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New faces in old places **A3**



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Danielle Mailer's lifelong love; and more **B1-6**



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

Firefighters, veterans and color guards stand before a hillside covered with nearly 3,000 American flags during Stanford's ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Nearly 3,000 flags mark the 25th anniversary of Sept. 11

Hundreds gather at Stanford Recreation Park for annual remembrance ceremony

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

STANFORD — Nearly 3,000 flags covered the hillside at Stanford Recreation Park as hundreds of people gathered for the town's annual ceremony honoring those killed in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Ribbons lining the park's fence bore the names of the victims, handwritten by Pine Plains students from Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center and Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior

See SEPT. 11, A8

Family taps into craft beer dream at Hopyard Brewery

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON HOLLOW — Craft beer fans in northern Dutchess County have a new local haunt to add to their rotation. The 40-acre Hopyard Brewery at Washington Hollow opened its doors last month on Route 82, joining a small but growing cluster



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

The restored farmhouse at Hopyard Brewery.

See HOPYARD BREWERY, A8

Former Amenia bank finds new life as coffee shop

By LEILA HAWKEN
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AMENIA — After an extensive renovation, Bean Bank Coffee has transformed the former Bank of Millbrook branch at Freshtown Plaza into a coffee shop and bakery serving Amenia and the surrounding community. The business began its gradual opening Monday, Aug. 24, serving coffee and tea through its drive-through window and drawing curiosity from passersby. By Monday, Sept. 7, Bean Bank Coffee was fully open for business.

Community involvement is

central to the shop's mission, owners Amy and Dave Cocheo said during an interview Tuesday, Sept. 8. "We will always be interested in community involvement," Dave Cocheo said. He emphasized the importance of learning about the area's history and working with local organizations while building a stable customer base. Through the business, he hopes to support the work of a variety of local groups. Amy Cocheo's interest in coffee, brewing and baking began with her grandmother, Mary, who

See BEAN BANK COFFEE, A8



PHOTO BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

The former Jehovah's Witness hall at 5603 Route 22.

North East authorizes renovation of former Jehovah's Witness building into Town Hall

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

The Town Board unanimously approved a resolution last week authorizing the town to remodel a former Jehovah's Witness hall on Route 22 for use as a new Town Hall. The board also approved a \$1,435,813 project cost estimate prepared by engineering firm LAN.

"This is an important legal step,"

Supervisor Chris Kennan said. The property at 5603 Route 22 has 4,513 square feet of floor space, nearly twice as much as the current Town Hall at 19 N. Maple Ave. Plans call for separate offices for most town employees and departments, along with additional space for town records. A larger meeting room, which will also serve as the town court, will accommodate up to 40 people.

See TOWN HALL, A8



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OUR TOWNS



Acclaimed organist and choral director Kent Tritle, pictured at the Smithfield Church organ at his 2024 concert, is returning for his annual recital on Saturday, Sept. 19 to benefit the Oratorio Society of New York.

Kent Tritle’s annual Smithfield organ concert coming up on Sept. 19

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — New York Philharmonic organist and acclaimed choral director Kent Tritle will bring his lively, personable and intimate performance style to The Smithfield Church in Amenia on Saturday, Sept. 19. A highlight of the area’s performance season, the 3 p.m. concert will benefit the Oratorio Society of New York, where Tritle serves as Music Director.

This will be the 14th annual organ recital Tritle has performed on the Smithfield Church’s historic 1893 Johnson and Son tracker organ, meticulously restored and moved from its original location at the First Congregational Church in Kent, Conn.

Praising the instrument for its “sweet sound,” Tritle has said that the Smithfield organ reminds him of one of the first organs he ever played in Iowa as a youngster. He will be performing works by classical composers, such as Bach, Buxtehude and Frescobaldi, along with modern composers, including Jeanne Demessieux and Rachel Laurin.

Demessieux was a 20th-century French concert organist and composer and Laurin was a Canadian composer and organist whose career spanned the late 20th and early 21st centuries. Both were notable contributors to contemporary organ repertoire during their careers.

