



Community gathers to celebrate life of 2-year-old Olly Rea

The celebration took place at the same Silver Mountain Road church where Olly died July 25 after falling into a septic tank on the property following a wedding reception. Despite an ex-

See CELEBRATION, A10



Construction to begin on water pumphouse

See PUMPHOUSE, A10

After tragedy, septic tanks retake a grim spotlight

On Saturday, July 25, 2-year-old Olly Rea fell into a septic tank located on the grounds of Faith Bible Chapel on Silver Mountain Road.

See SEPTIC TANKS, A10

Dutchess County focus group to address rural childcare challenges

See CHILDCARE, A10



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OPINION

Columns, Let's Hear It **A5**

Saturday, August 8, 2026
11am to 3pm · Academy Street, Salisbury
More information on page A6



Saluting Nonprofits
Live Music • Food • Fun

OUR TOWNS

Charity ride down Route 44 to benefit Millerton child with kidney disease

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Community members are organizing a charity motorcycle cruise later this month to help a Millerton family whose 5-year-old son is preparing for a kidney transplant after years of surgeries and treatment for congenital kidney disease.

Crew Slater, a 5-year-old Millerton resident, was born with chronic kidney disease and is currently in need of a kidney transplant. Community members are planning a motorcycle cruise from Millerton's Firehouse on Century Boulevard to Mahoney's Irish Pub in Poughkeepsie, New York, on Aug. 29 as a fundraiser for Slater and his family as they struggle to afford medication and treatment for the young Millertonian.

Registration for the community cruise will begin at 10 a.m. that day at the Millerton Firehouse. Organizers are asking for \$25 per rider and \$15 per passenger to participate in the ride, with proceeds going to Slater's family. Riders will depart from the firehouse at noon and drive down Route 44 in a group to Mahoney's Irish Pub in Poughkeepsie, where registration fees will provide one free drink.

Cassidy Slater, Crew's mother, said he has been struggling with multiple congenital issues since birth, including improperly functioning kidneys, bladder and colon, which requires the need for a colostomy bag.

Crew underwent his first surgery at just days old in August 2020. In the nearly six years since, he has endured countless visits to hospitals in Albany and Boston and multiple surgeries to treat his medical conditions.



The Slater family, from left to right: 9-year-old Madeline, 3-year-old Levi, mother Cassidy, 7-year-old Clayton, father Derek and 5-year-old Crew.

"It's just been hospitals, surgeries, routine visits, blood work," Cassidy said. "All of the above ever since he was born."

The years of medical visits have strained the family, Cassidy said, but it hasn't broken their resolve. Despite his health struggles, Crew faces life with excitement and happiness, she said, enjoying time outside with his three siblings at the Slater family's two-acre property in Millerton.

Crew is currently undergoing treatment to prepare him for a desperately needed kidney transplant. Cassidy said he has reached stage 4 kidney disease, currently functioning at just 20% capacity of a set of healthy kidneys. Stage 5 of the disease is total kidney failure.

Rob Decker of Pine Plains organized the charity cruise set for the end of August to help the family afford mounting costs. Flyers for the event also contain a QR code for an anonymous questionnaire to screen potential donors.

Cassidy praised Decker for getting involved and helping to organize the event. She said Decker and others have created T-shirts and bracelets to sell as fundraisers in addition

to the planned cruise later this month. And Decker did all of this without even knowing the family personally.

"He's just gone above and beyond," Cassidy said. "For a stranger to want to meet us and do all this stuff for us — there's still good people out there."

Crew isn't the only Slater child to face a troubling diagnosis — his older brother, 7-year-old Clayton, was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of five and requires regular insulin shots. Insurance coverage shortfalls have caused the family to pay for some of Clayton's diabetic care supplies out of pocket, further straining their finances.

Despite the hardships, Cassidy said she and her husband work to provide stability and fun for their children. She said her kids spend ample time outside at their two-acre property, and the family takes frequent hiking and camping trips. The couple have four children — 9-year-old Madeline, 7-year-old Clayton, 5-year-old Crew and 3-year-old Levi.

"They're not scared of what's thrown at them," Cassidy said. "They're going to go through whatever's thrown at them just like us."



Scott Ulm, left, and Elizabeth Hewitt stand together on Cary's grounds in Millbrook.

Elizabeth Hewitt named chair of Cary Institute Board of Trustees

By ELOISE PICKERING
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — Elizabeth Hewitt, longtime trustee of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, has been named Chair of the research institute's Board of Trustees. She plans for long-term financial stability and scientific expansion during her tenure.

Hewitt began her tenure in the midst of a six-week recovery from a riding incident when she was bucked from her horse. She suffered numerous broken ribs and a punctured lung. Despite her injuries, Hewitt has begun working in her new role.

The Cary Institute Board of Trustees is volunteer-based, and members do not receive compensation.

She comes to the position with nonprofit experience in financial management and asset allocation. Hewitt was chair of the investment committee with Cary before serving as co-vice chair of the Board of Trustees. She was named chair in June.

Hewitt currently works as the Chief Investment Officer at Miras Investments, an institutional family-owned business. She also serves on the board of the Dana Foundation, a nonprofit that fo-

cuses on neuroscience. Previously, Hewitt has served on the boards of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and The Madeira School, and was the chief investment officer at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a science-based nonprofit.

"Cary and its work expands our understanding of how ecosystems work, and it helps communities and decision makers and land managers make better decisions," Hewitt said. "It's a real honor to help steward an organization with that kind of mission."

Hewitt was drawn to Cary Institute in part because of its work with the Hubbard Brook Research Forest, which first documented acid rain in North America in 1963.

"I always remember Cary as this incredible institute that did world class ecological studies and independent ecological science with a real practical impact," Hewitt said.

Cary Institute President Josh Ginsberg has worked with two board chairs prior to Hewitt, and says each chair brings a unique skill set to the institute.

"Elizabeth's skills as a nonprofit financial manager will be especially important," Ginsberg said.

The Cary Institute has faced recent federal funding

cuts, with Hewitt describing the federal funding environment as posing a challenge for science.

"She is going to be a remarkable leader in managing the uncertainty of these times for science-based institutions," Ginsberg said.

In recent years, the Cary Institute has focused on long-term financial stability, a goal that Hewitt continues to work toward.

"Our role as a board is to create the conditions where great science can thrive," Hewitt said. "It's about supporting the institute and helping to expand the reach and impact that Cary science and their scientists can have."

Hewitt hopes to support the scientific missions of the institute.

"While we're rooted in the Hudson Valley, we have a much broader national and global impact. I think that's a really important part of what makes Cary unique," she said.

Don't Miss
This Week's
Special Inserts!
Sales and more!

Check them out inside.

- Herrington's
- A+ Detailing

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
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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
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Legal Notice
Notice of Formation of GREEN VILLAGE CONTRACTORS LLC Articles of Organization filed with the NYS Department of State (SSNY) on 05/15/2026. Office loca-

tion: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: Tomas Tun Ico 766 Old Route 22 Amenia, NY 12501 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

08-06-26	08-13-26	08-20-26	08-27-26	09-03-26	09-10-26
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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
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Legal Notice
Please take notice that the Town of Pine Plains Town Board will be accepting sealed bids for the pur-

chase of the following materials for the year 2027:

- 1) Bituminous asphalt (various sizes) including cold mix asphalt using the most current posted price index.
- 2) Crushed stone (all sizes).
- 3) Ice control sand- all crushed stone shall meet Section 703 of the NYS-DOT 'Standard Specifications' and Natural and Processed Sands and Gravels, Crushed Stone, Aggregate, Run of Bank Gravel specifications of County of Dutchess. All stone and asphalt materials shall come from NYS-DOT approved plant. Bid prices on all of the above materials per ton, with the exception of asphalt should be for both F.O.B. and delivered.
- 4) Liquid calcium chloride for summer and winter.
- 5) Blended diesel fuel.
- 6) #2 Heating oil for garage, winter mix December through February for heating oil only.
- 7) Mid-Grade and Regular no lead gasoline.
- 8) Liquid Propane for garage and library.

All bids should use the Albany OPIS for the Friday immediately preceding the bid opening date. Bids will be accepted until 12:00 noon Friday August 14, 2026 at the Town Clerks Office, PO Box 955, 3284 Route 199 Pine Plains, NY 12567 at which

time they will be opened and read aloud.

In order for your bid to be considered complete, the following must be submitted as required by Section 103D of the Municipal Law: Non-Collusive Bidding Certificate

Certificate of Insurance Naming Town of Pine Plains as Certificate Holder

All bids must be submitted in sealed envelopes with the following information on the outside:

1. Materials Bids 2027
2. August 14, 2026, 12:00PM

The Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. The F.O.B. plant price will be analyzed with full consideration given to the distance of the plant to the project location.

Any questions should be directed to the Highway Department at (518) 398-6662.

By order of
The Town Board
of the Town of Pine Plains
07-30-26
08-06-26

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF AMENIA
MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT BIDS
BIDS FOR THE PERIOD 9/17/26- 9/16/27
NOTICE is hereby given that sealed bids for the purchase of material and equipment used by the Town of Amenia during

the year will be received until 2 p.m. on Thursday, August 20, 2026 at the Town Clerk's Office, Town of Amenia, Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501 and opened and read at the Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, on Monday, August 24, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Bids are requested for the following road materials: Bank-run, sand, Item #4, crushed quarry stone and washed gravel, light, medium, and heavy stone fill, sub base NYS DOT Type #2, calcium chloride, bituminous mix hot and cold, road oils, concrete, catch basins and equipment rentals, Tree Work, Sweeping.

Detailed specifications may be obtained at the Highway office at 845-373-9922. **All bids must include a notarized non-collusive statement and corporate bidders must file a corporate resolution with a corporate seal. All envelopes must be clearly marked "Bid 9/17/2026 to 9/16/2027".**

The Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Bids will be awarded at the next scheduled Town Board Meeting September 17, 2026.

Megan Chamberlin
Superintendent of
Highways
Town of Amenia
07-30-26
08-06-26



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN
Manager Benjamin Abrahams working behind the counter of Pine Plains' first cannabis dispensary.

First cannabis dispensary opens in Pine Plains

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The first cannabis dispensary in Pine Plains opened for business last week.

The store is still unnamed, but it's built on the former site of a weigh station — and has retained some key elements of the building's past.

The dispensary is the first step in a larger plan to breathe new life into the former Deuel's Home Center property at 7723 Main Street. There are two other buildings on the property that the owners plan to convert to a grocery store and ice cream shop.

But the dispensary comes first. It's the brainchild of Christopher Gumprecht, Benjamin Abrahams and Brian Seiler. Seiler and Abrahams have managed one cannabis store already — Upstate Pines in Red Hook. Gumprecht bought the Main Street property in 2020, and approached the two about managing a Pine Plains location.

But the trio faced a number of hurdles in order to open the Pine Plains store. First, there was opposition from the Pine Plains Hose Company, which argued the building's location violated a rule prohibiting cannabis sales within

300 feet of a public service. A waiver was eventually granted in December 2025.

Arguments over an accessibility ramp delayed the project a further seven months. The Planning Board voted in July to allow the business to open without a ramp, and obtain a certificate of occupancy.

The building is freshly painted and two signs flap in the wind outside; there's little to indicate that the storefront sells cannabis.

Inside, the showroom is bright. On one wall, rows of magnified cannabis buds sit ready for inspection in glass orbs. Edibles are on display in a case below the counter. An old scale, original to the building, has a place of honor near the back.

But the dispensary has not won over everyone. A homemade sign that reads "Say No To Drugs" sits propped on a neighbor's fence, facing the dispensary.

Abrahams is unfazed. "We're pioneers," he said with a grin.

There has been a recent surge in dispensaries, with New York legalizing the sale of recreational cannabis in 2021. Millerton's first dispensary, Blackrabbit Farms, is slated to open on Main Street later this year.

New state law allows medically assisted suicide

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

New York's Medical Aid in Dying Act, which allows terminally ill adults to obtain self-administered medication to end their lives, took effect Aug. 5.

In order to qualify for the prescription, New York residents must be at least 18 years of age, and have a medically confirmed terminal illness that is incurable and irreversible and will likely cause death within 6 months, whether or not treatment is provided.

"People should have autonomy over how they live, but also how they die," said Keavy Bedell, co-founder of the end-of-life facility East Mountain House, which is based in Lakeville. "If one has reached the point where quality of life is no longer there, and they don't want to go through the suffering, I firmly stand in the corner of

MAID being an option."

The option is not available in Connecticut. But New York joins 13 other states that offer MAID, including a host of other nations. New York residents must receive approval from two physicians and are subject to a five-day waiting period.

Furthermore, "no person shall qualify for Medical Aid in Dying solely because of age or disability," the law states.

Bedell hopes Connecticut will join its neighbor in approving similar legislation. "The end of life is a very challenging time for the family and friends," she said. "MAID is anti-suffering, and it's a compassionate choice."

