America’s Favorite Dance Hits
Bobbie Ruth and Zach Alexander, Vocals

Music Mountain Summer Festival



SUN., AUG. 2 | 3:00 PM
Erinys Quartet
With Oskar Espina Ruiz, Clarinet
Works by SCHUBERT, MOZART, VASKS
Premiere of FUENTES Clarinet Quintet
FUENTES Pre-Concert Talk at 2:00 PM

Tickets \$50-65 | \$30 for Student / Teacher / Veteran / 19-40 y.o.
Free Under 19 y.o.
(860) 824-7126 and musicmountain.org

OBITUARIES

Louise R. Black

MILLERTON — Louise R. Black, 86, born July 16, 1939, in Queens, New York, died on July 15, 2026, with her partner of 26 years, Mary Howard, by her side. She is also survived by her nephews David Black and Jason Black, and his wife, Kerri; and niece Tiffany Black and her husband, Shlomo Toledano.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina Women’s College and earning two master’s degrees, Louise taught physical education for 35 years at Scarsdale (NY) High School, chairing the department and serving as the first woman Athletic Director. An accomplished fencer, tennis player, and swimmer, Louise’s enduring fondness for sports included a love of the Brooklyn Dodgers, though she never quite recovered from their move to the West Coast.

Louise’s artistic talents came through in her knitting, her painting, and her gardens. A master knitter, for many years she and Mary hosted a weekly knitting group at their home. She was recognized for her Japanese watercolors and landscapes; her passion for flowers was expressed in the abundant roses bordering her property.

An avid traveler, she also



found great joy spending summers at her family camp on an island in the Hudson River. Cars and jazz were perennial fascinations, and Doris Day was a favorite.

Louise dedicated much of her life to community service, first as an enthusiastic volunteer at Habitat for Humanity in Westchester County. Following retirement, she moved to Millerton, New York, and was soon immersed in the local library, developing a finders’ guide for the North East Historical Society; and the co-founding of Comida de Vida food pantry at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Amenia, New York.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Food of Life / Comida de Vida Food Pantry St. Thomas Episcopal Church, 40 Leedsville Road, Amenia, NY 12501 (845) 373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com or Habitat for Humanity: <https://www.habitat.org/support>

A celebration of Louise’s life will take place on Black-Thursday, July 30, 2026 from 2pm to 4pm at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneral-home.com

Paul Chester Rooney Jr.

SHARON — Paul Chester Rooney Jr. of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida and Sharon, Connecticut died peacefully in Ft. Lauderdale on June 13 with family by his side. Born to Mary Katherine Brennan and Paul Rooney on Oct. 23, 1943, in Evanston, Illinois, he grew up in the US and London.



Paul graduated from The Oratory School, Reading, England, and Harvard College and Law School. After four years in the Navy, he was honorably discharged as full lieutenant in 1973. He built a 25-year career at global law firm White and Case in Manhattan, becoming a partner and corporate tax department head; he was known internationally for his legal acumen and creativity. He led an active social life in Manhattan, making life-long friends who enjoyed his sharp wit and repartee. Out of the office, he enjoyed playing squash at the Union League and University Clubs, and the city’s cultural offerings. A true patriot, Paul was honored to serve, until his death, on the Advisory Board of the Atlantic Legal Foundation, whose advocacy for individual liberty, free enterprise, property rights, sound science, and effective education aligned with his values. Upon retiring in 1998, the firm’s managing partner described his essence: “Spending time with Paul is like an Outward Bound adventure--physically and mentally demanding, and ultimately very gratifying.”

Paul eventually moved to his weekend Sharon home. He savored its small-town values, the opportunity to make friends from all walks of life and participate in local organizations. A perpetual student, he developed new interests, including gardening, reading all he could find about plants and trees, memorizing their Botanical Latin names, and hunting for specimens. After much studying and practicing, he became an avid bridge player and amateur chef. An outdoorsman, he played tennis at the Sharon Country Club; shot at nearby Mashomack Preserve; and skied and fly fished locally. He developed and owned golf courses in New York and Maryland in partnership with a friend. He devoured modern books on Greek and Roman history and re-read classics in ancient Latin and Greek. He also learned modern foreign languages and listened to classical music, discovering the varied interpretations and arrangements of different musicians and composers. In 2014 Paul became a Florida resident, spending over half the year there.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Maria Elena; daughter, Isabel Rooney; sisters, Margaret Rooney and Briahna Kelly; and sister-in-law Isabel La Vaute and her children and grandchildren. He will be remembered as a kindhearted optimistic gentleman. A celebration of his life will be announced later.

SALISBURY — It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Dona Lee (Chilcoat) Alexander, our beloved mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and friend, on July 9, 2026.

Born on Dec. 20, 1955, in Sharon, Connecticut, Dona lived a life filled with love, kindness, and an unwavering dedication to helping others.

Dona was preceded in death by her father, William Chilcoat, but leaves behind her loving mother, Katherine Chilcoat. Her cherished family includes her daughter, Sarah Olinger Hadoulis and son-in-law, Michael; her granddaughter, Penelope Hadoulis; her sister, Susan Chilcoat Bucceri and brother-in-law, Louis; her brother, Richard Chilcoat and sister-in-law, Stacey; nieces Katherine and Elizabeth Bucceri; and nephews Will, Ben (Lauren), and Graham Chilcoat.

Dona grew up in Lakeville where she graduated from Salisbury Central

School (1969), Housatonic Valley Regional High School (1973), and Gettysburg College (1977) where she earned a degree in English Literature. Her thirst for knowledge and service continued as she became certified in Grief Counseling and Thanatology, completed her Clinical Pastoral Education, received her Florida Certification for Volunteer Management, and was ordained as an Inter-Faith Minister.

Dona’s professional life was a testament to her commitment to service. After she and her daughter Sarah returned to Salisbury in 1988, she worked as store manager of Community Lumber & Hardware (now Heringtons) and as a tea blender and sales manager for Harney & Sons Fine Tea before beginning a career that was dedicated to helping others.



Her roles included Director of Therapeutic Recreation, Volunteers and Pastoral Services at Noble Horizons; office administrator for Habitat for Humanity NW CT; Director of Programs at Harvest Food and Outreach in Vero Beach, Florida; and as an in-home senior care aid for Senior Helpers of the Palm Beaches in Florida.

Some people leave behind footprints. Others leave behind a way of seeing the world. Dona was one of those people. She found beauty in the smallest things, especially a quiet walk on the beach with her eyes searching for sea glass, always believing that what the waves returned had a story to tell. She followed her heart wherever it led, never worried about fitting into any else’s idea of how life should be lived. She will be remembered for her gentle spirit, her dedication to helping others, her love for her new granddaughter, and her unwavering commitment to making

the world a better place. She believed that acting on our better instincts reminds us, above everything, that we are all humans and that when we act with care and compassion, we can shape a more loving world. She was beautifully unconventional, deeply spiritual, and completely herself. There will never be another quite like her. We hope that wherever she is now, the shore is endless, the sea glass is abundant, and her spirit is as free as ever. She will be deeply missed.

Dona’s family wishes to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association, particularly Cyndi, Laurie, and Molly, and to Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County for their compassionate care and support.

In memory of Dona, the family suggests donations be made to the Little Guild in Cornwall, CT or Salisbury Family Services.

A celebration of her life will be held in the fall.

All other services will be private.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Jane Lindsay

NORTH CANAAN — Jane Lindsay passed away suddenly on July 11, 2026, at Danbury Hospital. She was the longtime partner of Dennis Smalley.

Jane was born on Jan. 14, 1953, the daughter of Sally Hart and the late Raymond Hart.

She retired last year from Geer Village, where she entertained residents with her songs, poems, and wit, and, when not working, spread her music around town whenever she could.

Janey’s creativity was woven into every part of her life, from her love of music to her unmistakable artistic talent. Her unique style was recognizable, and each piece she created had a way of bringing a smile to those who experienced it—a reflection of the joy and imagination she shared so freely.

Jane is survived by her mother, Sally Hart; her sis-

ter, Diana Hart; her nieces, Allison Latulipe and Riley Hart; and several aunts, uncles, and cousins. She is predeceased by her brother, Jonathan Hart.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Aug. 1, at 2:00 p.m. at the North Cornwall Church. A reception will follow at the Parish House, 8 Bolton Hill Rd., Cornwall Village.

Memorial donations may be made to any animal shelter of your choosing.

In honor of Janey’s vibrant spirit, the family kindly asks that guests leave the dress clothes at home and instead wear tie-dye, something with cats on it, or a fun hat or headband—anything that celebrates the joy and individuality she brought to the world. Informality is a plus!

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



OUR TOWNS

Wildfire smoke may not be gone for good

By ALEC LINDEN
alec@lakevillejournal.com

The worst of last week’s wildfire smoke cleared by the late weekend, though meteorologists say residents shouldn’t assume it’s gone for good as shifting weather patterns could carry smoke back into the region as powerful wildfires continue to burn in Canada and the northern Great Lakes region.

Air Quality Index readings across much of Connecticut consistently reached unhealthy to very unhealthy levels between Tuesday and Saturday, with the worst conditions affecting southern parts of the state.

According to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, air quality across the state on Sunday returned to “Good to Moderate” levels, meaning prolonged outdoor exertion was safe for all but especially sensitive individuals.

Residents should enjoy the break from the haze, Bethel-based meteorologist Jack Drake said, but he cautioned that smoke could return if shifting winds carry it back

into the region while the wildfires continue to burn.

“The position of these fires is a little unfortunate,” he said, “since a prevailing wind direction [for the region] is west-northwest.”

Because of the jet stream, a high-altitude ribbon of wind that steers weather systems across North America, smoke from summer fires in the Upper Midwest and western Ontario can be carried into the Mid-Atlantic and New England.

“It’s kind of right upstream,” he said.

Conditions were similar across New York State, with the Department of Environmental Conservation issuing warnings on Wednesday and Thursday about unhealthy atmospheric conditions.