Tritle serves as music direc-

Innisfree hosts fall bird walk Sept. 20

By CHRISTIAN MURRAY
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Naturalist Dr. Loren Merrill will host his second early-morning walk of the month at Innisfree Garden on Sunday, Sept. 20, turning his focus to the peak of the autumn bird migration.

Merrill, a scientist, writer, and photographer who began leading popular programs at the 185-acre Millbrook garden earlier this season, will guide participants through the landscape during the quiet hours before the property opens to the public.

The program, “Autumn Migration: A Bird Walk with Dr. Loren Merrill,” runs from 8 to 10 a.m. Designed for both experienced birders and beginners, the session will search the grounds for migrating warblers, vireos, thrushes, and sparrows, alongside resident raptors and waterbirds.

During the walk, Merrill

tor of several choral ensembles in New York City, including Musica Sacra and The Oratorio Society. In addition, he is director of cathedral music at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.

The suggested donation is \$25 at the door, but all are welcome. A meet-the-artist reception will follow the concert. The Smithfield Church, 646 Smithfield Valley Road, Amenia, is air-conditioned and fully handicapped accessible.

Propane delivery truck dispute continues in Pine Plains

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
grahamc@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — A dispute between neighboring property owners at 2775 Church St. over equipment storage, drainage and driveway conditions continued before the Pine Plains Planning Board last week.

CEEN Properties owns the industrial lot behind Gallatin Barn Creations. Crown Energy employees use the CEEN property to store propane delivery trucks and reach the lot through a driveway easement across Gallatin’s property.

Gallatin’s owners contend that the trucks have damaged the driveway and have asked CEEN to widen and pave it. They also say activity at the CEEN property has caused drainage problems and want the company to develop a solution.

The type of equipment stored on the property is another point of contention.

will address broader ecological questions, including how birds navigate journeys spanning thousands of miles and why varied habitats like Innisfree—with its combination of gardens, ponds, and woodlands—provide critical stopover points for refueling along the way.

Merrill holds a doctorate in animal behavior, evolutionary biology, ecology, and ecophysiology. He has conducted wildlife research across four continents and previously directed Audubon’s Hog Island photography programs in Maine.

The event will take place rain or shine. Admission is \$25 for Innisfree members and \$35 for non-members. Advance registration is required as capacity is limited, and participants must arrive promptly before the garden gates close at 8 a.m. Innisfree Garden is located at 362 Tyrrel Road in Millbrook. For details and registration, visit innisfreegarden.org/events.

Climber dies after 40-foot fall at St. Johns Ledges in Kent

By CHRISTIAN MURRAY
christianc@millertonnews.com

KENT, Conn. — A 30-year-old Great Barrington man died Thursday, Sept. 10 after falling approximately 40 feet while rock climbing at St. Johns Ledges along the Appalachian Trail in Kent.

The man was identified as Collin Salmon, who previously lived in Warren.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection’s Environmental Conservation Police responded to the area at about 2:30 p.m. off River Road and announced Salmon’s death later that day.

Kent Volunteer Fire Department Chief Tim Sneller, who was among the first responders on the scene, said Salmon was part of a group of about 12 climbers participating in a climbing class. He was believed to be one of the instructors.

“I think everyone was in shock from that [climbing] group,” Sneller said. “They were huddled up and debriefing, and they were definitely shocked.”

The ledges are less than a mile from the parking area, with the base of the climbing area about a seven-minute hike from where emergency



PHOTOS BY GRAHAM CORRIGAN

St. Johns Ledges along the Appalachian Trail in Kent, where a 30-year-old Great Barrington man died Thursday, Sept. 10, after falling approximately 40 feet while rock climbing.

vehicles could park, Sneller said.

Approximately two dozen first responders were at the scene, including 12 to 14 who entered the woods. Responders came from Kent, Warren, Gaylordsville and Sherman, with an ambulance crew and paramedic responding from New Milford.

Sneller said he could not recall another death or seri-



Emergency responders gather near St. Johns Ledges in Kent on Thursday, Sept. 10, after a 30-year-old rock climber fell to his death.

ous injury at the ledges and that emergency calls from the area are uncommon.