The process works as follows: patients must submit both a spoken and written request, with the oral request captured on audio or video and stored in their medical record. The written request requires two witnesses who

are not relatives, caregivers, or otherwise positioned to benefit financially from the patient's death.

Then comes sign-off from two physicians, along with a separate mental health evaluation by a psychiatrist, psychologist or neurologist. If that evaluator determines the patient lacks decision-making capacity, the process ends there. Patients may change their mind and rescind their request at any time. However, if they move forward with it, they will be prescribed pills.

MAID still faces opposition, even as it goes into effect. Two lawsuits are currently in New York courts to block the legislation — one objects on grounds of religious freedom, the other over disability rights. The former, filed by over a dozen Catholic groups, claims that even though participation is ostensibly voluntary, providers and facilities are forced to inform termi-

nally ill patients about the option or provide referrals, forcing an unconstitutional conflict with their faith.

Disability rights advocates, meanwhile, point to the fact that individuals with disabilities face severe gaps in care or reductions in supportive services, putting them at risk of being steered toward medical aid in dying instead of receiving proper treatment. The group of plaintiffs includes the Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley.

No injunction has been ordered to prevent the legislation from going into effect.

Under the law, using the prescription does not constitute suicide for legal purposes, and death certificates will list the patient's underlying illness, not the medication, as the cause of death. Life insurance payouts cannot be withheld as a result, though the state's Medicaid program will not cover prescription costs.

After two decades, Millbrook Antiques Mall owners ready to pass the torch

By ELOISE PICKERING
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — After two decades of ownership, Jeff and Thelma Zwirn are selling the Millbrook Antiques Mall as they look to retire and focus on spending time with their family.

The couple purchased the Franklin Avenue antique mall in 2005 after deciding to leave New York City in the years following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Now, they have listed the business and its three-story, 5,000-square-foot building for \$1,495,000 and are looking for a buyer who will continue operating it as an antique mall.

Established in 1979, the Millbrook Antiques Mall is home to more than 20 vendors spread across 40 rooms. The business generates revenue through vendor rentals, sales commissions, consignments and the owners' own antique booth. The mall also serves as a retail outlet for Made In Cookware products.

According to Jeff Zwirn, the couple is already in advanced discussions with a prospective buyer.

"We have a few interested

buyers, and one is pretty far along," he said. "He has a vision for growing the business while keeping it an antique mall."

Jeff Zwirn describes himself as the passive investor, while Thelma has overseen the day-to-day operation of the business from the beginning.

"My wife is on site several times during the week, so she manages the shop. She provides guidance to the dealers, she interacts with the customers. She's just a wonderful CEO," Jeff Zwirn said.

Their decision to leave New York City and purchase the business was shaped by the events of Sept. 11, 2001. Jeff Zwirn worked for Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, an investment banking firm whose offices occupied the 88th and 89th floors of the South Tow-

er of the World Trade Center. The firm lost 67 employees in the terrorist attacks.

"After attending so many funerals, we decided to shuffle the deck regarding our goals and objectives," Jeff Zwirn said.

Looking for a slower pace of life, the couple relocated to Millbrook and purchased the Millbrook Antiques Mall. Before the move, Thelma Zwirn worked in New York City as an artist and teacher.

Wendy Maitland, founder of Atelier and the property's listing broker, said the Zwirns have carefully maintained both the building and the business during their ownership.

"We have a very special property and owners who have a high level of pride of ownership and have taken incredible care of this building throughout their steward-

ship," Maitland said. "I feel very lucky to be representing this property and these particular owners."

Maitland said preserving the business itself will be just as important as selling the real estate.

"The property is most valuable to someone who will continue their legacy because they've built up a tremendous following, great reputation and tremendous goodwill throughout the community and beyond," Maitland said.

As they prepare for retirement, the Zwirns said they are looking forward to spending more time with their children and grandchildren.

"This is the right time for us to focus on other priorities, including more time with the family, the grandchildren, with our own kids," Jeff Zwirn said.



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is here.

For people seeking
support, information, or
guidance related to
safety in relationships.

project-sage.org
Confidential Support Line
(860) 364-1900



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. 15 | 7:00 PM
Zaccai Curtis Quartet

2025 Grammy Winner for Best Latin Jazz Album
Performs in Signature Afro-Cuban Bebop Style
Feat. Brothers Zaccai, Piano, and Luques, Bass;
Willie Martinez and Reinaldo De Jesus, Percussion

Music Mountain Summer Festival



SUN., AUG. 16 | 3:00 PM
Ulysses Quartet
& Max Levinson, Piano

SCHUMANN Piano Quintet in E Flat Major, Op. 44,
MOZART String Quartet in E Flat Major, K. 171, and
GROSSHANDLER Suite for Clarinet Quintet (rev. 2026)

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

OBITUARIES

Gary R. Cunningham

SHARON — Gary R. Cunningham, 76, of Hilltop Road, passed away peacefully at his home on July 1, 2026, following a long illness. He was the devoted husband of the late Kimie (O’Hanlon) Cunningham.

Born on May 14, 1950, in Sharon, Gary was the son of the late Robert and June (Parsons) Cunningham.

He worked as a painter throughout his career, but his true passions extended far beyond his trade. A talented guitarist, Gary enjoyed playing with several local bands during his younger years, and music remained an important part of his life.

Gary also had a lifelong love of auto racing. Whether attending local flat-track

races, following NASCAR, or traveling throughout New York, New England, and Delaware for racing events, he was happiest at the track. Lebanon Valley Speedway was among his favorite destinations, and Tony Stewart was one of his all-time favorite drivers. Gary and Kimie even celebrated their marriage at the Racing Hall of Fame in upstate New York—a fitting tribute to a passion they shared together.

Gary is survived by several cousins.

In keeping with his wishes, all services will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon Volunteer Ambulance, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, CT 06069.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Colaine Alicia Duntz

CANAAN — Colaine Alicia (Davide) Duntz, 80, of 112 Canaan Valley Road, passed away peacefully at her home on July 28, 2026. She was the beloved wife of the late Howard Duntz Sr.

Born on Jan. 24, 1946, in the Bronx, New York, Colaine was the daughter of the late Colaine Gardner.

Colaine was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother whose love and kindness touched everyone who knew her. She dedicated many years of service to the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, where she was valued for her hard work and caring nature. She found great joy in caring for others and took immense pride in creating a warm and welcoming home.

In her free time, Colaine enjoyed gardening, reading, and spending time with her animals. Above all else, she treasured time with her family. Some of her happiest

moments were those spent with her beloved husband, with whom she shared many wonderful years.

She is survived by her three children: Colaine Korie Duntz (Danny), Howard Clarence Duntz Jr. (Connie), and Fawn Korene Duntz Marshall (Wayne), all of Canaan; her grandchildren, Elizabeth, Mary, Abbiegail, and Sarah; her great-grandchildren, Thomas, Susan, Greyson, Charlie, and Jase; and one great-grandchild expected to arrive soon.

Colaine will be remembered for her caring spirit, unwavering devotion to her family, and the love she shared so generously throughout her life. Her memory will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

There are no services planned. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St Canaan CT 06018.

Stacie A. Weiner

SALISBURY — Stacie A. Weiner passed away on July 7, 2026. Born on March 2, 1945, Stacie lived her last 51 years with her partner and spouse, Danella Schiffer, as well as with many adopted stray cats. Important people in her life include her beloved cousin Ellie Voss, Jenn Scott, a dear friend and colleague from RBC Wealth Management where she worked, Kevin Prell, also from RBC, Peter Menikoff of Salisbury and Rob Breakell, her trainer at the Canaan YMCA. Stacie was indebted to Dr. Sharynn Hall, MD, a brilliant, compassionate and supportive medical oncologist from Yale New Haven Health. Diagnosed with advanced cancer in Dec. of 2024, Stacie spent her last 1-1/2 years with determination and resilience; never complaining about her situation. She stayed active until her last month.

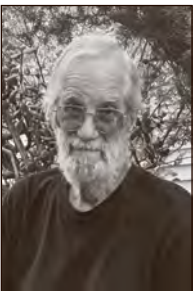
Stacie grew up in Poughkeepsie, New York, and obtained a BA degree from Goddard College in Vermont in 1966 with a major in drama. She then earned an MA degree from New York University in 1974 also in drama and studied toward a Ph.D. in Japanese theater. While pursuing studies at NYU, she worked as an elementary school teacher.



Realizing that experts in Kabuki and Noh theater had limited career paths, Stacie joined Citibank in its training department. With an interest in finance, she transferred to the bank’s finance division where she became a commercial lender in 1979. This launched her 47 year career in the financial services industry. In 1985, Stacie was recruited to Chemical Bank to head a lending team that focused on law and accounting firms. Six years later, she joined U.S. Trust as a private banker responsible for the company’s high net-worth individuals. Wanting to provide full brokerage services to individuals and small businesses, Stacie joined Merrill Lynch in 1995.

Having bought land in Salisbury with Danella, they built a passive solar home in 1980. Eager to live there full time, Stacie relocated in 1998 and joined A. G. Edwards and Sons as a financial consultant in its Farmington, Connecticut office. There, she provided a full range of investment advisory services to individuals, business owners and not-for-profits. With the eventual acquisition of A.G. Edwards by Wells Fargo, she left in 2010 to join the highly respected asset management firm of RBC Wealth Management

FALLS VILLAGE — It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Frank Camille Grusauskas of Falls Village, Connecticut, on July 22, 2026, at the age of 70. Frank was born on Nov. 14, 1955 in Goshen. He was a beloved father and grandfather, uncle, brother, and partner. He was a fine woodworker and craftsman, an insatiable library patron, a musician, and a lover of life and the natural world. He was an extraordinary and talented man.



basket weaving to bread-making, and carving wooden birds and spoons, to tying flies and feather earrings, Frank was almost always working on something. He was resourceful and unconventional in his life and in his creativity. Even the sandcastles he built with his kids while vacationing in Cape Cod were works of art—giant sea serpents and elaborate pyramids and ziggurats with precisely sculpted stairways.

Frank’s passion for woodworking began at the age of five, when his father gave him a pearl-handled jackknife, a block of wood, some nails, and a hammer in their tiny basement. Frank learned to appreciate wood, as his father would only give him a piece of wood if he planned to use it wisely. He banged together a crooked birdhouse, then taught himself to whittle—which, he recalled, was how he learned to work with and against the grain. Frank attended Wamogo High School, and one year of college at Eastern Connecticut State University, before choosing his path of self-taught artisanship. To anybody interested in working with wood, he recommends starting with Bruce Hoadley’s book Understanding Wood—or, “traveling way back in time to watch the Viking ship builders,” which he did via books.

At the age of 26, Frank realized his dream of building a modest and beautiful house on a shoestring budget and with his own two hands, and with the help of his father and his close friends Richard Zimany and Mike Minnick. His children still call that house their home. While raising his three children, he worked as a carpenter, sheetrocker, roofing, painter, sculpture builder, cabinet maker, caretaker, and gardener.

Frank’s deep respect for

trees and a reverence for the wood that they produce kept him inspired through his prolific retirement years. In his home workshop, which looked out over his beloved Robbins Swamp, he produced fine bowls, hundreds of spoons and cooking utensils, abstract sculptures inspired by the natural world, tables, chairs, and so much more. Following a brief hospitalization in 2016, during which his son brought him a book on lutherie, Frank spent the next three years building guitars and mandolins, many of which his musician son still plays.

Frank was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer on June 10, and the disease progressed rapidly. He was kept mostly pain-free and remained curious and present throughout the end. He is predeceased by his parents, and sisters Joan Crown, Patricia Rickard, and Denise Garrett. As was his wish, Frank died at

his home on Robbins Swamp, where he loved to watch the beavers and murmurations of starlings. He was surrounded by his family.

Frank is survived by his longtime partner of 28 years, Trudy Schaelchli, his sister Barbara Costello and her husband Tom, his first wife Norma DeMay, his children Caitlin, Maria Rose, and Jonathan, and his three grandchildren, Arthur, Eloise, and Phoebe. He is greatly missed, and will never be forgotten. “Love you to tears.”

Calling hours for Frank Grusauskas will be held from 1-3 pm on Saturday, August 8 at the Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton, NY. Please save the date for a celebration of Frank’s life at the Salisbury Town Grove on Saturday, November 14, time TBD. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Litchfield County, at vnhlc.org/giving/donate.

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com



Worship Services

Week of August 9, 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
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860-824-7232

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ALL ARE WELCOME
Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
info@congbethdavid.org

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
10 a.m. Worship Service
“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
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The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
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The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

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LET’S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

New York has approved legislation for the Medical Aid in Dying Act, which will allow certain terminally ill adults to request medication to end their lives. Supporters say it offers dignity and relief from suffering, while opponents worry about moral concerns and protections for vulnerable people.

What are your thoughts on the law and why?

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

LAST WEEK

What’s your favorite hidden gem in our community, and why should others check it out?