DEC issued statewide health advisories on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday, saying conditions in the Lower Hudson Valley, which includes Dutchess County, were unhealthy for sensitive groups.

A smoky haze dominated the sky in Millerton on Wednesday, but visibility returned to mostly normal by the weekend.



Worship Services

Week of July 26, 2026

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Transitioning through prayer
All welcome to join us
860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville
Offering companionship along the Way
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people
172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
Worship services Sundays at 10 am
www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232
FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH
is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan
Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm
www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

Congregation Beth David
A reform Jewish Synagogue
3344 East Main St., Amenia
SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM
Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org)
ALL ARE WELCOME
Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
info@congbethdavid.org

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
9:15 a.m. Worship Service
9:15 a.m. Sunday School
“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

Falls Village Congregational Church
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
Coffee Hour
A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!!
860-824-0194

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
No Sunday School in Summer
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.
www.thesmithfieldchurch.org
21st Century Theology in an Historic Building

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church
313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT
Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M.
Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
Special Services Online
Rev. John Kreta
860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

Sharon Congregational
25 Main Street, Sharon, CT
Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.
Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.
30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming
www.salisburyucc.org
Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!
(860) 435-2442

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge
In-Person and on You-Tube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH
Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk
St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville
MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church
Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE
Wednesday 6pm
St. Joseph Chapel or Church
Thursday 8am
Immaculate Conception Church
Friday 8am
Church of St. Mary
ALL ARE WELCOME!
For information, please call 860-824-7078

UCC in CORNWALL
Cornwall Village Meeting House
Worship Sunday, 10 am
Outstanding Church School (10 am)
Mission Opportunities
Warm Fellowship following Worship
860-672-6840
www.uccincornwall.org
Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister
Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community

The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall
Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m.
Trinity Retreat Center Chapel
Lower River Road, West Cornwall
in person and on zoom
Warm fellowship following service
All Are Welcome!
www.allsaintscornwall.org
Rev. Mary Gates

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
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Amenia Union, NY
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LET’S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

We want our reporting to reflect the questions people in our communities are asking — including the ones that may not be getting enough attention.

What is one local issue or topic you wish you knew more about?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, July 27 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK

Which Millerton 175th festivities have you most enjoyed?

"My favorite event at Millerton's 175th is definitely Hope Rising Farm. The bunnies are so big and they're so beautiful and the ducks and the horses."
— *Caroline Decker*

"My favorite part of this weekend would probably be seeing what everyone has, all the different varieties of people's skills and vendors and honestly I'm just looking to see something new."
— *Leah Hall*

"One of the things I'm really enjoying about this 175th anniversary is all the new people that I've met and all the people that are coming to see us this weekend."
— *Linda Pruneau Bishop*



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Daisy me rollin’ ...

Stormy weather — for now

I have lived in the North-west Corner since 1986 and during that time have come to realize how relatively benign our local climate is. For the most part we have been spared the hurricanes that bedevil the eastern coast-line, the droughts common in the middle of the country and the floods that imperil so many areas. In my 40 years here there have been only two tornados, one in Cornwall, the other in Great Barrington; most states in the middle of the country have at least two every year. The storm that hit our area this Fourth of July fell just short of being a tornado but did considerable damage especially to our landscape. We should consider this recent storm a harbinger of more frequent and intense severe weather made much worse by climate change greatly exacerbated by the burning of fossil fuels.

For the past 150 years the world has industrialized through the burning of fossil fuels: wood, coal, oil, and gas. Just a small portion of our energy came from clean sources such as moving water, windmills, animals. It wasn't until we realized that global warming was beginning to

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER
Mac Gordon

threaten life on the planet that we understood that we needed to start shifting to cleaner energy to survive.

The current administration is in no rush to shift to cleaner fuels. President Trump himself refers to climate change as a "hoax" and calls coal, our dirtiest burning fuel, "clean coal". He has frequently tried to debunk the science of climate change and perhaps he actually believes some of what he has been claiming.

Several months ago the Interior department issued stop work orders on five large wind farms well under construction off the Atlantic coast, citing unexplained "national security" reasons. This June 15th, after several months of delay (with the government losing the case and subsequently appealing), a Massachusetts court threw out the appeal. Work has finally restarted on each of these multi-billion dollar projects including Revolution



Just a few letters — and a few weeks — make a big difference...

Discovery solved, ‘Rent-A-Kid’, cats, housing

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

July 18, 1935
Solve Mystery Of Bones Found At Millbrook
Owner Of Farm Says Skeleton Had Been Unearthed Before

MILLBROOK - The mystery of the box of human bones unearthed by a steam shovel on the Doyle farm near here recently was solved last week by Miles Kennedy of New York, owner of the property. The farm was formerly owned by Kate Doyle who died March 26, 1934, at the age of eighty years.

According to the story told by Kennedy, members of the Town of Washington highway department were permitted to dig gravel on the property several years ago by Miss Doyle, then owner of the farm. At that time the bones of a man, long dead, were unearthed. Investigation revealed that many years before a man who was a member of a destitute family living in a tenant house on the farm had been buried on the premises to save funeral and burial ex-

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Millerton News

penses.

Mr. Kennedy said that Miss Doyle was told the bones would be interred in a cemetery. He believes, however, that because of Miss Doyle's advanced age the workmen took advantage of her and again buried the bones on the premises.

New Cooling System In Millerton Theatre

The Millerton Theatre has installed a North air cooling system which keeps the theatre at a comfortable temperature even though the heat may be extremely oppressive outside. The modern, new equipment circulates the air capacity of the theatre every three minutes.

Borden's Milk Plant Closes Department

WASSAIC, July 17 - The Borden's Farm Products Company discontinued its bottling operation at the Wassaic plant on Monday. In the future, the company

will employ only two men here besides Superintendent Whitford.

July 15, 1976
Rent-A-Kid Jobs Open

The Rent-A-Kid coordinator for the Millerton area said this week he has jobs lined up for willing young workers but no one to fill them.

John Dorfman, 20, said, "I have 4 jobs at pretty good paying wages and no one to fill them. It's getting kind of embarrassing." Dorman said the 4 jobs are working in yards and he added he is going to try to solicit kids for the program.

Most Webutuck Grads Going On To College

Fifty-one of the 93 Webutuck seniors who graduated the Central School last month will be going on to further education in one form or another.

July 19, 2001
Water Meters Studied

MILLERTON — The village of Millerton received a grant of roughly \$4,955 from the county to purchase water meters. The water meters will need to be installed in homes which have no meters, or meters that are old. The grant will cover the cost of the meters, but not their installation.

According to Mr. Jurkowski, installing a water meter costs between \$50 to \$75.

Hamilton Inn Update

Mr. Jurkowski also addressed the continuing issue

of the Hamilton Inn, which continues to be renovated despite a stop-work order issued by the Department of Health (DOH).

Cat Problem Addressed

Reports of a cat nuisance, mainly by Gayle Hendrikson, whose cat was attacked by a stray, prompted the board to look into several solutions.

Mayor Najdek said that, since she's been in office, she has received many complaints about the problem, which involves around 40 felines, some partly domestic and others feral.

Members of the board saw the issue as a potential health risk.

North East Studying Affordable Housing

NORTHEAST — The North East Housing Committee will conduct a survey of housing data. With this information, the committee will be able to determine what direction they will need to go in order to promote affordable housing.

Pat Sassaman, a consultant from the Rural Preservation Co. of Dutchess County (RPC) explained that, ideally, the maximum percentage of a household's income going towards housing should be 30 percent. For instance, the maximum rent for a household with an income of \$44,000 would be \$1,100 per month. The purchase price for a new house would be \$110,000.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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LJMN Media, Inc., Publishers of
The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTOS BY LUCIA IANDOLO

A farm house on Amanda and Henry Dykeman's property made an appearance in earlier entries in the "A Quiet Place" franchise.

Film shoot to close road in Dover

By LUCIA IANDOLO
Special to The Millerton News

DOVER PLAINS — West Dover Road will be closed from July 23 to Aug 10 due to filming "A Quiet Place: Part III," the fourth movie in the "A Quiet Place" franchise.

The road along the Starkdale Farms property will be closed to through traffic during production. Residents are being told to use Old Pawling Road and Pleasant Ridge Road to access Route 22 by the Pawling Lake Property Owners Association.

Film crews filmed scenes on the same road for "A Quiet Place," which was directed by "The Office" star John Krasinski and released in 2018. "A Quiet Place: Part II" returned to film in the Hudson Valley and was released in 2021, with both films accumulating millions of dollars for the local economy in the region. "A Quiet Place: Part III," directed by John Krasinski, is set to release July 30, 2027.

"A Quiet Place" is a movie franchise about a post-apocalyptic world in which monsters roam the Earth and hunt with the use of sound. Humans use American Sign Language to communicate with each other while living in silence to survive. The series is based around the Abbott family, which includes parents Lee,

played by John Krasinski, and Evelyn, played by Emily Blunt, and children Regan, played by Millicent Simmonds, and Marcus, played by Noah Jupe. Residents in the area have taken to social media to share their thoughts on the closure of West Dover Road. Many are apprehensive about the filming because of the upcoming detours and road closure, while others are excited about the opportunity the town has to be a part of this franchise.

Community members Tracy and Sean Fleischman say that as movie lovers themselves, they're excited for the town to be involved in such a popular franchise. Sean Fleischman says that with the involvement the town has in the filming process, there should be more opportunities for people in the community to get involved.

"They have to get permits, and people on planning boards know about these things. They should leverage that and say, 'Hey, you know, we want you to do something at the local school,'" Fleischman said. "You know, really get some kind of grassroots thing going where they encourage the youth to go into film."

Amanda Dykeman and her husband, Henry Dykeman, are the fourth generation operating Dykeman Farm on the road where filming will take

place. She said the collaboration between the crew and the farm has been positive since the first movie's filming, as they've been mindful of supporting local businesses throughout the process.