Salmon was transported to

New Milford Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

The circumstances of the fall remain under investigation.

CEEN’s original site approval allowed the lot to be used for seasonal storage of boats and campers, not commercial delivery trucks transporting propane.

At last week’s meeting, the Planning Board again asked CEEN representative Wesley Chase to submit an amended application that includes the storage of propane delivery trucks and addresses potential environmental and safety hazards.

Chase said an engineer is preparing a site plan addressing erosion concerns and that a revised application will follow.

“I am not trying to slow roll the application,” Chase said. “I’m trying to be very thoughtful in all of the issues that I bring to the board, and come with a final resolution that takes all these things into account.”

Despite the dispute, representatives for both property owners said they were moving toward a resolution.

“I’m confident there’s going to be an agreement that materializes,” Chase said.

Planning Board Chair Michael Stabile emphasized the need for a timely resolution, noting that CEEN is responsible for costs incurred when

the board consults professional advisers during the application process.

“The law says we will recoup all costs incurred by the board for applicants. We have to consult professionals, and it adds up,” Stabile said. “You’ve been on the agenda a couple of times ... technically, [CEEN] should not have been able to open the equipment storage at all, because the original conditions of the application were not met.”

Timber Harvest Moves Closer to Approval

A proposed timber harvest at 3228 Route 199 moved closer to approval after the Planning Board closed a public hearing on the application. The town attorney will review the plan before the board considers a special-use permit next month.

The proposal calls for harvesting 426 trees across 42 acres of the 78.76-acre property. The property has been enrolled in the state Department of Environmental Conservation’s 480-a Forest Tax Law program and managed by a professional forester since 1988. It was last harvested in 2008.

Existing skid trails from the previous harvest would be reused, eliminating the need to build new trails. The DEC identified no rare, threatened or endangered species on the property.

Christopher Prentiss, the forester overseeing the project, said he hopes to complete the harvest this fall. Operating hours would be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday, although work would stop at dark.

Stabile said the board appeared inclined to approve the application, provided no unforeseen issues arise.

Five-acre subdivision proposed on Skunks Misery Road

The owners of the approximately 160-acre property known as the Malarchuk Lands at 299 Skunks Misery Road are seeking approval to subdivide a five-acre parcel containing the property’s original house. The house is occupied by a member of the owners’ family.

“It’s just taking five acres out of 160,” Chase, the project representative, told the Planning Board.

The board scheduled a public hearing on the proposed subdivision for Oct. 14.

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Principal Audrey Feliciano led the morning session on the first day of school at Webutuck Elementary School on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Webutuck Elementary welcomes new principal

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Students returning to Webutuck Elementary School this fall were greeted by a new principal, Audrey Feliciano, who said improving attendance and strengthening partnerships with families will be among her priorities.

Feliciano, who replaces Amanda Coppola, began the job Tuesday, Sept. 1, and welcomed students for their first day of classes Tuesday, Sept. 8. She started the morning with a program for students from prekindergarten through the upper grades, joining teachers in leading exercises designed to prepare them for the school year.

"It's a starting point to get kids excited about learning," Feliciano said. "They have their backpacks, and they are ready to learn."

Feliciano said she plans to greet students outside the school each morning.

Motorcyclist seriously injured in Washington crash

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
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WASHINGTON — A motorcyclist was seriously injured in a collision with a delivery truck at the intersection of Route 44 and Kennels Road on Thursday, Sept. 10, according to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.

The crash occurred at approximately 1:10 p.m. as a 2025 Kawasaki motorcycle and the delivery truck were traveling east on Route 44, authorities said. A preliminary investigation found that the truck began turning left onto Kennels Road when the motorcycle struck it. The motorcyclist was ejected and struck a nearby utility pole, sustaining serious injuries.

The motorcyclist was initially taken to MidHudson Regional Hospital and later transferred to Westchester Medical Center. The truck driver was not injured. The crash remains under investigation by the Sheriff's Office Detective Bureau and Crash Investigation Unit.