“Innisfree Garden in Millbrook, NY. You can walk around the lake at your own pace, enjoy a picnic, or relax in the chairs.”
— Darryl Gangloff, Millerton

“The lattes at Tri Corner and the seed library at NorthEast-Millerton Library! (They also have tons of resources you can use with a library card and others you don’t need a library card for)”
— KT McClune

“The Oakhurst for starters, food never disappoints. Then I’d head to The Elephants Tusk across the street because they have great consignment finds. And I get my nails done at Amore nails by Herringtons, Grace and Alex are amazing humans and deserve your support!!”
— Susie Q’s Homemade Sourdough Co.

“Rosemary Rose Finery on Main Street!! It’s a magical shop filled with one of a kind jewelry, from breathtaking estate pieces to turquoise and silver pieces sourced directly from the Southwest and cool funky treasures like brooches and earrings from decades past! You can also find herbal and local goods alike! Both the space and the owner are beautiful, warm and welcoming. It’s a place you have to stop in, you never know what treasures you will find @rosemaryrosefinery!”
— Danidogsjm

“Speaking strictly of commercial “hidden gems” I’d have to say it is in my opinion that the absolute best baker in the *entire* region can be found at the Millerton Farmer’s Market. The Baker’s Wife has a lot of strong competition against their breads but none top them. As for non commercial hidden gems there are multitudes, but I’d be loath to divulge them as they would cease to be hidden gems then wouldn’t they?”
— Andres Vialpando, Millerton

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A thank you to our community

As our Village’s 175th Anniversary Celebration comes to a close, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this milestone such a memorable success.

Thank you to the members of the 175th Anniversary Committee for the many hours of planning and dedication, to our generous sponsors whose support made so many events possible, to our local businesses, community organizations, and civic groups that participated, and to the many volunteers who gave their time and talents throughout the week. I would also like to thank our Village staff, DPW, emergency services, and everyone who worked behind the scenes to help keep the events running smoothly and safely.

Most of all, thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate. Seeing our parks, streets, and downtown filled with friends, neighbors, and visitors enjoying everything our Village has to offer was the greatest reminder of what makes Millerton such a spe-

cial place. I hope this week gave all of us a chance to celebrate our rich history, make new memories, and look forward to an exciting future together.

This celebration was especially meaningful to me. Having grown up in Millerton and having the privilege of serving this community, I couldn’t help but reflect on how much our Village has changed over the years while still holding on to the small-town spirit that makes it so special. It’s also a reminder that each generation has the opportunity to leave Millerton a little better than they found it, and I look forward to seeing that tradition continue for many years to come.

Thank you again to everyone who played a part in making our 175th Anniversary a celebration to remember. Together, we’ve honored our past, celebrated our present, and look forward to a bright future for the Village we all proudly call home.

Jenn Najdek
Mayor, Village of Millerton



“Our speaker tonight is Bill. He’s going to talk about hitting bottom.”

How hospice pioneers transformed end-of-life care in the Northwest Corner

GUEST COMMENTARY
Mary Talbot

as nurses began to see there was a need, and it was right in front of us.”

Claudia Warner created a steering committee on hospice care in the Northwest Corner and recruited Lafontan to lead it.

Change nevertheless unfolded slowly. Like the rest of the hospital staff, the nurses had been trained according to the traditional ethos of Western medicine: save lives, extend them, restart them if possible. “Death didn’t happen in hospitals,” DiMartino says. “It was not an accepted part of life back then.”

As education in hospice care spread—Lafontan led much of the training in the Northwest Corner—health care providers began to understand the importance of treating pain aggressively. “We learned that dosage and timing needed to be for the patient experience,” says DiMartino. At the end of life, addiction to pain medication is not the primary concern; pain management and well-being are.

Medical personnel and volunteers spoke with families, pharmacists, and clergy, toured funeral homes, and learned that dying involves communities as much as medicine.

Medicare’s hospice benefit, enacted in 1983, expanded access but also transformed hospice from a grassroots

movement into a more institutionalized system. Lafontan continued training nurses and volunteers and helped bring hospice into long-term care facilities. DiMartino eventually became hospice director at the Salisbury Visiting Nurses Association (now part of the Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Litchfield County), where she trained younger nurses.

Most end-of-life care still happens at home, where family members become the default caregivers. Yet while most people hope to avoid dying in a hospital, not every family can provide round-the-clock care. For decades, Lafontan and DiMartino imagined a place to fill that gap—for their patients and themselves, when the time comes.

In September 2025, East Mountain House (EMH) opened in Lakeville, Connecticut, bringing that vision to life. Housed in a private residence, EMH allows residents to receive hospice support while trained caregivers provide the daily physical care families often struggle to manage alone.

When the two nurses toured the facility together, they were struck by how closely it matched what they had imagined. “We couldn’t have imagined a better place,” says DiMartino. “There are rooms for families to stay,

and staff who provide the care, which is monumental.” Nurses from Visiting Nurse and Hospice of Litchfield County check in regularly.

After retiring from nursing, Lafontan and DiMartino became hospice volunteers themselves, sitting with patients, listening to their stories, and giving families a chance to rest.

Both women recall a man dying at home who had a photo of an aircraft carrier on his wall. When they first met him, “he was sort of shrunken up, sitting there in a chair,” recalls DiMartino. By coaxing him to talk about the image, she learned that he had been a pilot whose job was training others to land on the carrier. “I watched his body change into a man who had this great story to tell.”

“When you’re really present with a patient, you [see] them in the whole breadth of their life,” says DiMartino of the human connection intrinsic to hospice care. “The end is part of life, and we’ll all get there. But every person’s life has meaning. You just have to [listen] and you’ll find it.”

To learn more about the origins of hospice in our region and hear an oral history with Louisa Lafontan and Donna DiMartino, visit eastmountainhouse.org/history-of-hospice/



PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Ghost pipes

For this week’s From The Archives, visit millertonnews.com

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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



Greg Arent of Clinton Corners tours Stanford's Haunted Fortress, inspecting the attraction for needed maintenance and upkeep.

Volunteers prepare Haunted Fortress for autumn scares

By BRIAN HESS
Special to the Millerton News

STANFORDVILLE — Throughout August and September, in the woods off Creamery Road in Stanfordville, volunteers are needed to cut back overgrowth, repair sets, and prepare the Haunted Fortress for its October opening.

Greg Arent, a Clinton Corners resident who serves as the leader of the haunted attraction's volunteers, is spending weekends in the latter half of the summer prepping for the coming fall. Volunteers are encouraged to join through August and September on Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In the summer, Stanfordville's Haunted Fortress nearly disappears into the landscape. There are no lights, no actors, no sounds aside from birds and insects. Pathways vanish behind trees and structures sag under vines. What will become a carefully orchestrated maze of fear feels, instead, like something abandoned.

"We let Mother Nature take care of everything," Arent said, gesturing toward the overgrowth. There is no mowing, weeding, or pruning in the summer. "By October this will all be dead."

As he steps onto the swamp walk — the winding path visitors take before entering the Fortress — it's quiet enough to hear his footsteps.

Arent, the head of operations for the Haunted Fortress, brings a background in set-building to the role. "I know some people don't love Halloween," he said with a shrug. "But to us, it's just different."

The Fortress unfolds as a series of spaces stitched together along a winding path — houses, yards, tunnels, and rooms that shift in theme but share the same handmade, slightly off-kilter feel. In October, visitors move through it piece by piece. In summer, it reads more like a landscape of remnants.

And, at the beginning of the tour, sits the pirate ship — one of the last structures built by Peter Wing.

Wing, who died in 2014, created the Haunted Fortress, originally called Frankenstein's Fortress, in Millbrook in the 1990s before eventually moving it to Stanford. His vision, Arent understands, was

less about jump scares and more about atmosphere — "the psychological spooky thing."

Arent never met Wing, but the Fortress is still full of his presence.

"One of my favorite things Pete Wing did is reclaim and reuse material," Arent said. Much of what stands here was not bought new, but salvaged and repurposed. It's a philosophy that continues. "Guys who work at dumps set things aside for me," Arent said. The Fortress is not polished. It resists symmetry. "There are no straight lines or right angles," Arent said.

In October, that work becomes visible.

On the best nights, the Fortress runs with 50 or more volunteer actors. There is no audition process; roles — zombies, witches, ghouls, vampires — are assigned. Esther Evans, known locally as the "queen of costumes," outfits actors with pieces she designs or refurbishes.

Funding comes through the town's recreation department, but the operation is entirely volunteer-driven. In August and September, volunteers meet on Sundays — workdays dedicated to maintenance, repair, and small-scale construction. The tasks range from the mundane to the complex: roofing, landscaping, rewiring lights, repairing props.

"We definitely need more help," Arent said. "We're always looking for volunteers with carpentry skills. But also just whatever people are interested in or curious learning about."

The work never really stops — planning, building, rehearsing, then performance. This October will include 13 nighttime shows and two sensory-friendly daytime walkthroughs. Then comes cleanup, reflection, and the cycle begins again.

"It is always Fortress season," Arent said through laughs.

Despite the scale of the operation, much of the Fortress remains structurally unchanged from Wing's original vision. When Wing's family visited, years after his death, "they were just happy that we were maintaining his vision," Arent says.

That vision isn't always named. Many newer volunteers don't know Wing's

story. What remains instead are fragments — techniques, structures, even phrases passed down informally. Before the attraction opens each night, Arent reminds actors: "Silence is creepy." It's the kind of note that feels less like instruction and more like inheritance.

Why do people keep coming back? Arent laughs at the question. "That's a question for a psychiatrist."

But then he answers it anyway. Some come for a scare. Others for the chance to build, to act, to create. One volunteer described it simply: "This is free therapy."

Families return year after year. Children come as visitors and grow into actors. Others arrive by accident: one year, three women from New York City came as guests, learned it was volunteer-run, and showed up the next night to perform as witches. "They were some of the best witches we had," Arent laughed.

In the end, the Haunted Fortress is not just a place to be scared. It is a place maintained and reimaged by people who choose, repeatedly, to return to it.

What Wing would recognize if he walked through today is impossible to say. But the materials are still rough, salvaged. The lines still crooked. The atmosphere still built more on suggestion than shock. "We don't do jump scares," Arent reminds me.

And the work — the steady, often invisible work of maintaining it — continues.

Sunday volunteering dates

Volunteers can join the maintenance effort on Sundays through August and September from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the following dates:

- Aug. 9
- Aug. 23
- Sept. 13
- Sept. 20
- Sept. 27

The Haunted Fortress is located at 11 Creamery Road in Stanfordville. Email hauntedfortress@stanfordny.gov if interested in volunteering.

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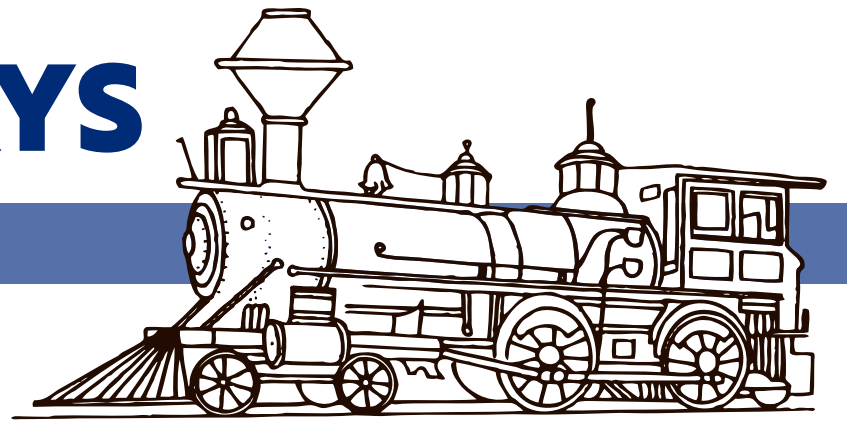
Local Matters

The Lakeville Journal is a 501(c)(3) news organization covering the communities of Cornwall, Falls Village, Kent, Lakeville, Litchfield, Norfolk, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon.

The Lakeville Journal • 64 Route 7 North, Falls Village, CT
James H. Clark, CEO/Publisher, publisher@lakevillejournal.com

OLD RAILROAD DAYS

August 6-9, 2026 • North Canaan, Conn.



THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

COMMUNITY PICNIC

5:30 to 7 p.m.
Canaan Union Depot

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

NEW ENGLAND ACCORDION CONNECTION

9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Canaan Union Depot

STORY HOUR

10:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Douglas Library
108 Main St.

CRHA TRAIN MUSEUM

6 to 9 p.m.
Canaan Union Depot

NIGHT MARKET

6 to 9 p.m.
Canaan Union Depot

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8

CRHA TRAIN MUSEUM

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Canaan Union Depot

NEW ENGLAND ACCORDION CONNECTION

9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Canaan Union Depot

YMCA RAILROAD DAYS RUN

10 a.m.
Bunny McGuire Park

TRAINS & MORE

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Behind Canaan Union Depot

WALKING TOUR

11 a.m.
Canaan History Center
115 W. Main St.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9

BUFFET BREAKFAST

8 to 11 a.m.
North Canaan Volunteer Ambulance Corp.
15 E. Main St.