"They're very sensitive to make sure that we can still access any crops that were in need of harvesting or maintaining," Dykeman said. "It's pretty exciting to know that something like this comes to town — it doesn't come to everybody's town."

The farm housed the corn used during scenes in the first movie, and both Amanda and Henry Dykeman received recognition in the film's credits.

The West Dover Road closure will affect the usual access residents have to local businesses like the farm. Dykeman said the alternative routes will take a few extra minutes to drive, but they've created new signage that will clearly mark the detour and ensure people can easily understand how to approach the site.

"We're going to remain hopeful that everybody will understand that it's just a few days in our life," Dykeman said. "A minor inconvenience, but an inconvenience for a pretty awesome experience, and some extra revenue to the area that can help us upgrade things without an increase in taxes."

Moviehouse sounds alarm over proposed film distributor merger

By JACQUELYN DRAIN
Special to the Millerton News

MILLERTON — The Moviehouse on Main Street, a long-standing fixture in Millerton's business community, is continuing its revitalization as the film industry sees continued shifts toward centralization with recent mergers.

As a small independent theater, The Moviehouse provides not only a traditional movie experience but also highlights local artists outside of film. Despite the shifting landscape in the industry, as seen by the merger between Paramount Skydance Corp. and Warner Bros. Discovery Inc., the theater is devoted to sustaining arts in the community.

One challenge facing the industry at the moment is the attempted merger of large film distributors such as Paramount and Warner Bros. A dozen states, including New York, filed a lawsuit on July 13, seeking to block Paramount from purchasing Warner Bros. for \$110 billion. The lawsuit cites concerns over costs for movie theaters and moviegoers, and a possible monopoly over the industry.

On July 20, the court approved a temporary restraining order blocking the merger

until a ruling is decided in the lawsuit. The court's injunction cited the deal's likelihood to succeed, irreparable harm and public interest.

For movie theaters across the country, but particularly independent theaters, this causes concern over the future of the industry.

Movie theaters typically keep about 50% of ticket-sale revenue, with the other half going to the distributor. Critics argue that a merger could further reduce theaters' negotiating power—particularly for independent cinemas—by leaving them with fewer distributors to negotiate with.

Moviehouse General Manager Jeremy Boviard voiced concern for movie theaters nationwide as the merger looms. He said distributors exercise a large amount of control over theaters.

"It is an uneasy relationship just because they already have so much more power," Boviard said.

This raises issues over not only the financial aspect of a decrease in films, but the cultural impact as well.

"You don't really want only a handful of gatekeepers deciding what type of artistic experiences people are both creating and then experiencing," said Boviard. "It ties into

freedom of speech and the feeling that there are spaces for lots of different voices to be heard."

Despite these challenges, The Moviehouse is devoted to providing access to films and the arts.

"Human beings, at least in our society, are really looking for ways to connect with other people," said Boviard.

The location has served as a theater since 1915 but was renovated and reopened as The Moviehouse in 1978. After shuttering in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the theater transitioned to a non-profit in February 2022 under the name Millerton Community Cinema Arts Inc. The organization runs the independent theater as well as local arts events such as filmmaker Q&A's and screenings of indie films.

This switch to a nonprofit allowed the organization to receive grant funding. In June, it received a grant for \$99,000 from the New York Council on the Arts in order to upgrade the theater.

"The transition has allowed us to just further our missions and our goals," Boviard said. "We as a community discover and raise the profile of things that otherwise wouldn't get this platform to be seen."

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Local Matters

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James H. Clark, CEO/Publisher, publisher@lakevillejournal.com

Fire destroys Stanford farm shed, propane tanks explode

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN AND NATHAN MILLER
grahamc@millertonnews.com
nathanm@millertonnews.com

STANFORDVILLE — A fire destroyed a farm equipment shed in Stanford Friday, July 17.

Richie Ahlf, who lives at 357 Hunns Lake Road, was alerted to the blaze on his property when a landscaper working nearby noticed smoke and flames and ran into Ahlf's yard.

Ahlf reported the fire just before 1 p.m. The structure, an equipment shed that housed a tractor, a lawnmower and other farm machinery, was about 50 years old. The fire completely destroyed the shed and equipment stored inside, but caused no injuries.

"Nothing important, compared to a life," Ahlf said of the destruction. "Now I get to see



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

A volunteer firefighter from Pine Plains assesses damage to an equipment shed that was destroyed by fire in Stanford on Friday, July 17.

how good my insurance is."

The fire had been brought under control by about 1:30 p.m. Fire crews continued to tamp out latent hot spots into the afternoon.

The mutual aid response drew fire crews from Stan-

ford, Pine Plains, Ancram and North East.

A fire company official with the Stanford Fire Department said propane tanks exploded in the blaze, but was unsure if that was the cause of the fire or a secondary effect.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Fire crews douse smoldering embers after a fire that destroyed farm equipment and a 50-year-old shed at 357 Hunns Lake Road in Stanford. Propane tanks stored in the shed exploded during the blaze.



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

World Cup in Wassaic

Patrons and staff at The Lantern in Wassaic watch Spain play Argentina in the 2026 World Cup Final on Sunday, July 19. The bar has shown World Cup games throughout the worldwide soccer championship, drawing crowds throughout the competition to watch the games and enjoy a drink.

Copake summer block party brings first-ever bed race

COPAKE — A summer block party is set to take over Copake's central hamlet on Saturday, July 25, promising music, dancing, food and a first-ever "bed race" in the community.

The Rock Around the Clock block party is set for Saturday from 5 to 8 p.m. near the Copake Memorial Clock on Main Street and stretching up to Taconic Street to the north.

Aloha Tacos and Hudson Valley Falafel food trucks will be there. The Methodist Church and Our Lady of Hope Church will be grilling burgers and dogs and the Clock Tower Pub & Grill will supply samosas.

Copake Wine Works, Clock Tower Pub & Grill and Corona d'Oro are set to serve drinks at

the party. Nearby businesses including Copake General Store, Church Street Deli, and Dad's Diner will be open.

DJ Prestige will be supplying music for the block party, with speakers set up on the front steps of the Copake General Store. A warm-up band named "Capri!" is set to get the party started before DJ Prestige starts his dance

music set.

The first-ever Copake bed race will draw competitors to build and decorate a "bed" on wheels that teams then push down the racetrack in cut-throat competition.

The event is free to attend. Copake's Main Street will be closed from Farm Road to the clocktower between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Think Local: We Do

Local Matters

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The Lakeville Journal ■ The Millerton News

Outdoor classroom set to open along Millerton's Rail Trail

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Workers in Millerton prepare to lay asphalt on the new outdoor classroom's path on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in Millerton.

the Woodchuck Tick.

The classroom still needs some finishing touches. Fresh asphalt that surrounds the panels was laid this week, and large stones for sitting will be installed to provide a place to rest.

The impetus behind the project dates back more than a decade. North East Town Supervisor Chris Kennan and Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association chair Dick Hermans were on site at a soft opening on Tuesday, July 14 to welcome new visitors.

"I thought it would be really nice to have a world-class information area here," Hermans said. "Not long ago, I found a piece of paper from the village, memorializing their support for this project in 2015."

The opening coincided with Millerton's 175th celebrations. It's one of a number of planned upgrades for the trail, which runs from Wassaic to Copake in Columbia County, with plans to continue up to Chatham, just south of Albany. A bridge crossing Route 22 to connect Copake to Hillsdale is next up on the Rail Trail's list of short-term projects.



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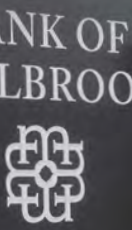
Realtor® at Large

This is year two in my crusade to eradicate Japanese Barberry from our property and I think I am getting a sense of Don Quixote's experience of chasing windmills. The task seems to be endless! Apparently perseverance and knowledge are required. Fortunately the Connecticut River Coastal Conservation District has published a guide to help landowners identify and control non-native invasive plants in their yards. Invasive plants thrive outside their natural range, threatening the health of our native plant and animal communities. To review this guide, please go to: www.conservect.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/invasives-guide-2025_final_web_reduced.pdf



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FEDERAL AID CUTS *Continued from Page A1*

Katie Cariello, one of the food programs coordinators at NECC, said it's important that people feel heard, both through choice models and through conversations during delivery programs.

"There's humanity behind this," Cariello said. "We are here helping and supporting, and that feels very impactful."

NECC helps between 200 and 250 households each week, and last year the organization saw around 4,400 households. St. Thomas' pantry serves around 600 households weekly.

Paulo Rossi, the pantry manager at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Amenia said that the choice model also helps with inventory and shipping.

The North East Community Center and St. Thomas Church work together to provide food assistance programs to the community.

"One of the things that I found most valuable and exciting is it's really not about each individual organization. It's about how we support each other across the region," Schmidt said.

Following the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, signed into law July 2025, funding was cut to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. This has affected food banks that supply local pantries, limiting options and raising costs.

Interim Executive Director of the Missions at St. Thomas, Jim Wright, said that the regional food bank has "dramatically less food to offer either for sale and definitely for free. Forget for free."

Wright said that the regional food bank is trying to expand its food options as much as possible, but federal

funding cuts make it challenging.

At NECC, the pantry had to limit how often people could visit for food. Although they're open weekly, they had to limit visits to twice monthly due to food limitations.

"We were having a really hard time with getting enough food on site to support everyone," Schmidt said.

Both pantries partner with local farms for produce, and St. Thomas has onsite gardens. One is a teaching garden, and one is a giving garden. The giving garden has items like edible flowers, onions, and tomatoes.

"In addition to the vegetables we grow exclusively for our neighbors in the giving garden, we also have spectacular produce from local farms," said Wright.

One of the more prominent issues that local food pantries face is access to protein, although it's been slowly improving.