NEW ENGLAND ACCORDION CONNECTION

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Canaan Union Depot

CRHA TRAIN MUSEUM

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Canaan Union Depot

FREE MOVIE: DUMBO (1941)

11 a.m.
Colonial Theatre
27 Railroad St.

WALKING TOUR

2 p.m.
Canaan History Center
115 W. Main St.

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- Visit the Museums
- Small bites grilled by C.A. Lindell's
- Canaan Kids Art Space Pop-Up
- Whistle Pig Books
- FREE Ice Cream from NBT Bank!

Support Local. Celebrate Community!

FRIDAY • AUGUST 7

- New England Accordion Connection • 9 AM - 9 PM
- Story Hour at Douglas Library • 10:30 - 11:30 AM
- CRHA Train Museum at the Depot • 6 - 9 PM
- Railroad Days Night Market • 6 - 9 PM
- Watch the trains come into town!
- Live Music

SATURDAY • AUGUST 8

- CRHA Train Museum at the Depot • 10 AM - 4 PM
- New England Accordion Connection • 9 AM - 4 PM
- Trains & More Behind the Depot • 10 AM - 4 PM
- YMCA Railroad Days Run • 10 AM
- History Center Walking Tour • 11 AM (Visit the History Center afterward!)
- Live Music

SUNDAY • AUGUST 9

- New England Accordion Connection • 9 AM - 5 PM
- CRHA Train Museum at the Depot • 10 AM - 1 PM
- FREE COMMUNITY MOVIE - Dumbo (1941) 11 AM, Colonial Theater - Sponsored by NBT Bank
- History Center Walking Tour • 11 AM
- Groovin' at the Depot • 3-5 PM
- Live Music

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OUR TOWNS



A reception followed the Aug. 1 memorial service celebrating the life of Paula Pelosi at The Smithfield Church, drawing attendees from across the region. Friends and family gathered afterward to share memories.

Smithfield Church filled for Paula Pelosi memorial

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Friends, family and colleagues of Amenia resident Paula Pelosi filled Smithfield Church to capacity on Saturday, Aug. 1, to celebrate a life marked by generosity, creativity and compassion.

Through music and heartfelt remembrances from close friends representing the many chapters of her life, the memorial service painted a portrait of Pelosi's deep ties to the contemporary art world, her unwavering kindness and her love for both people and animals.

Pelosi died in April at the age of 76 following a brief battle with pancreatic cancer.

Although she was best known professionally for organizing exhibitions of the work of renowned contemporary artist Frank Stella, Pelosi found equal fulfillment in the rural life of Amenia. She lived on Separate Road in the Smithfield hamlet, just a short walk from Smithfield Church.

Community service was an important aspect of Pelosi's life as she served 10 years as a member of the Amenia Zoning Board of Appeals.

A recurring theme throughout the memorial service was that of lifelong friendships, each speaker reflecting on a significant period of life experiences shared with Pelosi.

"She was unique and fabu-

lous," said the Rev. Douglas Grandgeorge of The Smithfield Church. "She made you feel liked right away," he said, highlighting her unwavering spirit of generosity. "She contributed to every single thing we did."

Noting that her death came too rapidly, he said that too few were able to say farewell, but he observed that months after her death, she could fill a church.

"Your presence here is a blessing," Grandgeorge said, welcoming those gathered.

Friends from every stage of Pelosi's life attended, including members of the art world, childhood friends from Ohio, classmates from West Virginia and friends from her decades in New York City. Amenia officials who served alongside Pelosi on town boards were also present.

Friend Hope Cohn continued the tributes, reading a letter provided by Pelosi's lifelong friend Carol Ann Kucharski, who had been unable to attend in person.

The Hon. Norah McCann King, Magistrate Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, recalled knowing Pelosi's parents in Ohio, and said that she and Pelosi became friends during their West Virginia high school years. Pelosi's plans at that time had been to pursue a career in law, she said.

"She wanted to change the world and she wanted to make it a better world," Judge Mc-

Cann said.

Lifelong friend Leslie Hannafey spoke next, picking up Pelosi's life story from their meeting in 1967 during college years in New York City.

"She believed in doing the right thing," Hannafey said, echoing the recurring theme of lifelong friendship and generosity.

"Do the right thing. Try to help your neighbors," Hannafey said, which defined Pelosi's actions in innumerable instances.

"She was always doing something for others," said Nan Cassidy, recalling her friendship that began in 1980 in Amenia and highlighted Pelosi's connectedness with animals.

Cassidy spoke of her dog. "He was very naughty," Cassidy said of Pelosi's wire-haired dachshund, Dizzy, who tended to bite lots of people, including Pelosi. Cassidy said that she frequently accompanied Pelosi to the emergency room at Sharon Hospital, so often that they became known there. So known, in fact, that emergency personnel suggested that they might refer Dizzy to animal control.

Peter Stella shared memories of Pelosi's years working with his father, artist Frank Stella, recalling stories from their time together in Amenia and on the family's farm.

Music was provided by organist Simone Ehmann at the start of the service.

The memorial concluded

with an original song, "From Afar," written and performed by Nashville country artist Jack Schneider in tribute to Pelosi. Schneider said Pelosi's generosity and encouragement helped sustain him during his years as a music student at New York University, when he frequently visited her in Amenia. He has since built a career as a recording artist and country music performer.

"Wherever you go, wherever you are, I'll be loving you from afar," Schneider sang.

Tick risks rated high across Dutchess County

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

A new tool for measuring tick activity shows that northern Dutchess County is a hotspot for the blood-sucking parasites.

According to daily risk scores compiled by TickZone, a free website and app built on public data, every municipality in Dutchess County falls into the platform's "High" risk band.

TickZone assigns a score of 0-100 for each town to assess each area's risk. Milan and Dover topped the county's northeastern towns with a score of 96. While the town of North East is last on the list, its score of 85 is still high enough to inspire caution.

"Dutchess has no low-risk corner," said TickZone founder Nathan Burnett.

A 2026 study by the Cary Institute in Millbrook found that more than 38% of the ticks tested were capable of spreading at least one disease-causing pathogen to people. In Dutchess County, those diseases include Lyme disease, Powassan disease, and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever.

Lyme disease is caused by bacteria transmitted through the bite of an infected black-legged tick. Short-term effects can include fever, chills, headache, and the tell-tale erythema migrans rash, better known as the bull's-eye.

Over time, Lyme disease can cause facial palsy, arthritis, and a host of other painful maladies.

Avoiding ticks is a practice in vigilance — and know-how. "Ticks climb up from

the ground," said TickZone's Burnett, "which is why treating shoes and pant cuffs with permethrin helps more than spraying your arms."

It also helps to stay informed. In Dutchess County, that has meant increased attention to the lone star tick, a species that has steadily expanded northward over the past several decades.

"Dutchess is right at that line now," Burnett said. "There have been reported sightings, but no established breeding population. Alpha-gal syndrome barely existed as a diagnosis 20 years ago."

Alpha-gal syndrome is an allergic condition linked to bites from lone star ticks. The condition can cause an allergic reaction to red meat and other mammalian products, including some dairy products. Reactions can range from hives and gastrointestinal symptoms to life-threatening anaphylaxis.

TickZone uses publicly available data from the CDC to score the towns. The first and most volatile determining factor is weather.

Ticks become active in warm, humid conditions with damp ground, and pull back during drier stretches. TickZone tracks each town's temperature and the past week's rainfall to model that behavior. A town's live score can shift several points day to day, even though the underlying landscape hasn't changed.

Dutchess County ranks 8th among New York's 62 counties for reported Lyme disease incidence, with 376.9 cases per 100,000 residents, according to CDC data.

Millbrook considers replacing aging Highway Dept. truck

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — An aging Highway Department truck used for fall leaf collection, spring brush pickup and as a backup snowplow must now be repaired, decommissioned or replaced, village Highway Supervisor Ethan Kelly said at a special Board of Trustees meeting on Tuesday, July 28.

Kelly said the village had three options for the aging 2008 Ford F550 that is nearing the end of its useful life. Possibilities are to buy a new truck at an estimated cost of \$122,000, eliminating expensive future repairs; repair the 2008 truck for an estimated cost this year of \$15,000, plus likely future repairs; or to

retire the old truck without replacing it, resulting in adjustments in services due to reduction of the village fleet.

Another option would be to use grant funding to cover part of the cost of a new truck, although doing so could reduce funding currently allocated for scheduled road maintenance projects.

"At this point the estimated repair cost is more than the truck's value," Kelly said

The 2008 truck has been

used for fall leaf pick-up and spring brush pick-up throughout the village. During the winter, it serves as a backup plow truck when other vehicles break down or additional equipment is needed during major storms.

Kelly advocated for the form of replacement for the truck. "I don't know of a highway department in the snow belt that does not have a back-up vehicle," Kelly told the board.

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Former farm apprentices praise mentor as sale looms

By SOPHIE GARDINER
Special to the Millerton News

STANFORDVILLE — Since 1999, Dave Hambleton has trained nearly 70 apprentices at Sisters Hill Farm, helping launch farming careers across the Hudson Valley and beyond. Now, the future of that apprenticeship program is uncertain after the Sisters of Charity of New York announced plans to sell their Stanfordville property as part of winding down the congregation.

The farm, owned by the Sisters of Charity of New York, was founded on the belief that agriculture and education go hand in hand.

“Our mission is to grow healthy food, which nurtures bodies, spirits, communities and the earth,” Hambleton said. “So it’s about food, but it’s also about bringing people together, and community, and connection, and all these wonderful things. Part of the farm’s mission also is to educate the next generation of sustainable farmers.”

The Sisters of Charity of New York announced about three weeks ago that it plans to sell the entire property that includes Sisters Hill Farm as part of the congregation’s wind-down, a process that began in 2023. While Sisters Hill Farm has said it intends to complete the current growing season, it has not announced what will become of its apprenticeship program beyond this year.

For the dozens of former apprentices who built careers under Hambleton’s guidance, he has been far more than a farmer. Over three decades, they have come to know him as a teacher, problem-solver, mentor and, perhaps most importantly, a coach.

John Crooke, who apprenticed under Hambleton in 2012 and now operates Tinicum CSA in Pennsylvania, describes him as more than a teacher.

“I often describe Dave as a coach,” Crooke said. “He had a background in athletics and he’s still really into running and biking. So some people get frustrated, because he pushes: ‘You’re doing it right, but let’s do it faster. Doing it right is doing it faster.’ If somebody’s not getting it, he’ll find a way to explain it efficiently.”

Crooke said he chose Sisters Hill after reading Hambleton’s promise on the farm’s website.

“One of the things that attracted me to the farm was that on the website, Dave said, ‘My goal is to help you start your own farm next year,’” Crooke said. “And I thought, ‘wow, I’ll definitely learn something from this guy.’”

Although Crooke didn’t expect to launch a farm so quickly, that’s exactly what happened. A former Sisters Hill apprentice had been farming land in Pennsylvania and was ready to move on after three seasons. He contacted Hambleton, who connected the opportunity

with Crooke and fellow 2012 apprentice Stefan Streit. The pair took over the land and founded what became Tinicum CSA.

“I always think back on the Sisters Hill experience as foundational in my farming career,” Crooke said.

Erin Bullock, like Crooke, was an apprentice at Sisters Hill who founded her own farm – Mud Creek Farm CSA – just a year after apprenticing with Hambleton in 2008. She then founded additional farms over the following 10 years, including EquiCenter Farm in 2015 and Wild Hill Farm CSA in 2016.

“Dave was a true mentor and shared everything he knew,” Bullock said. “When I told him I wanted to have my own farm, he was so supportive and inspiring. He just believed in me when other people didn’t, and said, ‘you can do it.’”

Bullock, a first-generation farmer, also said that she’s found “real gender difficulties being a woman in this field.” While previous male mentors of hers sometimes believed that there were women-specific and male-specific roles on a farm, she said Hambleton never made her feel that way. Since establishing three farms of her own, Bullock has gone on to mentor more than 30 apprentices. She said Hambleton’s guidance — from staying ahead of weeds to developing organized systems — gave her the foundation to build successful farms and, in turn, teach the next generation of growers.

“Dave has a golden heart, and it was such a joy to work with and learn from him,” Bullock said. “He’s had such a profound impact on my career and all my apprentices know who he is because I always talk about the lessons I learned from him with them.” Ella Schwarzbaum was an apprentice at Sisters Hill Farm in 2019 and remained on staff for the following three years. Now, she said she brings her experience from Sisters Hill to Phillies Bridge Farm Project, where she is the Education and Food Justice Director.

“Sisters Hill entirely grounded my agricultural experience and knowledge,” Schwarzbaum said. “Dave loves to teach. There’s nothing that gives him more joy than passing on the knowledge he has.”

This depth of education is what compelled current apprentice Noemi Romero to apply to the program at Sisters Hill. Although the work is challenging, Romero said that it’s extremely rewarding to watch herself grow as a farmer.

While the future of the farm and its apprenticeship program is still unclear, Hambleton’s mark on the region’s agricultural community isn’t.

“I mean, if you add up all the apprentices Dave’s apprentices have trained, he’s probably spawned almost 1,000 farmers in the region,” Bullock said.



PHOTO BY ELOISE PICKERING

A sign in Bennett Park marks the future Woodland Trail, which builders expect to complete by fall.

Bennett Park restrooms, Woodland Trail near completion in Millbrook

By ELOISE PICKERING
Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — Two major additions to Bennett Park in Millbrook are expected to open in the coming weeks, with public restrooms scheduled to be completed by the end of August and a long-delayed Woodland Trail on track to open by early October.

Funded and organized by local nonprofit Millbrook Community Partnership, the 35 acre park opened on Oct. 5, 2025, after the demolition of Bennett College, which closed in 1970. Since then, the partnership has been in the process of building a public bathroom and completing a Woodland Trail, which have both been delayed.

Krista Fragos, special as-

sistant to Oakleigh Thorne, president of the Millbrook Community Partnership, said work on the trail was pushed back after the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation approved the project later than anticipated.

The Woodland Trail will begin in the park and extend to the property line on Franklin Avenue.

“It’s going to be beautiful. There’s an upper loop that circles a natural waterfall, and then there are two bridges that go over the stream,” Fragos said. “That’ll be a really nice way for people to walk or hike from the village to the park.”

The trail will also be adorned with stone benches and signage. The partnership expects the trail to be com-

pleted by early October.

The public bathrooms will be open by the end of August. Construction on the building began after the opening, as the Millbrook Community Partnership negotiated a landswap with nearby condominiums. The building was at one time a poolhouse.

Fragos said that they’re waiting on a few materials, such as the countertops and stalls. The plumbing and tiling have been completed.

“We’re turning them into beautiful public restrooms for the park, and they’re coming along beautifully,” Fragos said. “They’re going to be elegant, simple restrooms.”

There will also be an ad-

ditional parking lot near the restrooms.

Once the trail and bathrooms are complete, the partnership will begin to raise funds for a lookout tower and a new bandshell, although the park has already hosted live music and events.

The lookout tower will be constructed with stones preserved from Bennett College, and funding will come from community donations.

One Millbrook resident said she has used the park almost weekly since it opened.

“It’s a good place, it’s beautiful,” the resident said, adding that it’s very convenient to use particularly for seniors. “I love it.”



PHOTO BY ELOISE PICKERING

Barriers block access to the Woodland Trail while crews complete construction.



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Outside Magazine has just named American Legion State Forest and Peoples State Forest as some of the best state parks in Connecticut. These parks feature the West Branch of the Farmington River, which is designated as a rare Federal Wild and Scenic River which offers some of the best fly fishing in the nation. There is a large campground at the The Austin F. Hawes Memorial Campground to use as a base order to enjoy hiking, biking, fishing, cross country skiing and even ice climbing! For more information, please visit ctparks.com/parks/american-legion-state-forest and ctparks.com/parks/peoples-state-forest.



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Brothers Paul and John Stefanopoulos at the Four Brothers Drive-In in Amenia, NY

CELEBRATION *Continued from Page A1*

with tributes to Olly’s favorite movies and characters, including Toy Story, Bluey, Lightning McQueen and Mickey Mouse. A long buffet, made possible through donations from local restaurants, church members and other supporters, stretched along one side of the room.

Pastor Bill Mayhew led the service. Floral wreaths and photo collages featuring Olly and his family flanked the pulpit. Among those in attendance were Olly’s siblings—Cory, 7, and 10-month-old Levi — who remained by their parents’ side throughout the service.

“When you look at those pictures, you’ll notice three things about Olly,” Mayhew said. “Either he’s smiling, he’s eating, or he has a ponderous look on his face. Because as a two-year-old, there’s a lot to wonder about in the world.”

Mayhew shared Scripture and memories of a little boy who delighted in splashing in the water, eating the frosting off cupcakes and stopping whatever he was doing whenever he heard an airplane so he could search the sky.

“Although his life lasted only two short years,” May-

hew said, “Olly’s life was rich in laughter, adventures, faith and unconditional love.”

Following his remarks, Mayhew invited those gathered to share their own memories.

Olly’s mother, Darryl Sue Rea, thanked everyone who had supported the family.

“We all loved Olly, and while we will miss him in our lifetime, we gave him one heck of a lifetime while he lived,” she said. “You were all a part of making him this beautiful, happy, smiling boy.”

Olly’s father, Johnathan Rea, said becoming a parent had changed him and that his son inspired him every day “to be an example for all children.”

Throughout the service, speakers returned to the same theme: despite his brief life, Olly left an outsized impact on those who knew him through his curiosity, smile and joyful spirit.

Mayhew closed the celebration by asking those gathered to keep Olly in their hearts in the days and weeks to come.

Additional reporting by Eloise Pickering and Christian Murray.

SEPTIC TANKS *Continued from Page A1*

serious concern, septic tanks also run the risk of releasing unhealthy gases. Hydrogen sulfide, methane, and ammonia are potential byproducts caused by the breakdown of waste. There’s also a chance of ground collapse after a heavy rain.

The septic tank is a French invention. Jean-Louis Mours patented his “Automatic Scavenger” in 1881, and the devices soon spread to the United States. They replaced the leaky, brick-lined cesspools prevalent at the time, and became a popular choice as rural expansion increased through the mid-1900s.

The design has remained relatively unchanged over time: a tank made from plastic or concrete is buried in the ground next to a home. The tank allows solids to settle, and lighter liquid waste is released into an adjoining drain field.

Experts suggest pumping a septic tank every few years to clear out waste and scum that doesn’t break down naturally. Replacing the whole tank should happen every 20 years, though it depends on the materials used to make the tank. Concrete tanks last the longest.

Dutchess County’s Sanitary Code requires septic tank covers to remain accessible for inspection and maintenance, but any ground-level access cover must be secured.

The code states that septic covers “shall not be brought flush with the ground surface, unless the cover can be locked to prevent tampering.” The county also recommends pe-

riodic inspections, particularly for older systems where risers or covers may have deteriorated over time.

Dutchess County participates in New York’s Septic System Replacement Fund, which provides grants to eligible homeowners to replace failing septic systems that threaten groundwater and surface water quality. Poorly maintained or aging septic systems can allow disease-causing pathogens and other pollutants to contaminate nearby wells, streams and groundwater.

Further information about the Septic System Replacement Fund is available through New York State.

In Millerton, a long-awaited wastewater and sewer project will begin in early 2027. Estimated at \$13 million, the first phase of the project will bring a sewer system to Main Street and its surrounding blocks. Properties within the proposed service area currently rely on individual septic systems, including tanks with leach fields, and outdated systems like seepage pits, cesspools and holding tanks.

But for more remote properties, like that of Olly Rea’s church, prospects of a wastewater system seem far off at best. Neighboring towns like Amenia are also on a septic system. Amenia has been debating the feasibility of a sewer system since 1995, but the project’s cost and complications have slowed progress. In 2024, Amenia selected Albany’s Laberge Group to submit a report on the potential system.

CHILDCARE *Continued from Page A1*

according to state data, range between \$10,000 and \$20,000 annually.

Democratic County Legislator Chris Drago, who represents Milan, Millerton, North East, Pine Plains, east Red Hook and Stanford, counts childcare as one of his constituents’ most pressing concerns. “Childcare is connected to so many things,” Drago said. “It’s become exceedingly difficult to live and work and raise a family in northeast Dutchess, and part of that is because there isn’t childcare available.”

In January, Dutchess County was selected as one of three rural New York counties to pilot universal daycare in 2027. The county will receive \$20 million in state funding for a childcare program fo-

cused on infants and toddlers. Drago hopes the focus group serves as an opportunity to make sure that money is going to the right places.

“We need people to step forward,” he said. “It could be an individual who wants to open a home-based center, or it could be a municipality who has identified a space they can use. We need people who are willing to get certified, so that when money becomes available, there is a place to send the money. We need creative problem solving.”

Locally, childcare centers have been grappling with declining enrollment, high costs and facility closures. Millerton’s North East Community Center discontinued its daycare program last year, citing mounting financial concerns.

PUMPHOUSE *Continued from Page A1*

start this in the pouring rain,” Farr-Killmer said.

The new pumphouse will house one of two municipal drinking water pumps. The pump has been offline since the February 2025 fire, leaving Millerton to rely on a single well for its drinking water for the past 18 months. The operable pump, located in what’s known as the “dog house” nearby the old structure, has had to supply all of Millerton’s drinking water.

Millerton Mayor Jenn Najdek said the building’s construction should take between four and six weeks, but the pump won’t be switched on immediately. Following construction, the village’s water



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Millerton’s currently operating well is enclosed in a small structure known as the “dog house.”

company and county health officials will conduct water quality tests to ensure contaminants haven’t entered the well while it was inoperable.

“It could take as long as

three or four months until the Board of Health approves the well being up and running again,” Najdek said.

Najdek said she’s encouraged to see the project mov-

OBITUARIES

Priscilla Rudd Wolf

lake house which was in clear view of Hop’s summer camp for boys where Peter Wolf was a counselor one summer. The

rest is history with interludes along the way.

Priscilla pursued her love of literature at the University of Pennsylvania. She graduated in 1968 and started teaching 2nd Grade in Cornwall, Connecticut. Despite her “small town” upbringing, Pris was constantly surrounded by music, especially Jazz, thanks to Hop’s love of the drums, and her oldest brother Roz, who would go on to become an avant-garde Jazz trombonist. She was deeply influenced by the folk and rock music of the 60s and the social revolution sweeping the country at that time. She ventured to Canada and reconnected with Peter in Montreal. The precise details of how, when and where the romance bloomed remain murky—some say the decision to marry came one night from a Oudji Board—and on Nov. 28, 1970, Pris and Pete



married and eventually made their way to New Brunswick, Canada, where they settled in a farm house in the middle of a potato field.

Their first daughter, Jessica, was born in Bath, New Brunswick, on June 1, 1976. Soon after, Jo became sick and Pris returned to Lakeville to be with her mom. Peter stayed behind in Canada with their 3 dogs: Farley, Dizzy and Gracie. Just before Christmas 1976, Pete was awoken by the dogs in the middle of the night to find the house burning down around him. He managed to escape with the dogs and two bags of clothes he grabbed on his way out the door. By the time the fire brigade arrived, the house had burned to the ground.

Peter and the dogs traveled to Lakeville to join Pris and infant Jess, who were living in Hop & Jo’s house on the lake. Sarah was born on Feb. 10, 1978. Back in her hometown and with two young daughters, Priscilla embraced her role as mom and home maker. On May 28, 1984, Zach was born. Pris and Pete fostered a home of unconditional love and acceptance. There was plenty of time for play, creativity and reading. Pris spent countless hours reading to her kids, and while TV was not allowed, the best movies were: anything featuring Ginger Rodgers and Fred Astaire, musicals, and the finest cinema (Priscilla’s favorites): Tootsie, Hopscotch, and Romancing the Stone, to name a few. Priscilla found her professional home and a community of friends at the Indian Mountain School where, following in her mother’s footsteps, she began working as a tutor for students with learning disabilities. She went back to school for a master’s degree in education and became head of the tutoring department and librarian. She would go on to develop what became the “Learning Center.” During her 30-year career at IMS, she shepherded generations of students through learn-

ing forward after months of planning and approvals. The mayor compared government projects to her day job at Millerton construction company EcoBuilders, saying village construction can often lag due to the complexity of bureaucratic processes.

“Municipal work is not that simple,” she said. “There’s always a wrench in there somewhere.”

Construction on the water department building was originally expected to start in July, but plans for the construction didn’t receive approval from the Dutchess County Board of Health until much later in the month.

ing challenges and trained colleagues to do the same. She had endless patience for her students, many of whom were new English speakers or struggled with learning differences. All of them found acceptance, support, humor, and encouragement in the tutoring room with Priscilla. Her colleagues found a mentor, a skilled skit writer and performer for faculty roasts (stage name Prisca Fountain), a yoga instructor, a walking partner, and a loyal friend.

In her free time, Pris rarely sat down. She discovered yoga in her 50s and became an instructor. She loved to dance, to garden, to float in the lake atop Mount Riga and to take long walks. She was a devoted mother and grandmother who gave her grandchildren, as she had her children, the gift of constant, unconditional love and acceptance.

In March 2019, Priscilla was diagnosed with ALS, a disease she refused to succumb to and kept at bay by sheer force of will. Peter never left her side, becoming her primary caretaker and providing the constant love and support he had brought to their marriage for 55 years. She died peacefully in her home on May 24, 2026, five days before her 80th birthday. Her family is grateful to the friends and caretakers who stayed by her side throughout her devastating illness and to those who remember her as vivacious, funny, and always full of love.

Priscilla is survived by her brother, Ben Rudd, her husband of 55 years Peter, and their three children, Jessica, Sarah and Zachary, her son-in-law Carlos Fierro, and her grandchildren: Benjamin, Joesphine, and Emilia Fierro-Wolf.