"It's particularly impactful in terms of proteins," Wright said. "It's been getting a teeny bit better the last 2 weeks. There's been at least some protein that our neighbors want to eat as opposed to canned chicken."

Following federal cuts to SNAP, Schmidt has noticed some recipients are having a harder time receiving their benefits due to higher restrictions and an increase in required volunteer hours.

"These shifts seem like a disincentive to seeking or maintaining SNAP enrollment," Schmidt said.

At food pantries, employees and volunteers make an effort to connect with their neighbors who come for food and toiletries. The teams also

work to limit stigma around needing food assistance, and that the focus is keeping households fed.

"It's about making people feel welcome and not ashamed when they're accessing community food resources," Schmidt said. "It's about making sure the food is as nourishing as possible and also meets a wide range of cultural needs."

NECC accepts a wide range of programs, including WIC benefits, SNAP, and offers Double Up Food Bucks and Farmers' Market Nutrition Program checks.

Double Up Food Bucks and FMNP checks can be used at local farmers markets, including the Millbrook and Copake Hillsdale markets.

Millbrook Farmers Market introduced SNAP, FreshConnect and Veterans Benefits in 2025, and is continuing to expand throughout this summer.

The Copake Hillsdale Farmers Market started accepting SNAP in 2004, and has since introduced Double Up Tokens and Fresh Connect Checks.

The Copake Hillsdale market is a nonprofit, so it receives grant funding to match dollar for dollar. The market is also working towards funding for a van, which would provide transportation to the market for community members that need it.

"These programs help people," said Copake Hillsdale Farmers Market Offsite Manager Nicole Friedrich. "There's a lot of need."

The Hillsdale Farmers Market sees between 10 and 12 customers each week who use some method of food assistance.



PHOTO BY ELOISE PICKERING

Volunteers at St. Thomas Episcopal Church's Food of Life pantry distribute vegetables and other food to patrons on Friday, July 17, in South Amenia.

RYAN COURTIEN *Continued from Page A1*

dergoing medical evaluation as of Monday evening, July 20.

His disappearance on Sunday, July 12, shocked the community — triggering a multi-day search and rescue response that drew emergency responders from across New York and western Connecticut.

Authorities have not released details about the circumstances surrounding Courtien's sudden disappearance and return home. State police Public Information Officer Krystal Paolicelli said Monday, July 20, that the investigation had concluded and the case had been closed.

"Based on the findings of the investigation, no criminal conduct was identified that would warrant an arrest," Paolicelli said. "The reason for his departure remains unknown."

Neither Courtien nor his family have released a statement.

Courtien was reported missing Sunday after he left the house at 9:30 a.m. to perform yard work at his home on 32 Waldo Road and never returned. Starting Sunday afternoon, authorities commenced a search of the woods surrounding his home, utilizing heat-seeking drones, K-9 units, helicopters and searchers on foot. The search was called off Wednesday, July 15, after nearly four full days of scouring the area.

Paolicelli said on Wednesday, July 15, as many as 80 personnel per day joined in the search and rescue effort. New York State Police headed up the search, with assistance from Dutchess County Sheriff's deputies, New York State Fire crews, New York State Forest Rangers and volunteer firefighters from across Dutchess County and western Connecticut.

The search and rescue effort carried on until Wednesday afternoon, when New York State Police announced a sudden end to the search at around 4 p.m.

Answers wouldn't come until more than a day later. After relative silence about

the case throughout the day on Thursday, July 16, state police announced on Friday, July 17, that Courtien had been spotted in Manhattan's Grand Central Terminal exiting a Metro-North train shortly after his disappearance on Sunday.

Then, as suddenly as it had all begun, Courtien was located Friday evening. Authorities received a tip through a 911 call that Courtien was near the Harlem Valley-Wingdale train station just after 5 p.m. on Friday. According to a statement from the New York State Police, Dutchess County Sheriff's deputies responded to the scene and confirmed Courtien's identity.

Courtien was then reportedly taken to a local hospital for evaluation. Authorities did not release the location of the hospital, and calls to area hospitals could not confirm Courtien's status.

Dover Town Supervisor Rich Yeno led the community response to the disappearance, appearing at the search and rescue command post throughout the week and making public updates through Facebook posts. He expressed gratitude for Courtien's return home.

"The biggest thing is he's alive," Yeno said.

Courtien first moved to Wingdale with his wife, Suzanne Calligan-Courtien, in 2004 when the pair bought their Waldo Road home, according to public documents.

He has spent the past 22 years working in various education roles, mostly teaching math to college and high school students, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Courtien was first elected to Town Supervisor in the Town of Dover in the election of 2007, and took office in January 2008. He held that position for eight years, opting not to run for reelection in 2015, according to Dutchess Board of Elections records. Courtien joined Dover's planning board in 2018, and was appointed chair in 2021.

Friends and community members said Courtien is an

avid hiker and a trail advocate. He is credited with helping establish and build the Dover Stone Church hiking trail that leads to a geologic formation so-called because of its resemblance to a chapel.

Most recently, Courtien took a job as operations manager for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association. Dick Hermans, a member of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association's Board of Directors, said the organization hired Courtien to the position this past spring and that he had taken to his responsibilities with zeal.

Hermans said Courtien's experience in town government and trail advocacy were strong marks in his favor for the operations manager job.

"He is definitely a trail advocate," Hermans said.

Courtien's colleagues on the Dover Planning Board continued public hearings on Monday, July 20, appointing Val Larobardier to serve as interim chair in Courtien's absence. Courtien was absent from the meeting, and board members did not mention his absence.

After the meeting, Planning Board members, the town's Planning & Zoning secretary and the town's engineer expressed concern for Courtien and hope for a speedy recovery. They said that they have decided to quietly carry on in their work and wait for Courtien and his family to reach out to them with more information out of respect for their privacy.

The Board elected to cancel both August meetings, but said that was unrelated to Courtien's absence. Board secretary Marilyn Van Millon explained that no applications to the Planning Board had come in before deadlines for the August meetings, meaning the board has no business to discuss next month. She said she doesn't have a clear picture of when Courtien will return to his post as chair.

"We really don't know anything," Town Engineer Joseph Berger said. "We're really concerned, but that's about all."

BRUNCH FUNDRAISER *Continued from Page A1*

Co-Interim Executive Director and Board Chair Irene Banning praised attendees and donors for contributing to the organization's work in a year that has seen high-ranking staff departures and the closure of the organization's childcare program.

"This has been a challenging year for NECC," Banning said. "But we are standing strong, working on finding an executive director and looking into an exciting future."

Banning further praised the organization's staff, saying NECC's success would be impossible without the employees' dedication to building community and supporting neighbors.

She championed NECC's mission and expressed gratitude for the organization as a whole, as well, describing it as a refuge where she can contribute to good in the community.

"It is the place where I get to be a part of doing good, of caring for the members of our communities," Banning said. "And being a part of making people's lives feel less unsettled and more balanced."

Following Banning's remarks was an address from her counterpart, Julie Fajgenbaum, who is sharing the workload as co-interim executive director, while the organization searches for a replacement for former Executive Director Christine Sergeant. Sergeant resigned from her position at the organization in March 2026.

Fajgenbaum detailed some of the work NECC does, including giving away 15,000 diapers to 25 area families so far this year.

"That's lightening the financial load for those new parents and allowing them to spend on other things like formula," Fajgenbaum said.

But she acknowledged that the year's successes have also exposed a downside — point-



PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER

Benefactors enjoy hors d'oeuvres and live music in the morning sun on Sunday, July 19, at Millbrook School. Below: Auctioneer CK Swett leads donors in the "paddle raise" fundraiser.



ing to 19 additional families that remain on the waitlist for free diapers from the organization.

Other statistics underscore the challenges NECC faces in the coming year. The organization's food pantry served 1,000 people in April alone, reflecting the growing financial pressures many households face as food and fuel costs continue to rise.

Fajgenbaum once again pointed to the benefactors taking part in the day's fundraising, praising them for coming together to support the NECC's mission to serve northeast Dutchess communities.

"Today is most definitely

a high," Fajgenbaum said. "We're so grateful that you're here with us. I don't know what we would do without you."

Following Fajgenbaum's remarks, local auctioneer CK Swett led the annual "paddle raise," a lightning-round fundraiser where donors raise auction paddles to commit to donations ranging in increments from \$100 to \$50,000.

This year's paddle raise resulted in at least \$403,500 in donations to the charitable organization after just 15 minutes of auctioneering.

"This is a community effort, this is a collective effort," Swett said. "And we will help the community together."

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PHOTO BY LUCIA IANDOLO

Karina Powers teaches traditional dances from Mexico in Millbrook.

Karina Powers and the power of tradition

By Lucia Iandolo

Karina Powers began dancing at 4 years old. A professional dancer, singer, performer and Mexican folklore dance professor from Baja California, Mexico, she is the youngest of three sisters who were all involved in the arts. Powers now teaches traditional Mexican dances to adults through her company, Compañía De Danza Folklórica Regional Mexicana, in Millbrook. She said she has a strong passion for the history and art that exist within the dances she teaches, and she hopes to instill that passion in her students. “Many of them have never danced this type of dance,” said Powers. “They’re from Mexico, but they came to the United States at a young age to

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

EDUCATION

No grumbling here: Children’s theater camp returns

By Jack Sheedy

Leslie Elias wants you to understand something about the group she calls Grumbling Gryphons Traveling Children’s Theater: “I like to say that we try not to grumble.” For 46 years, she has used the non-profit to educate and entertain children in the performing arts. Summer after summer, young campers learn about acting, singing, mask-making, costume-making and scenery painting. This year, as in years past, a five-day theater arts camp will culminate in a live performance of one of Elias’ original plays, guaranteed, she hopes, to quell all grumbling. Elias co-founded Grumbling Gryphons in 1980 with Vanessa Roe and Nicholas Jacobs. Mask-maker Robert Flanagan, known for his work with the Muppets and for designing props for the Broadway production of “Oz,” suggested the name Gryphons, a reference to mythological beasts that are part eagle and part lion. Jacobs liked the idea

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

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REAL ESTATE

Pine Plains home prices continue sharp rise

CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events

COMMUNITY

Sam Lardner returns to the Northwest Corner for Vecinos

By Natalia Zukerman

On Friday, July 24, musician and educator Sam Lardner and his band, Barcelona, will take the stage at Salisbury Congregational Church for a benefit concert supporting Vecinos Seguros 2, an all-volunteer organization that provides emergency assistance and rapid-response support to immigrant families in Northwest Connecticut affected by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement activity. Lardner, who attended and later taught at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville before moving to Spain in 1997, still considers the Northwest Corner his home in the United States. “It’s such a special place,” he said. After years as a touring singer-songwriter on the New England folk circuit, fronting a country band in Spain and releasing multiple albums, Lardner eventually stepped away from music as raising four children and paying for their college tuition became his priority. He returned to education full time but never abandoned music entirely, continuing to perform whenever he could. Now, with his children grown, Lardner has returned to the stage with a renewed sense of purpose. Through his Varroomba! project, music has become more than entertainment. It is a fundraising engine, a way to build community and a vehicle for supporting organizations responding to urgent needs. Instead of charging organizations to host concerts, Lardner raises money ahead of time through his community of fans.