A celebration of Priscilla’s life will be held at the Salisbury Congregational Church on Aug. 29 at 4 p.m.

If you wish to make a donation, please go:alsunitededct.org

May Haskell Gorat

WEST CORNWALL — (Edie) May Haskell Gorat passed away July 7, 2026, after a short illness. She had attended Sharon Center School and Housatonic Valley Regional High School. She enjoyed flower gardening and baking.

She is survived by her daughter, Edith May (Chicky) Gorat of Idaho and a son Peter Gorat Jr. of West Cornwall, three grandchildren, Nicole,

Danielle and Peter Gorat, a sister, Olive Haskell Goddard of Cape Cod, and a brother John Haskell of Kent and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on August 15, 2026 at 2:00 at the United Church of Christ 8 Bolton Hill Rd Cornwall CT. Donations may be made to the Cornwall Fire Department or The Guild of West Cornwall CT.

Jeffrey George Hamlin

SALISBURY — Jeffrey George Hamlin, 79, died on July 29, 2026, in Sharon Hospital. He was a loving husband to his wife, Inge Heckel.

Jeff and Inge spent 28 happy years together at the Daffodil House in Lakeville until moving five miles down the road to Salisbury last year.

Jeff was born on Oct. 14, 1946, the son of George Eldridge and Joanne Capen Hamlin.

In 1968 on graduating from Principia College, he spent two years in the Peace Corps teaching English at the Lycée Ibn Khaldun in Safi, Morocco.

Returning to the United States, he married Marilyn Hengst, his college sweetheart, later mother of his son James. He also enrolled in the MFA program at Columbia University with the intent of becoming a theater director. While attending Columbia, he worked at the New York Shakespeare Festival Public Theater, which in turn led

him to be hired by the Director/Choreographer Michael Bennett to be his Production Stage Manager for what became “A Chorus Line” and forever changed the arc of his career. After almost ten years working with Bennett on subsequent productions, in 1985 he became the Production Manager for Lincoln Center Theater where he spent the next 29 years before retiring in 2014 and where he worked on over 150 productions.

He is also survived by his son James, a professor of Physics at the University of Florida in Gainesville, James’ wife Natalie Hadad, and their two children Adam and Liora.

No memorial service is planned at this time. Gifts in his memory may be made to The Little Guild, 285 Sharon Turnpike West Cornwall CT 06796 or to a charity of your choice.

The Kenny Funeral Home has taken care of arrangements.

For more obituaries, see page A4

Local Matters

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PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Marina Kotchoubey at the Ian Ingersoll Cabinetmakers showroom in West Cornwall.

Marina Kotchoubey is not a woodworker

By D.H. Callahan

After 40-something years navigating the world of custom fine furniture, Ian Ingersoll was getting ready to retire. Starting off with a little dovetail stool that he sold at a shop in West Cornwall in the 1970s, he'd grown his skill and his business into something he — and the whole town — could be proud of. Shutting down that business was not an option.

Ingersoll built Ian Ingersoll Cabinetmakers, which produced mainly classical Shaker furniture, on passion: the passion he had to make a living through creative challenges and the passion of his employees, who all seem deeply in love with their craft.

Sometime in the mid-2010s, with grandkids accumulating, he started to

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

MUSIC

A legacy of giving at Norfolk Chamber Music Festival

By D.H. Callahan

One hundred and twenty years ago, Carl and Ellen Stoeckel commissioned New York architect E.K. Rossiter to design The Music Shed in Norfolk, Connecticut. After nearly a decade of entertaining their friends and neighbors with the finest music of the day, they built a permanent home for their beloved Litchfield County Choral Union.

The commission and full funding of the construction was not unheard of in an era when great fortunes led to public enrichment. Railroad tycoon John D. Rockefeller was instrumental in funding institutes of higher education. Steel baron Andrew Carnegie was building libraries all over the country, and famously said that a man who dies rich is a disgrace, challenging his peers to give their fortunes back to the people.

But the Stoeckels went even further.

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

ART

‘So Little to Do,’ so much to discover at James Barron Art

By Natalia Zukerman

“The Grass Has So Little to Do,” on view at James Barron Art in Kent, takes its title from Emily Dickinson’s poem “The Grass So Little Has to Do,” written in 1862:

“The Grass so little has to do—

A Sphere of simple Green—
With only Butterflies to brood

And Bees to entertain—”

Curated by Deborah Goodman Davis, the exhibition borrows Dickinson’s meditation on the natural world as both its title — with a subtle shift — and guiding principle. The exhibition gathers more than 30 contemporary artists whose work examines flowers, leaves, insects, landscapes and changing light — not through scientific observation, but through memory, imagination and deep attention.

“I started spending so much time in the country that I began seeing things differently,” said Davis, a Montreal native. “I became drawn to artists who were also looking at nature.”

Davis has spent decades working in museums, galleries and as an art advisor, including positions at the Art Institute of Chicago, Yale University Art Gallery and with influential dealer Jeffrey Deitch, before returning to curatorial work in recent years. This is her third exhibition with James Barron Art, following last year’s “Boundless Color.”

The exhibition’s emotional anchor is Dickinson’s poem, which marvels at grass, butterflies, bees and sunlight while



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Curator Deborah Goodman Davis reads the Emily Dickinson poem “The Grass So Little Has to Do.” Spencer Finch’s “Following Three Bees (Zinnias)” buzzes in the background.

imagining a life devoted simply to existing in the natural world. The poem, and its simple and reverent message, echoes throughout the exhibition.

Spencer Finch’s drawing titled “Following Three Bees (Zinnias)” tracks the movement of three bees as they moved from flower to flower in the artist’s garden. Standing on a ladder, Finch patiently followed their movements, recording each insect’s path with a different line.

Montreal-based painter Veronika Pausova’s luminous moth paintings next to Finch’s work carry a thread — literally. Whether Pausova was familiar with Finch’s drawings before

creating her painting “Cabin’s Moon,” commissioned by Davis for this show, is unknown, but the placement is certainly intentional. Davis’ thoughtful curatorial approach creates conversations, quiet whispers and surprisingly funny moments throughout the space.

Toba Khedoori, an Australian-born artist of Iraqi-Jewish heritage, contributes exquisitely detailed mezzotints that transform ordinary grasses into monumental landscapes. “Imagine rolling in the grass before ticks,” Davis said with a laugh. One is left longing for such a simple pleasure, the work inviting viewers to imagine a connection to the natural

world that feels both familiar and increasingly distant.

One of Wassaic Project co-founder Eve Biddle’s ceramic snakes slithers up a nearby side wall, while internationally recognized artists including Ellsworth Kelly, Alex Katz, Lois Dodd, Kiki Smith and Charles Gaines offer their own interpretations of leaves, flowers, trees and changing seasons.

The exhibition also highlights several artists with local ties. Yale Norfolk School of Art co-director Byron Kim contributes one of his contemplative “Sunday Paintings,” documenting the sky over Norfolk along-

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

ART

Two unique exhibitions at Geary Gallery

By D.H. Callahan

On Saturday, Aug. 1, Geary Gallery opened its doors in Salisbury for two unique shows in its first- and second-floor gallery spaces. Art lovers flooded both floors over the course of the afternoon, giving the events a vibrant feeling that enhanced the importance of the art.

On the first floor is a show by Chicago-born, Colorado-based photographer Summers Moore, titled “Lobitos: Pueblo Fantasma,” or “Lobitos: Ghost Town.” The work centers around her daughter’s current hometown in Peru. Moore herself found a home away from home in Colorado in the mid-1980s and encouraged her children to seek out new places outside of their comfort zones.

Her daughter found Lobitos, a small surfing village on Peru’s coast that has taken on multiple identities throughout its history, including a booming era as an oil town in the 1800s and later as a military outpost before becoming the small fishing and surfing community it is today.

While visiting her daughter, Moore befriended a local artist

named Inti. The bulk of the photos on display are of murals Inti painted on Lobitos’ crumbling infrastructure, as well as the horses who live at the equine therapy retreat where Moore’s daughter works and lives.

Directly above Moore’s photography exhibition is “Methods of Proceeding,” a show by local multi-disciplinary artist and curator, Henry Klimowicz. Coming from a room full of photographs of easily decipherable places,

people and animals, Klimowicz’s work is anything but obvious.

The room is carefully populated with amorphous structures made from shreds of

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INSIDE

NORFOLK

A writer’s retreat in the woods

CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events



CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

picture a future away from the shop. It was getting time to step away and enjoy what he insists is one of the most beautiful parts of the world: the Northwest Corner of Connecticut. But just because he was aging out of the job didn't mean his employees needed to as well.

Ingersoll recognized the home he'd built for these creative experts — a place where they, too, could make their livings building masterworks of fine furniture. So, for his next big challenge, he began the search for someone he could trust to take what he'd made and build it even better. After searching for quite some time, he decided to look next door.

Technically, Marina Kotchoubey grew up in Manhattan but she spent weekends and summers in Cornwall, Connecticut, feeling more at home amongst the woods and rivers of Litchfield County than in the subways of the city. But business opportunities kept her away from making her permanent home in the region.

After college, Kotchoubey moved to Paris to run the U.S. branch of children's fashion brand Petit Bateau. At the young age of 23, it was a job she wasn't ready for. But that's where Kotchoubey finds her creative challenges.

By pairing the experience of her peers and coworkers with her razor-sharp intuition, Kotchoubey ran the brand with seamless expertise despite her lack of experience. She jumped into the deep end of the pool and challenged herself to swim. For seven years, she swam like an



PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Marina Kotchoubey at the Ian Ingersoll Cabinetmakers.

“The woodworking side of things might be new, but her ability to swim in unknown waters has proven unflappable throughout her career.

Olympian.

After her time in France, she felt ready to finally make a home in Cornwall. With no career or even job lined up, she approached several local businesses around the Northwest Corner and offered to help out in a consulting capacity. After years of challenging conditions in the deep end, this seemed like calm, shallow waters. And that's when her neighbor, Ian Ingersoll, approached her.

At first, he was looking for a little help with business issues. Ian Ingersoll Cabinetmakers was doing well, but a younger

customer base of homeowners and interior designers weren't as keen on classic Shaker furniture. Though the studio had already started to diversify their offerings, Kotchoubey was instrumental in implementing a smooth transition to other styles of furniture. Ingersoll saw that, thanks to her breadth of experience and enterprising vision, she could take the baton and run with it.

In 2025, he handed her the keys.

Kotchoubey is not a master woodworker. In fact, she knows very little about the craft. But

what she lacks in practical knowledge, she makes up for in the confidence she has in her craftsmen. Much like her time running a brand in France, she knows how to help support and get the most out of the experts who have the experience she lacks. It helps that all those experts love what they do.

When she took the reins, Kotchoubey saw two new ways forward. She could shake things up and pivot the shop toward installations and on-site custom builds. This would require new equipment, new clients and possibly new craftsmen. The other path leaned into what she had already helped the company do: expand its offerings and cater to a new, less traditionally minded clientele.

With confidence in her craftsmen and the reputation their work has garnered, she resisted the urge to pivot and instead relied on what makes Ian Ingersoll Cabinetmakers great — high-quality furniture made by expert craftsmen.

The journey isn't quite as easy as it sounds. There are great challenges that come with being a young woman in an older man's world. Firstly, she had to win the respect of her employees, despite not sharing in their skills and know-how. She accomplished that, once again, by listening to the experts and not forcing her vision on a remarkably capable group. The woodworking side of things might be new, but her ability to swim in unknown waters has proven unflappable throughout her career.

Now in its sixth decade of operations, Ian Ingersoll Cabinet-makers shows no sign of slowing down. Kotchoubeys's leadership is finding new customers by expanding on the reputation of the work. With increasing demand and a steadfast commitment to slow, quality jobs, don't expect to pop into their West Cornwall showroom and leave with a piece anytime soon. Lead times on custom creations range from 12 to 16 weeks, but if things keep going the way they are, that wait could get even longer.

To see some of the company's offerings, visit ianingersoll.com.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1



PHOTO BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Henry Klimowicz with his sculpture, "Partial Pillar 1"

cardboard and hot glue. The cardboard was sourced from a furniture shop in Millerton, just down the road from Klimowicz's own art space, the Re Institute.

The Re Institute is known for making the inaccessible accessible. Its “gift shop” features a wide variety of artworks, all priced under \$750. “Methods of Proceeding” seems to do the opposite — taking one of the most common materials available in our modern era of online shopping, and the shipping waste that comes with it, and making it less accessible by forming it into curious structures that can resemble a panoply of ideas depending on the viewing angle.

Larger structures are mostly called “Partial Pillars,” with smaller “Truffles” and “Pebbles” scattered around the ledges and corners of the room. Alongside the cardboard and glue sculptures is a series of colorful monoprints that mirror the wild patterns of the sculptures.

Both shows will remain on view at the gallery until Sept. 27, when Moore will return for a discussion about her work. For more information about the artists and the gallery, visit geary.nyc.

By Jennifer Almquist

Great Mountain Forest (GMF) will host its first Nature Writing Retreat at the historic Yale Camp in Falls Village from Aug. 7-9, 2026. Writers of all levels are invited to draw inspiration from one of New England's most notable forest landscapes. GMF envisions the retreat becoming an annual event celebrating writing, conservation and the relationship between people and forests.

This immersive three-day retreat reflects on the legacy of Hal Borland, the American writer and New York Times nature columnist whose work was deeply connected to this landscape. The retreat explores how wilderness shapes language, strengthens close observation and fosters environmental consciousness.

Six workshops, led by nationally recognized authors, poets and environmental experts, will take place throughout GMF's 6,400-acre forest. Participants will engage in field observation, writing and discussion focused on description, ecological literacy, eco-poetry and nature-based storytelling.

According to Michael Zafros, GMF executive director, "There are few uses of a forest more sustainable than serving



PHOTO BY MIKE ZARFOS

Participants in a 2024 Great Mountain Forest Woodland Academy workshop at Yale Camp.

as inspiration. Hosting writers and artists is a great way to explore and provide this use of our forests. This new program demonstrates how Great Mountain Forest can be an antidote to the challenges facing our world. The retreat brings people together, builds community in the forest, gets participants outside and off their screens, and uses nature sustainably to heal and inspire minds and souls.”

The weekend includes journaling and campfire conversation on Friday, a guided nature walk and workshops on Saturday, and a closing reflection on Sunday.

Borland wrote, "I challenge anyone to stand on a hilltop

and fail to see a new expanse not only around him, but in him, too." Organizers hope participants in the inaugural retreat will experience just such an epiphany.

The 2026 Great Mountain Forest Nature Writing Retreat is made possible in part through support from H. Bruce McEver, Roshy and Dalton Dwyer, and Housatonic Heritage. The retreat is curated by Tom Shachtman.

Enrollment is limited. An optional post-retreat online anthology of participant work will also be offered. For more information and to enroll, visit greatmountainforest.org/writing-retreat-2026.

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ART

From Cornwall to Rome, Adam Van Doren at Berkshire Botanical Garden

By Natalia Zukerman

This summer, the Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge has hosted “Grounded in Nature: Paintings by Adam Van Doren,” an exhibition exploring the intimate relationship between architecture and the natural world.

On view for only a few more weeks in the Leonhardt Galleries, the exhibition features more than 35 watercolor and oil paintings by the New York-based artist, architect, author and Yale professor, curated by art historian Donna Hassler, director emerita of Chesterwood. The works span three distinct places that have shaped Van Doren’s artistic practice: New York City, Cornwall, Connecticut, and his travels throughout Europe.

Hassler first encountered Van Doren’s work years ago, when they crossed paths through their shared connection to the American Academy in Rome. Years later, when she was considering artists whose work would complement Berkshire Botanical Garden’s focus on art and nature, his paintings immediately came to mind.

“When I heard about Steve Proctor’s show, I immediately thought about Adam’s work,” Hassler said, referring to the ceramic artist whose monumental vessels and sculptures are also on view at the Garden. “Everything that is on exhibit here has some aspect of nature in it. And thinking about the built environment — buildings are not built in

a vacuum. The landscape is important to the overall impression of the building in a particular setting.”

After visiting Van Doren’s New York studio and reviewing hundreds of works, Hassler decided to organize the show geographically, allowing viewers to trace how different landscapes have influenced the artist.

The first gallery focuses on Van Doren’s life in New York City, where he has maintained a studio on West 57th Street, near Central Park. His watercolors capture architectural details and urban landscapes, from Central Park bridges and fountains to Greenwich Village townhouses and the former Carnegie Mansion, now home to the Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum.

“He has a studio on West 57th Street, right down the block from Carnegie Hall,” Hassler said. “Within a couple of blocks of Central Park, you see a number of watercolors — a fountain, details of the balustrade, bridges in Central Park, cityscapes.”

The exhibition then moves to Cornwall, where Van Doren has spent summers throughout his life on a family farm originally purchased by his grandparents, writers Mark and Dorothy Van Doren. Surrounded by fields, streams and historic buildings, this landscape, which will be familiar to many, has become one of his most enduring subjects.

The Cornwall gallery is housed in Berkshire Botanical Garden’s historic



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Artist Adam Van Doren and curator Donna Hassler talk to a group of visitors at the Berkshire Botanical Garden. A Stephen Proctor vessel sits to their left.

Center House, an 18th-century building whose preserved character echoes the themes of Van Doren’s work.

“I like that they’re in here,” Hassler said. “It’s not a white gallery space. The raw material of this older building is still here.”

Many of Van Doren’s Cornwall paintings explore the interplay of architecture, land and light, including views of the Bradford homestead, an 18th-century farmhouse surrounded by weathered barns and stone walls.

The final section of the exhibition follows Van Doren’s travels abroad, particularly in Italy, France and England. Influenced by his architectural training at Columbia University and the classical watercolor techniques of the École des Beaux-Arts, Van Doren has long used watercolor to capture historic buildings within their landscapes.

“He paints mainly outdoors,” Hassler said. Work-

ing en plein air, the artist often paints with a portable stool, watercolor paper and palette, capturing changing light and atmosphere in real time.

Hassler noted the difference between Van Doren’s watercolor and oil paintings, a few of which are displayed side by side in the exhibition.

“He uses pure color,” she said of his watercolor technique. “It’s your eye that then fills in the form that he’s creating.”

The exhibition also includes works from Van Doren’s time as a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome, where he painted ancient ruins, gardens and architectural views. His Rome paintings later inspired the poet John Tagliabue’s collection “An Artist in Rome.”

“Grounded in Nature: Paintings by Adam Van Doren” is on view through Aug. 23 at Berkshire Botanical Garden. For more information, visit berkshirebotanical.org



PHOTO PROVIDED

Emily Gallagher, soprano, is one of the performers pairing wine with opera at Stissing Center.

MUSIC

An evening of wine pairings worth singing about

By D.H. Callahan

When old-world elegance calls to mind both opera and fine wine, “Opera Uncorked” answers with both. On Saturday, Aug. 8, at Stissing Center in Pine Plains, carefully curated wines from Fulton and Forbes Wine and Spirits in Ancram will be paired with classical arias from beloved operas.

The wines will mostly be drawn from the regions where many famous operas were born.

Both Germany and Austria share a claim to one of the most formidable opera composers of all time. In 1791, at Schikaneder’s theatre in Vienna, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart’s “The Magic Flute” first graced the ears of music enthusiasts. Since then, Germany has produced countless additional operatic masterpieces, including Carl Maria von Weber’s romantic “Der Freischütz,” and Richard Wagner’s epic “The Ring Cycle.”

During his lifetime, Wagner dominated the opera scene. His prolific work is known to have inspired French composer Claude Debussy to write his only opera, “Pelléas et Mélisande.” But Debussy’s work is overshadowed by the crown jewel of French opera: Georges Bizet’s “Carmen.”

Jacopo Peri was an Italian composer and vocalist working in the late 16th century, during the late Renaissance and early Baroque periods. In 1597, his opera “Dafne” premiered in Florence. It is widely recognized as the first

opera ever created and performed. Since then, composers such as Puccini and Rossini have kept Italy at the forefront of opera with works like “La Bohème” and “The Barber of Seville,” respectively.

The fourth wine region is home to a majority of the performers at “Opera Uncorked”: California. Emily Gallagher, of Los Angeles, is a soprano whose work has been described as “harmonically appealing and splendidous.” Devony Smith is a California-born, Grammy-nominated mezzo-soprano whose voice has been called “sensual” and “strong” by The New York Times.

Rounding out the performers are award-winning Puerto Rican-American baritone Brian James Myer, who has worked with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City, and Peter Lake, who recently wrapped up a tour as Old Deuteronomy in the hit Broadway classic, “Cats.”

The program will be led by accompanist and conductor Caleb Yanez Glickman, also of Los Angeles, alongside Fulton and Forbes’ Rachelle Merriam, who has carefully selected the wines.

With wine and opera paired so expertly together, there seems to be only one thing missing. But fear not: cheese and crackers will be provided by local favorite Chaseholm Farm, bringing this international evening right back to its center in Dutchess County.

For tickets, visit thestissingcenter.org

... Norfolk Chamber Music

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

They took it upon themselves to pay for everything from trains and coaches for American musicians to trans-Atlantic crossings for European composers, and even rented instruments when needed. They never told anyone what it all cost and worked hard to keep their names off the buildings and mastheads, instead directing all credit to the Litchfield County Choral Union.

Upon her death in 1939, widowed Ellen Battell Stoeckel bequeathed the entire operation to the Yale School of Music. Since then, Yale has operated the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival at the iconic property, with only modest renovations made in 2024.

This year, the Festival is looking to the past for inspiration as it presents its “Anniversaries” program, featuring performances dedicated to celebrating history. On Saturday, Aug. 1, the Festival looked back 200 years with pieces written in 1826 by Schubert, Beethoven and a 17-year-old Felix Mendelssohn. The previous evening focused on the Music Shed itself, with repeat performances of works by Sibelius, Coleridge-Taylor and even Rachmaninoff, all of whom graced the shed with their presence.

On Aug. 8, the festival will celebrate its final anniversary of the season: America’s 250th. The program will feature a world premier by Juilliard-trained composer and

pianist Nahre Sol. The piece is part of the Festival’s Musical Bridges project, which commissions music inspired by the American West.

Apart from the anniversaries, there’s still more music to come. Friday, Aug. 7 will feature pieces by Haydn, Holcomb, Schoenberg and Shostakovich. On Aug. 14, works by Beach, Childs and a little more Haydn will be performed with Melvin Chen on piano. Oboeist Stephen Taylor will join William Purvis and the Norfolk Fellows for an evening of Johann Sebastian Bach’s Brandenburg Concertos on Saturday, Aug. 15. The culmination of the season happens on Saturday, Aug. 22 with a musical tour of choral masterworks from

the Renaissance through today, featuring the Norfolk Festival Chamber Choir and Orchestra.

Of note is the Festival’s new collaboration with locally based fashion brand BODE. While no robber barons — or even modern-day rocketship billionaires — it’s nice to know the spirit of musical altruism lives on in Norfolk.

To learn more, head to norfolkmusic.org.

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James Austin Smith, oboe; Jesse Mills, viola; Ole Akahoshi, cello; Melvin Chen, piano; Nahre Sol, guest composer

PHOTO PROVIDED

The Norfolk Chamber Music Festival presents “Musical Bridges: America’s 250th” on Aug. 8 at the Music Shed, a celebration of American music created in collaboration with the fashion brand BODE. The program features works by Aaron Copland, William Grant Still, Nahre Sol and Antonin Dvorák, along with a pre-concert conversation featuring Bode designer Emily Adams Bode Aujla and composer Nahre Sol.

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Tri-Corner Calendar

AUGUST 6

Life Sized Candy Land
Center on Main 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.
Game enthusiasts of all ages are invited to the Center on Main between 4 and 6 p.m. to participate in Life Sized Candy Land with the David M. Hunt Library and the Falls Village Recreation Commission. No registration necessary, just stop by and play!

Kent Sidewalk Sale Days
Throughout Kent, Conn.
Kent celebrates the 50th anniversary of Sidewalk Sale Days with outdoor shopping, sidewalk sales, live music, family activities, children’s crafts, a community art project, a touch-a-truck event, the Kent Memorial Library book sale and more throughout town.

Boondocks Presents: Over Your Dead Body with In-person Q&A with Director Jorma Taccone
Four Brothers Drive-In 4957 NY-22, Amenia, N.Y.
Film-inspired food, themed cocktails and more. 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets at playeatdrink.com

Summer Book Group
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
4 to 5 p.m., join Julia Hobart to discuss “The Collected Regrets of Clover” by Mikki Brammer. No registration required. A limited number of copies are available for loan at the Scoville Library.

AUGUST 7

Will Lawrence
The Grace Note at Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
Millerton-based songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Will Lawrence performs at 7:30 p.m. in The Grace Note. His fifth studio album, “Rooftops in the Centerfold,” showcases his reflective, melodic style. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org

68th Annual Rose Algrant Art Show
Cornwall Consolidated School, 5 Cream Hill Road, West Cornwall, Conn.
Aug. 7 to 9

More than 50 Cornwall artists will exhibit paintings, photography, ceramics, sculpture, textiles, furniture, jewelry, prints and more at the 68th Annual Rose Algrant Art Show. Hours are Friday, 4 to 7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to noon. Admission is free. Fifteen percent of proceeds will benefit the Cornwall Food & Fuel Fund and the Cornwall Housing Corporation. Information: rosealgrantartshow.org.

“I’m Almost There”
Ancram Center for the Arts, 1330 County Route 7, Ancram, N.Y.
Aug. 7 to 9, Aug. 12 to 16

Todd Almond’s acclaimed one-man musical “I’m Almost There” comes to Ancram Center following its run at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and ahead of a national tour. Written and performed by Almond and directed by Tony Award winner David Cromer, the witty, heartfelt song cycle follows one man’s surreal journey toward love. Performances are Wednesdays through

Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 3 p.m. Tickets ancramcenter.org.