PHOTO BY VIRGO MARTINEZ

Sam Lardner and Barcelona will play a benefit for Vecinos Seguros 2 at Salisbury Congregational Church on Friday, July 24

The proceeds cover recording costs, musician salaries and travel, allowing each concert to become a fundraiser for the host organization. “I call the venues and say we’re coming, and we don’t cost any money,” he said. There are three levels of Funding Fans: Wunderfans, who contribute \$50 or more; Virtuosi, who give \$1,000 or more; and Gamechangers, who donate \$3,000 or more. Through this model, Lardner has raised \$27,000. This year’s six-piece ensemble spans three generations and includes Lardner’s son Jackson, along with veteran members of the band and two younger musicians from Spain. Lardner said the concert in Salisbury will be joy-filled. After finding himself overwhelmed by headlines while living overseas, he shifted his focus from writ-

ing topical songs to performing music that offers hope. Lardner said conversations with organizers have shaped the tone of the evening. “We talk through the events with each organizer,” he said. “What do we want to do here? Are we raising awareness? Are we raising funds? Are we doing both? Are we celebrating community? This one is among the most mission-driven because the need is so immediate. Vecinos Seguros 2 was launched earlier this year as federal immigration enforcement intensified across Connecticut. Building on the work of the original Vecinos Seguros network, the organization mobilizes volunteers to accompany immigrant families, provide emergency financial assistance, connect residents with legal resources and strengthen neighborhood support systems.

Leaders say requests for help have grown sharply in recent months as fear of detention has increased. Although the subject is serious, Lardner hopes the evening itself will be joyful. “With music, the afterglow is much longer and more powerful,” he said. “It’s all about these groups and what they’re trying to do.” If the inaugural Varroomba! tour succeeds, Lardner hopes to double its impact next year. “We’re doing 15 causes this summer,” he said. “I’d like to do 30 next summer and just keep growing it.” The concert begins at 7 p.m. Friday, July 24, at Salisbury Congregational Church. Proceeds benefit Vecinos Seguros 2. Tickets are available through Eventbrite at <https://bit.ly/4vvfVYO>. For more information on Varroomba!, visit varroomba.org

MUSIC

Across generations at Litchfield Jazz Festival

By D.H. Callahan

The Litchfield Jazz Festival opens its 2026 season on Friday, July 24, at the Frederick Gunn School in Washington, Connecticut. The evening will feature a gala and a concert led by saxophonist Don Braden featuring the Litchfield Jazz Fest Dectet. The festival began in 1996 and has been going strong ever since. The list of past performers reads like a who’s who of modern jazz greats, including Christian McBride, Soulive, Joshua Redman, Dave Douglas, Brad Mehldau and John Scofield, all of whom helped revive the genre for a new generation of fans at the turn of the millennium. Vocalists like Diana Krall, Dionne Warwick and Dr. John have made appearances as well. And, of course, the festival has been graced by established masters like saxophonists Sonny Rollins and Wayne Shorter; guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli; bassist Rufus Reid; drummers Roy Haynes and Tito Puente; the Preservation Hall Jazz Band; and pianists Dave Brubeck and

local legend Ahmad Jamal. Jamal, who died in April 2023 at his home in Ashley Falls, Massachusetts at the age of 92, was a pioneering jazz pianist. His minimalist style inspired generations of jazz

greats, including Miles Davis, who wrote in his autobiography that Jamal “knocked me out with his concept of space, his lightness of touch, his understatement, and the way he phrased notes, chords and

passages,” and is widely cited as saying, “All my inspiration comes from Ahmad Jamal.” Jamal’s performance came at the inaugural festival back

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... Karina Powers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

work. They have that dream to learn, and now they have this opportunity.”

Powers received a master’s degree in Mexican folklore dance from Escuela de la Danza in Baja California, Mexico. Since moving to the United States, she has built a career in performance and teaching. She has not only served as a dance director and performed as a professional vernacular music singer in California, but she has also worked towards her Doctorate, which she will receive in October.

As the founder of her company, Powers works tirelessly to make sure her dancers have everything they need, including costumes, proper flooring, music and a space to practice. Her husband built wooden panels, called tarimas, for students to dance on with their folklórico shoes. Millbrook Mayor Peter F. Doro allows Powers and her group to practice in Millbrook Hall, where she brings the tarimas to every practice along with costumes and proper footwear.

Powers dreams of owning her own studio where she can practice with her group, offer more classes, store costumes and create a space for her dancers to do their hair and makeup before performances. She said she hopes people learn about her classes so her company can grow and she can teach dances



PHOTO BY LUCIA IANDOLO

Karina Powers and her students practice in Millbrook Hall.

“This is an art and the arts unite nations.

KARINA POWERS

from a wider range of Mexican states while having greater access to traditional dress.

As a single mother and professor, Powers’ mother, Carmen Méndez, put her children in dance classes and signed them up for track and field, always keeping them goal- and career-oriented. She helped Powers with her company by creating all of the costumes her dancers wear in their performances. After her mother’s

death in 2021, Powers said she has dedicated herself to carrying forward the passion, work ethic and love of dance her mother instilled in her.

“I miss her terribly, and I’m here because of her,” Powers said. “That’s why I want to do this, because of her. She gave me a lot, with the costumes, with her support. I do it for my mom.”

Dancers in Powers’ group are dedicated to learning the art of dance from different states in Mexico on Tuesday and Friday nights at Millbrook Hall. They travel from many different places in New York to participate, with some dancers traveling more than an hour to make it

to rehearsal each week.

“It’s a lot of work, but they learn it. I believe they love it, and it’s a way to come together, to do something good, to do something healthy, and to have people around you who appreciate this kind of art,” Powers said.

Powers has studied with professor Eloy Jiménez Figueroa since childhood and said his mentorship inspired her to become the teacher she is today. She added that while she may not be the best teacher, she learned from the best.

While living in California, Powers taught elementary, high school and college students, as well as adults. She was recruited to teach traditional Mexican folkloric dance because of the region’s large Mexican community. Today, she encourages people of all backgrounds to explore the rich traditions of Mexican dance.

“This type of dance is not only for people from Mexico,” Powers said. “This is an art and the arts unite nations.”

Powers hopes to continue sharing that art in Millbrook and one day teach in the Millbrook Central School District. Powers and her group will perform at the Millbrook Library on Nov. 21, presenting traditional Mexican dances and inviting audience members to participate.

As a professor, dancer and singer, Powers stays grounded by believing in something greater than herself. She says that praying and putting herself in the hands of God has helped anchor her. She hopes to teach and dance for as long as her body allows.

“My mom, for me, is an angel. I put myself in her hands, and I have faith,” Powers said. “I have faith that God, or something good, is going to be there for the group and for myself.”

...Jazz Festival

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO BY LINDSEY VICTORIA PHOTOGRAPHY

Bucky Pizzarelli and Brandon Goldberg at the Litchfield Jazz Festival in 2017.

In 1996, one year before the Litchfield Performing Arts nonprofit group undertook its next serious foray into the genre by opening the Litchfield Jazz Camp. Now celebrating its 30th anniversary, the camp has been an incubator for enthusiastic jazz musicians of all ages. Vita Muir, founder and executive/artistic director of Litchfield Performing Arts since its founding in 1981, said the youngest camper was 9 years old, while the oldest was in his 80s. Today, more than 300 students attend the camp as boarders or day campers during its four weeklong sessions. The goal is to make each camper become a better version of themselves through jazz, camaraderie, confidence-building and other intangible methods.

The jazz world used to have a strong built-in mentorship mentality. Younger players would get picked up by more experienced musicians to play with their bands. John Coltrane famously played with Miles Davis before striking out on his own. But today, with fewer and fewer jazz performance spaces, that pattern of mentorship has drastically subsided. The camp works in part to rebuild that tradition. “First the teachers hire the students, then the students hire the teachers,” stated Muir in a recent interview.

That relationship between the camp and the festival will be in the spotlight Friday night following the opening gala. Led by Don Braden, the Litchfield Jazz Fest Dectet features musicians who have deep connections to the camp as students, teachers or both, including drummer Anton Kot, a recipient of Juilliard’s Tito Puente Scholarship Award.

At its essence, of course, the festival is about great jazz. In that spirit, a dizzying lineup of contemporary greats will take the stage throughout the weekend, including the Steve Davis Sextet, the Paul Bollenback Quintet and the Curtis Brothers Trio on Saturday, as well as the Steve Kortyka Sextet on Sunday.

For a full schedule and tickets, visit litchfieldjazzfest.com

MUSIC

Falcon Ridge returns to Goshen

By Natalia Zukerman

One of the area’s most beloved summer music traditions returns July 24-26 as the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival fills the Goshen Fairgrounds with three days of music, workshops, dancing and community.

Now in its 38th year, Falcon Ridge has long been a launching pad for emerging singer-songwriters while welcoming acclaimed folk and Americana performers. This year’s lineup includes Susan Werner, Jim Lauderdale, Eileen Ivers and the Brigideens, Vance Gilbert, Joe Jencks, Nerissa and Katryna Nields, The

Slambovian Circus of Dreams, Alice Howe and Freebo, Terrence Simien and The Zydeco Experience, and many more.

Susan Werner, who recently performed to a sold-out audience at The Grace Note at Stissing Center in Pine Plains, has appeared at the festival at least seven times at several of its locations.

“One of the great things about Falcon Ridge is the song swaps,” said Werner. These in-the-round performances feature three or four songwriters seated together onstage, taking turns sharing songs. “They can careen off into wild directions and in about 25 minutes, you’ve

gone from tears of joy about this beautiful world to tears of rage from some brilliant and deeply moving protest song. You really should come see these song swaps for yourself. They’re awesome,” she said.

Beyond the main stage, festivalgoers can explore workshops, family programming, the popular Grassy Hill Emerging Artist Showcase, late-night jams and an expanded Dance Barn featuring contra, swing, zydeco, line dancing and old-time barn dances. Camping, food vendors and a welcoming, community-centered atmosphere continue to make Falcon Ridge a summertime destination for folk music fans from across the region and beyond.

For the full lineup and tickets, visit falconridgefolk.com.

Falcon Ridge Folk Festival regulars The Slambovian Circus of Dreams performing at the 2025 summer festival.



PHOTO BY STUART BERG

HOTCHKISS
Summer Portals

2026 PIANO
CONCERT SERIES

TUESDAY, JULY 14 AT 7:30 P.M.
OXANA YABLONSKAYA

TUESDAY, JULY 21 AT 7:30 P.M.
MICHEL BOURDONCLE

SATURDAY, JULY 18 AT 4:30 P.M.
YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 AT 7:30 P.M.
YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT

SATURDAY, JULY 18 AT 7:30 P.M.
FABIO & GISELE WITKOWSKI
& FINE ARTS QUARTET

THURSDAY, JULY 23 AT 8 P.M.
HOTCHKISS AT CARNEGIE HALL
Tickets at carnegiehall.org

MONDAY, JULY 20 AT 7:30 P.M.
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& LEO DE MARIA

FRIDAY, JULY 24 AT 7:30 P.M.
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Roxie Munro - Mathilde Ross, MD - Phyllis Ross - Dan Saks - Scott Siegler
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Sea bass and shrimp gumbo

Each month, Dugazon owners Bobby Graham and Matthew Marden share a recipe inspired by the traditions, stories and sense of welcome at the heart of their shop in Sharon, Connecticut. Visit Dugazon at 19 W. Main St. Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and online at dugazonshop.com.



What's cooking at Dugazon?

Bobby Graham & Matthew Marden



PHOTO BY BOBBY GRAHAM

Sea bass and shrimp gumbo

This month we're sharing one of our favorite comfort foods: sea bass and shrimp gumbo. While gumbo has a reputation for being a labor of love, this version skips the traditional roux, making it surprisingly approachable. The ingredient list may seem long, but once everything is prepped, it comes together quickly, rewarding you with a rich, flavorful bowl that's perfect any time of year. Many of the pantry staples you'll need for this recipe can be found right here at Dugazon.

For Bobby, gumbo brings back fond memories of annual visits to his grandparents in Louisiana, where every trip revolved around the kitchen and the table. His grandfather's gumbo was always a highlight.

We hope this recipe brings a little Louisiana warmth to your table and becomes a favorite in your home, too.

Adapted from "Big Easy Seafood Okra Gumbo" in Emeril's "New New Orleans Cooking."

- Ingredients**
 - 2 tablespoons olive oil
 - 1/2 cup chopped onion
 - 1/4 cup chopped celery
 - 1/4 cup chopped green bell pepper
 - 1/4 cup chopped red bell pepper
 - 1/2 jalapeño, chopped
 - 1/2 tablespoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
 - 1/2 cup seeded and chopped Italian plum tomatoes
 - 2 tablespoons minced garlic
 - 1 tablespoon minced shallots
 - 2 quarts fish stock (store-bought or frozen)
 - 1/2 pound sea bass, cut into 1-inch cubes, skin removed
 - 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
 - 1/2 teaspoon Crystal Hot Sauce (available at Dugazon)
 - 6 bay leaves, fresh or dried
 - 1 tablespoon minced fresh basil
 - 1 teaspoon minced fresh oregano

- 1 teaspoon fresh thyme leaves
 - 12 fresh okra, sliced
 - 1 teaspoon cornstarch
 - 2 teaspoons Tony Chachere's Cajun Seasoning (available at Dugazon)
 - 1/2 pound peeled medium shrimp (Guido's fresh Gulf shrimp is a favorite)
 - 2 to 4 cups cooked white rice
 - 1 cup chopped green onions
- Equipment**
 - Large soup or stock pot
 - Wooden spoon
 - Rice cooker or saucepan
 - Soup or gumbo spoons
- Preparation**

The cooking times are important to the texture and flavor of the finished gumbo.

 - Heat the olive oil in a large pot over high heat. Add the onion, celery, green and red peppers, and jalapeño. Sauté for 1 minute. Add the

salt and pepper and cook for another minute. Stir in the tomatoes, garlic and shallots and cook, stirring occasionally, for 4 to 5 minutes.

- Add the fish stock, sea bass, Worcestershire sauce, Crystal Hot Sauce, bay leaves, basil, oregano and thyme. Bring to a boil and cook over high heat for about 8 minutes, stirring occasionally. Reduce the heat to medium.
- Stir in the okra and Tony Chachere's Cajun Seasoning. Simmer for 15 minutes, skimming any foam from the surface as needed. Raise the heat to high and cook for 5 minutes. Add the shrimp, reduce the heat and simmer for 5 minutes. Stir the cornstarch into the gumbo and cook, stirring constantly, for 2 minutes to slightly thicken. Remove from the heat and taste before adjusting the seasoning.
- To serve, ladle about 1 1/2 cups of gumbo into each soup bowl and top with about 1/2 cup cooked rice. Garnish with 1 to 2 tablespoons chopped green onions. Serve with crusty French bread and butter.

Make-Ahead Tip

The gumbo can be made one day in advance, refrigerated and gently reheated before serving. Cook the rice the day you plan to serve it. Like many stews, the gumbo is even better the next day after the flavors have had time to meld.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Alt folk duo Sweet Petunia to perform a benefit at Random Harvest on Saturday, July 25.

COMMUNITY

Sweet Petunia: a benefit to support Random Harvest

By Lucia Iandolo

On Saturday, July 25, Americana/Alt Folk duo Sweet Petunia will perform at Random Harvest in Craryville, a worker-owned market, café and community space that supports farmers and brings people together through locally sourced food. The concert comes just months after the fatal two-vehicle crash at the intersection of Route 23 and County Route 7 that devastated the hamlet, disrupted local businesses and left a lasting emotional impact on the community.

Sweet Petunia's music combines deep, thought-provoking lyrics with intricate banjo playing to tell stories of self-discovery and life's many complexities. The banjo seems to be having a resurgence in mainstream music, a trend the duo believes is driven by younger audiences seeking an escape from modern life and a return to something more tangible.

"I think kids are basically just so fed up with the internet and want to go back," Simpson said. "So it would make sense to me that they would be interested in more traditional music."

After the crash, Random Harvest remained open and committed to connecting people through food and community. Simpson said the duo looks forward to contributing to a healing experience through their music.

"We are honored to be there and to share our music," Simpson said. "We're happy to be part of a celebration and hopefully raise some funds and just have a good time."

Through the years they have spent collaborating, both musicians have continued to grow, learning new instruments that have expanded their sound. Along with the evolution of their music, their on-stage chemistry has also developed.

"We've gotten really good at banter," Guy said. "People tell us that we're really funny a lot, which is really meaningful."

Simpson noted that when they first started playing together, neither of them knew how to play the instrument they are now best known for.

"Neither of us played the banjo, so that was something we learned and developed," Simpson said. "We both literally learned how to play an entirely new instrument and how to write songs on it and how to incorporate that into the music that we make."

Random Harvest is located at 1785 Route 23 in Craryville. The performance begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are available at events.humanitix.com/sweet-petunia-concert.

Sweet Petunia is made up of Mairead Guy and Maddy Simpson, who met while studying at Berklee College of Music. Throughout their college years, Guy and Simpson's voices blended so beautifully that classmates often mistook them for siblings. After discovering their collaborative sound, they formed Sweet Petunia and began performing at music festivals while writing their debut album, "Foggy Mountain Mental Breakdown," released earlier this year on Ani DiFranco's label, Righteous Babe Records. The record explores themes rooted in Appalachian traditions while drawing inspiration from Boston's DIY punk

... Grumbling Gryphons

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

and added "Grumbling," mainly for alliteration.

A gryphon, Elias said, is "not a negative thing. It's the guardian of treasure. I like to think of it as guardian of a treasury of stories."

Registrations are being accepted for children ages 6 to 14 for the theater arts camp that will begin July 27 and end with a July 31 performance of "The Adventures of Pinocchio." Elias' adaptation of the classic tale. Children will work with a team of professional actors, musicians and visual artists, Elias said. She will direct the performance, with assistance from her son, Daniel Saed.



PHOTO BY JACK SHEEDY

Danny Saed, assistant director of "Pinocchio"; his mother and co-founder of Grumbling Gryphons Leslie Elias; theater arts camper Joyce Sun; artist and counselor Natalie Resto; and Steven Sun, Joyce Sun's father.

an older camper, you might have a more advanced role with a bunch of lines, but in the ensemble, you're doing a lot of singing and a lot of dancing," she said. "Some people have like one or two individual lines throughout the performance."