Inundated: Connecticut’s Great Flood of 1955
American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn.
5 to 7 p.m. Learn about the devastating 1955 flood and its profound impact on workers, industries, and communities in the northwest corner of Connecticut. The program features a documentary film screening and talk by historian Hamish Lutris. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to view the related exhibition. Part of AMP’s year-long celebration of America250.

AUGUST 8

Seth Howe: “Architecture of Awareness”
Tyte Gallery, 3280 Franklin Ave- 2nd Floor, Millbrook, N.Y.
Aug. 8 through Sept. 27

Tyte Gallery presents “Architecture of Awareness,” a solo exhibition by New York-based artist and architect Seth Howe, curated by Sharon Bates. The exhibition brings together sculpture, works on paper and video exploring perception, consciousness and the relationship between body and environment. An opening reception will be held Aug. 8 from 5 to 7 p.m., with a conversation with the artist and curator on Aug. 22 at 2 p.m. For more information, visit tytegallery.com.

Opera Uncorked
Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
Experience opera in a new way at 7:30 p.m. with an evening pairing bold voices and beautiful pours. Each musical selection is matched with a curated wine list featuring selections from Italy, France, Germany and the U.S. Presented in partnership with Fulton and Forbes Wine and Spirits in Ancram, the event offers an intimate exploration of music, drama and flavor. Tickets thestissingcenter.org

Persephone
Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
Part of Stissing Center’s Summer Children’s Series, “The Myth of Persephone” invites young audiences to become part of the performance. The morning begins with a workshop and rehearsal at 10 a.m., where children learn songs, movement and the role of the Greek chorus before joining Grumbling Gryphon’s interactive retelling of the classic Greek myth at 11 a.m. Featuring masks, music and storytelling, the production explores the changing seasons, creativity and environmental awareness. Free or pay what you can.

Lala Tamar & Friends Featuring Yacouba Sissoko
The Indigo Room at Mahaive Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass.
Lala Tamar blends Moroccan soul, Brazilian rhythms and North African traditions into vibrant, multilingual music sung in Arabic, Amazigh and Portuguese. Joining her is master Malian kora player Yacouba Sissoko, a celebrated griot whose performances weave centuries-old West African

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

storytelling with messages of peace, love and connection. Tickets at mahaiwe.org

Life Drawing with a Live Model
Yale Norfolk School of Art, Norfolk, Conn.
The Yale Norfolk School of Art offers free community drawing classes throughout the summer. The classes focus on life drawing with a live model. Drawing materials and paper are provided, and participants of all experience levels are welcome. Classes meet on the second floor of the Art Barn on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon. The remaining sessions are scheduled for August 8, 15, 22 and 29th.

2nd Annual Watermelon Crawl
Chaseholm Farm, 115 Chase Road, Pine Plains, N.Y.
Line dance and country swing with Copperhead Meg, Tori Tornado & Ponyboy. 6 to 10 p.m.

Revolutionary Roundtable: A Reading and Discussion Group Focused on Our Emerging Nation from 1740-1791
David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
At 10:30 a.m., the David M. Hunt Library will host avid amateur historian and Falls Village resident Richard Berzine for a roundtable discussion. The group will meet monthly from July through Dec., exploring various topics and writings together. Participants can join for individual sessions or all six. A copy of the readings is available at the library in advance. The focus of the August session will be “Prelude to Self Rule: Life in 18th Century Colonial America, including social, economic and commercial conditions”.

The Big Ol’ Family Arty Party
American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn.
11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Join AMP for a varied and fun day of all-ages, interactive art-making including song, dance, sticker making, collage art, and a special community art project. It wouldn’t be a Big Ol’ Arty Party without you!

Francine Prose in Conversation with Roxana Robinson
Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org
Join acclaimed author Francine Prose for a special evening celebrating her new novel, “Five Weeks in the Country.” Prose will be in conversation with novelist and biographer Roxana Robinson about her imaginative work inspired by the real-life encounter between Charles Dickens and Hans Christian Andersen. The event takes place at 4 p.m. and is in-person only, with registration required cornwalllibrary.org. Book copies will be available for purchase and signing.

AUGUST 9

End of Summer Reading Party! Berkshire Resilience Brass Band
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
10:30 a.m. to noon, join for live music and fun on the library lawn! The Berkshire Resilience Brass Band will provide an upbeat, funky

concert. We’ll play games, enjoy refreshments and draw the summer reading grand-prize winners! No registration required.

Wizard Academy!
Mahaive Performing Arts Center, 14 Castle St., Great Barrington, Mass.
Families are invited to a free performance of Wizard Academy! at 4 p.m., featuring the bumbling Professor Hackensneeze (David Engel), who leads young “Wizards in Training” through magical challenges, illusions, potions, wand etiquette and plenty of slapstick comedy. Children ages 4 and older are encouraged to attend in costume. Free with reservations. mahaiwe.org

AUGUST 11

Art à la Carte: Borrow Art Supplies
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Every Tuesday in August, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., a variety of drawing and watercolor supplies and art books are free for you to borrow from the Art Cart in the Scoville Library Reading Room. Sketch or paint anywhere in the Library or the garden, or find an inspiring scene to capture at any of your favorite locations on Main Street.

AUGUST 13

Ethan Tapper in Kent
Kent Town Hall Main Meeting Room, Kent, Conn.
Drawing on years of experience managing Vermont’s

forests, bestselling writer and ecological storyteller Ethan Tapper will discuss how healthy forests benefit wildlife, communities and the climate. FREE. 7 p.m. Register at bit.ly/Tapper2026

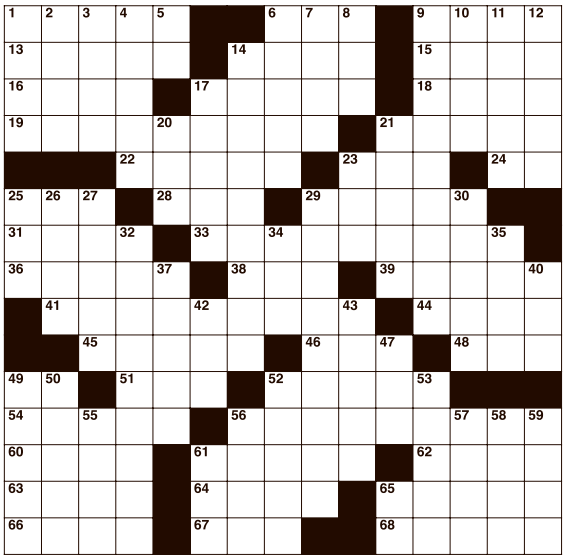
AUGUST 14

Spencer LaJoye
Grace Note at Stissing Center, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.
Singer-songwriter Spencer LaJoye brings an intimate and captivating performance to The Grace Note at 7:30 p.m. With acoustic guitar, looped layers and crystalline vocals, LaJoye creates songs that balance humor, vulnerability and connection in a close listening-room setting. Tickets at thestissingcenter.org.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bleated
- 6. Snakelike fish
- 9. Database management system
- 13. Social evolution anthropologist Service
- 14. American rocker Grohl
- 15. Greek personification of compassion
- 16. Negatives
- 17. Rescued
- 18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
- 19. Assigns tasks
- 21. Popular type of cigar
- 22. Discounts
- 23. The whole quantity
- 24. New York Giants legend
- 25. Indicates before
- 28. Lentils
- 29. Extremely angry
- 31. Body part
- 33. “North Star State”
- 36. David __, US playwright
- 38. Lower and raise one’s head
- 39. Private rendezvous
- 41. In a way, improved
- 44. A place to play
- 45. Astronomical period of 18 years
- 46. Automobile
- 48. Something you can take
- 49. A radio band
- 51. Jaws of a voracious animal
- 52. Short-billed rails
- 54. Chinese province
- 56. Shameless
- 60. Horizontal passage from the surface into a mine
- 61. Indian respectful titles
- 62. Fail to entertain
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Central Utah city
- 65. Southern U.S.
- 66. German river
- 67. Necessary for breathing
- 68. Put into play



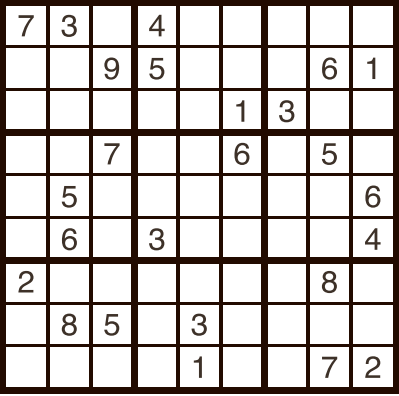
- 12. One who is canonized
- 14. Indicates date and place of writing
- 17. “Peace” in Arabic
- 20. “Olaf” actor Josh
- 21. Fragmented rock
- 23. They __
- 25. Advanced degree
- 26. Backside
- 27. Influential architect and design couple
- 29. An act of undue intimacy
- 30. Words from which later words are derived
- 32. 10 meters
- 34. Neither
- 35. Fungal sacs
- 37. The law of God revealed to Moses
- 40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- 42. A promise
- 43. Challenges
- 47. British Air Aces
- 49. Large bank

- 50. Served as an omen
- 52. Cavalry sword
- 53. Vaccine developer
- 55. Belgian WW2 resistance leader Jules
- 56. Italian Seaport
- 57. Hip joint
- 58. __ Clapton, musician
- 59. Insect repellent
- 61. Constrictor snake
- 65 “The First State” (abbr.)

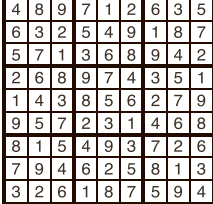
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MUSIC

Paul Lewis brings Mozart’s final piano concerto to life at Tanglewood

By Thomas Jensen

Saturday, July 25, in the Shed at Tanglewood, the BSO took the stage with pianist Paul Lewis for Mozart’s “Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat major” (K. 595). This was Mozart’s final piano concerto, completed in January 1791. Mozart died on Dec. 5, 1791. Premiered by Mozart himself on March 4, 1791, it was his final public appearance as a soloist.

Unlike Mozart’s fiery or dramatic minor-key concertos, this concerto features a transparent, sparse texture, quiet lyricism and a calm, resigned, autumnal mood. It has three movements: Allegro, Larghetto and Allegro.

In the first movement, Allegro, Mozart is in no hurry to introduce the piano; his introduction is as long and lavish as can be. This gentle, graceful orchestral introduction presents four main themes, beautifully played by the BSO musicians.

Lewis waited, and then his time arrived with a quiet (sotto voce) entrance by the solo piano, followed by a rich, chromatic development section with frequent key changes.

The second movement, a Larghetto in E-flat major, provided a serene, calm and deeply lyrical contrast to the opening movement. In his element,

Lewis carried on with fine playing while the orchestra supports this gentle movement. We all need soothing, gentle music from time to time, and this section is a tonic.

The third movement, an Allegro, takes the form of a cheerful, playful and dancing rondo. Lewis delivered the principal theme, famously derived from Mozart’s own song “Sehnsucht nach dem Frühling” (“Longing for Spring”), K. 596, with elegance.

There was no encore by Lewis, which one must consider in good taste and a sign of respect for Mozart. It was truly quite enough to satisfy all.

... James Barron Art

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

side personal diary-like observations.

One of the show’s most unexpected works isn’t visual at all.

Inspired by Dickinson’s line, “And even when it dies to pass / In odors so divine,” Davis commissioned Brian Goeltzenleuchter, an interdisciplinary artist working at the intersection of olfactory art, social engagement, and image making to create a scent for the exhibition. “The grass so little has to do, I wish I were the hay!” wrote Dickinson, so Goeltzenleuchter created the scent of fresh hay specifically for the exhibition. Fragile glass vials sit in a bed of marble, waiting to

be broken to release the scent, which also lives under a glass enclosure dewy with its fragrance. The faint odor permeates the gallery, adding an immersive sensory layer that extends the show’s meditation beyond sight alone.

There are quieter surprises throughout: concrete casts preserving cherry blossoms that will slowly fade over time by Japanese artist Motohiro Takeda; carvings of owls in Arctic marble by Sam Akesuk, an Indigenous artist from Kinngait (Cape Dorset); paintings of moonlight; the intricacy of spider webs placed next to a graph-like drawing of a tree; and Kiki

Smith’s shadow of birds by the windows overlooking the majestic scenery of Barron’s property.

For Davis, the idea for this show has been growing since she began spending more time in the Northwest Corner.

“It’s been percolating for six years,” she said.

The resulting exhibition rewards viewers willing to do the same.

“The Grass Has So Little to Do” is on view at James Barron Art in Kent through Sept.12. By appointment only. Email maria@jamesbarronart.com or call (917) 514-3762. For a catalog of the exhibition, visit jamesbarro-nart.com.

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Reports to: Executive Director
Salary commensurate with experience

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