In past years, Wood has had featured roles in the camp performances, including the Queen of Hearts in "Alice in Wonderland." This year her role is keeping younger kids entertained, she said.

Wood said she has learned a lot from Elias. "I learned how to organize a group of people. Sometimes it is not very pretty, but when it does get done, it is beautiful."

marched with the Grumbling Gryphons in the parade in Cornwall Village. "One of my main jobs that I do for Leslie is helping with illustrations for logos and flyers, as well as helping assist in props and costumes," Resto said. For "Pinocchio" she will help create props that can be tailored for indoor or outdoor use.

"I come up with different kinds of art activities that the children will get to participate in during the theater camp," Resto said.

The five-day camp and performance will mark the start of a summer filled with dramatic productions

by Grumbling Gryphons throughout New York and New England. "The Myth of Persephone," one of Elias' earliest and ever-popular plays, will be performed Aug. 8 at Stissing Center in Pine Plains. "Anansi-The Trickster Spider: A West African Folktale" will be performed Aug. 15 at the Harwinton Fairgrounds. Both performances will begin at 11 a.m., preceded by a pre-performance dramatic workshop at 10 a.m.

"I love working with children," Elias said. "I love empowering children, giving them an opportunity to work as a team, make new friends, have fun and have input into our plays. It's not just putting on the perfect play or the perfect show; it's about co-creating and contributing to the whole."

The public performance of "The Adventures of Pinocchio" will take place July 31 at Grumbling Gryphons headquarters at 29 Lake Road, West Cornwall. The rain location will be at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village.

To register a child for the theater arts camp, or to learn more about this summer's activities, visit www.grumblinggryphons.org, email LeslieElias@grumblinggryphons@gmail.com or call 860-672-0286.

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48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY



FAMILY FUN BINGO NIGHT

Supporting the Fight Against Alzheimer's Disease

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29
6:30 – 8:00 PM • Community Room
\$15.00 - 5 Game Book

Join us for Family Fun Bingo Night, featuring bingo games, light snacks and refreshments, exciting raffle basket prizes, and a 50/50 drawing. Bingo cards, refreshments, and raffle tickets will be available for purchase, with all proceeds benefiting the Alzheimer's Association and their ongoing mission to advance research, provide support, and work toward a cure.



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noblehorizons.org





PHOTO PROVIDED

“42nd Street,” based on the 1933 film of the same name, premiered on Broadway in 1980 and ran at the Sharon Playhouse for the first time 15 years ago. The show will be revived at the Playhouse when it opens July 25. Expect high-energy singing and dancing alongside classic tunes such as “We’re in the Money” and “Lullaby of Broadway.” The show runs through Aug. 9. Tickets are available at sharonplayhouse.org

Welcoming new voices

We welcome story ideas, tips and pitches, and we’re interested in working with writers and photographers who want to contribute thoughtful, independent arts and lifestyle coverage. Send inquiries to nataliaz@lakevillejournal.com.

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Tri-Corner Calendar

JULY 23

Let’s Dance for Housing

The White Hart Inn, 15 Undermountain Road, Salisbury, Conn. DJ Dave Leonard will play the classic hits from the past. Come dance to support the Salisbury Housing Trust 6:30 p.m. The first glass of beer or wine on us and hearty hors d’oeuvres included! Silent Auction! Tickets: salisburyhousingtrust.org

JULY 24

Linoleum Printmaking Workshop with David Lesako

Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. Using simple tools and materials, students will learn how to transform their ideas into bold designs, striking images and creative scenes on paper. This hands-on class introduces the essential techniques of printmaking while opening the door to endless artistic possibilities. Perfect for beginners and anyone ready to explore a fun, expressive and rewarding way to make art! 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Register at madrosegallery.com

“Letters From Max”

Ancram Center for the Arts, 1330 County Route 7, Ancram, N.Y. Performances of Sarah Ruhl and Max Ritvo’s poignant play run Wednesdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Adapted from the pair’s 2018 book *Letters From Max: A Poet, a Teacher, a Friendship*, the production explores the extraordinary bond between the playwright and her former student through a series of heartfelt letters written as Ritvo faced the return of childhood cancer. Special events include a post-show TGIF Hang with the cast and staff on the porch, with a cash bar, on July 24. Tickets and information are available at ancramcenter.org.

Summer Portals Piano

Concert Series at Hotchkiss: Grand Finale Concert

11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn. Young Artists and Guest Artists share the stage for a celebratory final performance at 7:30 p.m.

Berkshire Resilience Brass Band Concert

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org The David M. Hunt Library, in partnership with the Falls Village Recreation Commission, presents Summer Concerts on the Library Lawn. At 6 p.m., enjoy a concert with the Berkshire Resilience Brass Band. Bring chairs or a blanket, a picnic and beverages for an evening of great music!

Happy Hour Piano Series:

Calla Begley & Friends

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. 5 to 7 p.m. AMP’s Happy Hour Piano Series continues with live music and libations in Connecticut’s unique art space. Calla Begley, a singer and multi-instrumentalist from Collinsville, performs selections by artists including Lake Street Dive, Yebba and Cat Power. The series

highlights emerging Connecticut musicians. Tickets at americanmuralproject.org/piano-series.

Linoleum Printmaking

Workshop With David Lesako

Mad Rose Gallery, 3 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Discover the art of linoleum printmaking with artist David Lesako. Using simple tools and materials, participants will learn to transform ideas into bold designs, striking images and creative scenes on paper. This hands-on workshop introduces the essential techniques of printmaking while encouraging artistic exploration. Suitable for beginners and anyone interested in a fun, expressive and rewarding art-making experience. register at madrosegallery.com

Sam Lardner and

Barcelona in Concert

Salisbury Congregational Church, 30 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. A benefit concert for Vecinos Seguros 2. 7 p.m.

JULY 25

Old Time Dance

Foote Field, 65 Furnace Brook Road, Cornwall, Conn. Come and dance to the tunes and steps of New England in 1776! Music and calling by the Falls Village Fiddler & Friends. Bring a picnic at 6 p.m. Music and dancing starts at 7 p.m. No experience required. All ages welcome.

Artist-Love-Freedom

Opening Reception

Gallery of Dreams, 156 Gay St., Sharon, Conn. Celebrate the opening of “Artist-Love-Freedom,” a group exhibition featuring the work of 15 local artists in assemblage, lampwork jewelry, painting, woodworking, sculpture, photography, collage and handcrafted furniture. The exhibit runs through Sept. 20. 5 p.m. potluck, followed by original music from Jake Bell and poetry by David Capellaro. Gallery hours are noon to 5 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Accessibility Community

Conversation

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

Join library director Meg Sher at noon for a community conversation on increasing library accessibility. The library has received funding as part of the American Library Association’s Libraries Transforming Communities: Accessible Small and Rural Communities Grant to increase accessibility for those with mobility disabilities. Snacks will be served.

Carl D’Alvia Studio Talk

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org Celebrated sculptor Carl D’Alvia welcomes visitors to his Cornwall studio for a conversation with Dina Shaulov-Wright about his creative process, from drawings to finished sculpture, followed by a reception. 5 to 6 p.m. Space is limited; registration required at CornwallLibrary.org or 860-672-6874.

Film Screening: “Rally Caps”

Stissing Center for Arts & Culture, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y. Celebrate the hometown return of “Rally Caps,” an

Items appear as space permits.

Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com.

independent coming-of-age baseball film shot in Pine Plains. Starring Judd Hirsch, Carson Minniear and Amy Smart, the film follows a young ballplayer’s journey back to the game after a serious injury. The 7:30 p.m. screening will be followed by a Q&A with director and Pine Plains native Lee Cipolla, producer Katherine Borda, cast members Calee Nowak and Joseph Mazelli, and second assistant director JJ Hickey. Tickets and information at thehissingcenter.org or 518-771-3339.

The Magic of Moths: Celebrating National Moth Week

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, Conn. Celebrate National Moth Week with an evening of moth observation and community science from 7:30 to 10 p.m. The program begins with a one-hour introduction to iNaturalist led by ambassadors Abby Sesselberg and Steve Mayo, followed by guided moth identification and data collection at the center’s moth stations. The free program is open to all ages. Advance registration is required. More information and registration at sharon.audubon.org or call 860-364-0250, ext. 115.

Nature Weaving with Flowers from Crooked Oak Farm

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org 1:30 to 4 p.m., weave fresh flowers and herbs from Crooked Oak Farm into a rustic loom made with branches and twine. Materials and natural looms provided. You’re also encouraged to bring your own natural items to weave. Register at scovillelibrary.org

Concert: Sweet Petunia

Random Harvest, 1785 New York 23, Craryville, N.Y. Sweet Petunia, the folk duo of Mairead Guy and Maddy Simpson, met at Berklee College of Music in 2018 and bonded over a shared love of traditional folk. Twice nominated for Boston Music Awards’ Best Folk Act, they blend bluegrass roots with indie, punk and DIY influences. Their debut album, “Foggy Mountain Mental Breakdown” on Ani DiFranco’s Righteous Babe Records, explores heartbreak, identity, friendship and self-discovery through rich harmonies and contemporary folk songwriting. This is a benefit concert for Random Harvest. 8 p.m.

PLACE | MEANT

Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook, N.Y. “PLACE | MEANT,” a group exhibition curated by Sharon Bates featuring collage-based work by Laura Cannamela, Monica Church, Elisa Lendvay, Susan Newmark and Barbara Todd. Presented in conjunction with “Making Meaning: A Collage Symposium” at the Vassar Institute for the Liberal Arts, the exhibition explores themes of place, memory and materiality through layered works that transform fragments of the physical world into reflections on landscape, perception and lived experience.

The exhibition runs through Aug. 22. A hands-on collage workshop, “Collage Your Place,” is scheduled for July 25 at 2 p.m. Visit millbrook-library.org for information.

Live Staged Reading:

Nebula + Q&A

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. The Moviehouse is proud to present a live reading of Chelsea Altman’s acclaimed play NEBULA for members only. A Q&A with Altman and the cast will follow, moderated by Director Claire Karpen. 5:30 p.m.

Amenia vs. Millerton Fourth Annual Golf Tournament

Undermountain Golf Course, 274 Undermountain Rd., Copake, N.Y. To benefit the Amenias Free Library and NorthEast-Millerton Library. 2-person 9

Hole Scramble. Top prizes. Register through Undermountain Golf Course by calling 518-329-4444 or email service@undermountain-golf.com

Looking at Nature: Great Trees of Innisfree with Noted Horticulturist, Teacher and Innisfree Trustee Brad Roeller Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Advance registration strongly suggested at innisfree-garden.org

JULY 26

The Making of

Independence Revisited

Sharon Historical Society & Museum, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn. Exhibition curator and board chair Chris Robinson presents a lecture on the discoveries uncovered while researching *Independence*

Revisited: Sharon in 1776, 1876, and 1976, the museum’s exhibition celebrating 250 years of American independence. The free program begins at 3 p.m. Registration is requested by emailing rsvp@sharonhist.org.

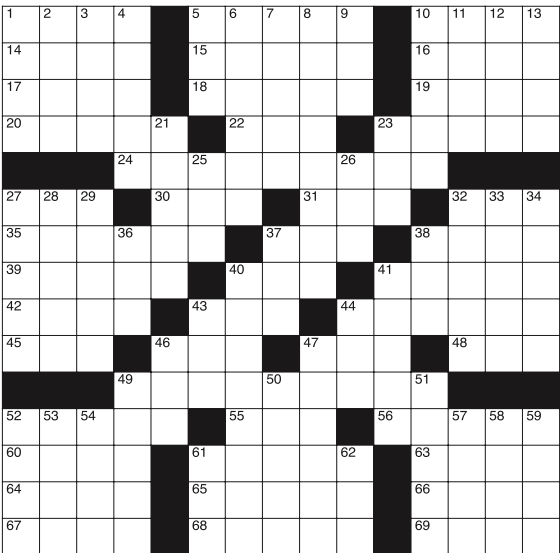
“Color in Motion”

Kent Memorial Library, 32 North Main St., Kent, Conn. kentmemoriallibrary.org An exhibition of paintings by Woodbury artist Lucy C. Pierpont will be on view in the library gallery. Pierpont’s work reflects a lifelong engagement with art and draws inspiration from artists including Edward Hopper, Norman Rockwell, Joan Mitchell and Helen Frankenthaler. An opening reception will be held July 26 from 2 to 4 p.m. Registration for the reception is requested by calling 860-927-3761 or online.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

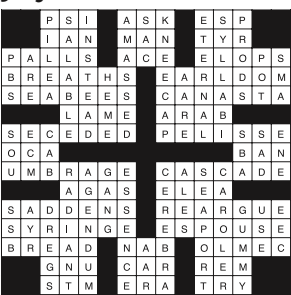
- Listen to
- Presents
- A type of guitar
- Actor Idris
- A citizen of Iran
- Pretentiously artistic
- Harness
- Diamond weight measurement
- “Better Call _”
- Fervent support
- Male cat
- Jewish spiritual leader
- Disposed to venture or take risks
- A way to nail
- Cool!
- Women’s _ movement
- “Losing My Religion” rockers
- Step-shaped recess
- A princess can detect it
- Tractor-trailer
- Leslie and Leon are two
- Color at the end of the spectrum
- Lines where fabrics are sewn
- Dodgers great Hershiser
- Floor covering
- Traveled aimlessly
- Rocker Stewart
- Body art
- Congressman (abbr.)
- No seats available
- Breaks apart
- Hand gesture
- Ballplayer’s tool
- Sword
- Baseball team
- Upper bract of floret of grass
- Italian Seaport
- Mars crater
- Tube on a shoelace
- U. of Miami mascot
- South American nation
- Video game series “Max _”
- Upper body part



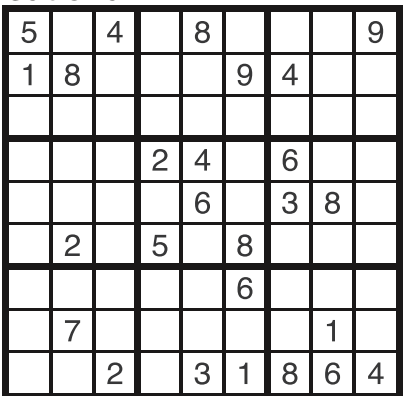
- The bottom layer
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- Challenges
- Body part
- Tell on
- By way of
- Shady green alcove
- Egyptian city
- _ and flowed
- Widens a hole
- Eurasian wheat
- Act incorrectly
- “Be back later”
- Al Bundy’s wife
- Ocean
- Large root eaten as a vegetable
- Units of subjective loudness
- Music genre
- A way to drench
- Popular hot beverage
- Silk-like cotton fabric

- Rumanian city
- Come back
- Vaccine developer
- Canadian law enforcers
- Wings
- Observational comedian Bill
- Small fry
- _ Clapton, musician
- Take a chance
- Semi-liquid food for babies
- Consumed food

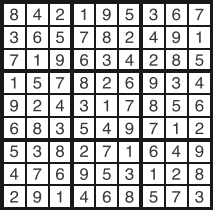
July 16 Solution



Sudoku



July 16 Solution



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OUR TOWNS

Pine Plains home prices continue sharp rise

By CRHISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — Median sales prices for a single-family home in the Town of Pine Plains reached \$520,000 for the year ending June 30. The figure represents a 47% increase from last year's median price calculated using sales between June 30, 2024, and June 30, 2025. Prices are also 39% higher than the \$375,000 median for the year between June 2023 and June 2024.

The number of annual sales on a 12-month rolling basis remained within its three-year range of 10 to 18 transactions. A total of 17 single-family homes sold during the 12 months ending June 30, 2026.

The previous year saw 12 sales during the period ending June 30, 2025, and there were 11 sales during the 12 months ending June 30, 2024. The busiest 12-month period on record ended June 30, 2021, when 40 single-family homes sold during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic-era housing boom.

There are currently 19 single-family homes on the market. Six are listed for more than \$1 million, while eight are priced below the current median sale price of \$520,000.

Six parcels of land are listed for sale on the MLS, along with five commercial properties, including an event venue,



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Renovation work is underway at the historic 1790 house at 88-96 Hammertown Road which sold for \$950,000 in March 2026. The 7.8 acre property also included a 1955 ranch, a garage with an apartment and a 1900 barn.

a former car dealership and a converted church. March 2026 Recorded Transfers 540 Hicks Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 5.58 acres transferred to Michael Peci for \$559,000. 3807 Route 199 — 3 bedroom/1 bath home transferred to Rick Rothvoss for \$374,000. 88-96 Hammerton Road — 2 bedroom/2.5 bath home built in 1790 and a 3 bedroom/2.5 bath ranch on 7.75 acres transferred to Nicolas Arauz for \$950,000. 2436 Route 83 — 16,800 square foot lumber yard on

10.84 acres transferred to Fifth Generation Partners LLC for \$748,523. May Recorded Transfers 22-28 Ryan Road — 3 bedroom/2 bath ranch transferred to Tana Pocock for \$165,000. June Recorded Transfers 30 Myrtle Ave. — 3 bedroom/2 bath home on .43 acres transferred to Zenda Snyder for \$440,000. 23-25 Myrtle Ave. — 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on .91 acres transferred to Aaron Louis Sperling for \$835,000. Mount Ross Road — 2.5 acres of vacant land transferred to 1485- 16E Fifth Av-

enue LLC for \$120,000. *Town of Pine Plains real estate transfers recorded between March 1, 2026 and June 30, 2026, provided by Dutchess County Office of Real Property. Transfers without consideration are not included. Current market listings from First Key MLS and market statistics from InfoSparks. Note that recorded transfers frequently lag sales by a number of days and include properties sold privately. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Harlem Valley area activity report July 5 to July 15

July 5 — Deputies responded to Route 292 in Pawling for a father vs daughter verbal domestic dispute. The matter was resolved without further police intervention.

July 5 — Deputies report the arrest of Pamela Lyon, age 36, for driving while intoxicated during a traffic stop on Route 82 in Pine Plains. Subject to appear in the Town of Pine Plains Court at a later date.

July 8 — Deputies patrolled the Four Brothers Restaurant in the Town of Amenia to conduct a welfare check of a subject who appeared to be impaired while sitting in her vehicle. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Teresa Chichra, age 40, after she was found to be inhaling a toxic substance. Chichra was charged with violation of sec-

tion 3380 of the public health law. Chichra to appear in the Town of Amenia Court at a later date.

July 14 — Deputies responded to East Main Street in the Village of Pawling to investigate a domestic disturbance where one party had fled the scene. Investigation on-going.

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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SHARON

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REAL ESTATE

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

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Type: Part-Time
Hours: 25 hours per week, Tuesday – Saturday. Exact daily hours to be discussed.
Location: in-office, the Academy Building, Salisbury, CT
Reports to: Executive Director
Salary commensurate with experience

Summary: The Office Manager provides organization, support and coordination for the Salisbury Association Executive Director, President, Treasurer, other officers and Committee Chairs. The Officer Manager organizes accounting information for the bookkeeper, maintains the database for membership and fund raising, maintains all records and files, maintains the SA calendar, answers email and phone inquiries, welcomes visitors and sees to general maintenance of the Academy Building. Attends Board meetings and records minutes. Assists as needed with receptions and other SA events. Essential Skills: organized, attention to detail, ability to multi-task and prioritize, excellent written and verbal skills, ability to work with many constituents.

Good to have: knowledge of Microsoft Office (or Apple equivalent), QuickBooks, donor databases.

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