The New York State Police, Millbrook Fire Department and Empress EMS assisted at the scene.



The early September sun greeted students as they stepped off their buses at Webutuck Elementary School for the first day of classes Tuesday, Sept. 8.

"I want to be the first person they see," she said.

Supporting regular attendance will be a focus during the coming year, Feliciano said. She also pointed to the school's early-childhood offerings, which include two pre-K-3 classes.

"Webutuck was the first public school in Dutchess County to start a pre-K3 early learning program," Feliciano said, noting that the program functions as an extension of parental teaching.

Webutuck started the pre-K3 program in 2025. A second pre-K3 class was added for the 2026-27 school year.

The school holds workshops throughout the year to help parents and educators work together. She said that collaboration also helps the school better understand and respond to each student's educational needs.

Originally from the Bronx, Feliciano has lived in the re-

gion for 25 years. She most recently spent six years as a special education administrator and assistant principal at Pawling Elementary School.

She earned a bachelor's degree from Mercy College and a master's degree in education with a specialization in special education. She later earned her administrative certification from Baruch College.

Feliciano also worked in New York City earlier in her career.

"My special education experience in New York City has helped me understand child development and how children learn and thrive," she said, adding that her time there broadened her perspective by exposing her to a tapestry of cultures, languages, and complex learning environments.

Feliciano lives in LaGrange and has four children and three grandchildren.

New Faces in Old Places

New owners take over three Millbrook mainstays

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
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MILLBROOK — Three longstanding downtown Millbrook businesses, two on Franklin Avenue and one on Front Street, celebrated changes in ownership last week with a joint ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The new owners of Babette's Kitchen, Village Wine & Spirits of Millbrook and the Millbrook Antiques Center gathered with friends, family members and Millbrook Mayor Peter Doro to mark the occasion.

"Taking over an established business is a wonderful way to invest in one's local community," said Mayor Doro. "You get the opportunity to respect what came before while bringing your own ideas and energy to the future."

All three businesses have become local staples. Babette's Kitchen, at 3293 Franklin Ave., opened in 2005 as a lunch destination and catering company. Its new owners, Jennifer and Michael Burgen, have worked at the restaurant for several years.

With an emphasis on local produce and a menu sourced from nearby farms, Babette's has gained regional acclaim for its inventive menu and extensive pastry offerings. Its buttermilk biscuits, fritatas and seasonal rotations have made the 20-seat café a weekend favorite for locals and weekenders alike.

Like Babette's founders, the Burgens graduated from the Culinary Institute of America, a culinary school based in Hyde Park. When Babette's founder Buffy Arbogast attended in 2004, she was at the forefront of a gastronomic migration.

The Burgens are part of the second wave, and are committed to keeping Babette's core



Babette's Kitchen on Franklin Avenue was among three longstanding Millbrook businesses that celebrated changes in ownership with a joint ribbon-cutting ceremony last week.

menu intact.

"We're not doing any changes for the first couple of years, but in the long term, we'd love to bring some family recipes out," Burgen said last month. "My grandmother was a great cook, and Mike's grandmother was an amazing baker."

Village Wine & Spirits, at 45 Front St., has operated in Millbrook since the 1980s. The new owners, Rick and Shreya Kumar, say they're looking forward to continuing the legacy. "It's a really nice neighborhood," said Rick Kumar. "There are really good people here, and we're so happy to be here. We're immigrants from India, and we couldn't imagine being in a better place than Millbrook. Everything is perfect."

The Millbrook Antiques Center, at 3283 Franklin Ave., has been a village fixture for more than 40 years. The shop offers vintage clothing, jewelry repair, furniture and much more. New owners Michelle and Keith Del Valle were effusive in their praise of the former owners, Tom McGeedy and Richard Del

Valle — Keith's father.

"We're continuing everything that they did, but we're introducing new things too," said Michelle Del Valle. "We're planning a sip and shop and a Halloween party, and are finding other ways to collaborate with the other businesses on Franklin."

Michelle worked at the shop for about five years before Tom and Richard floated the idea of passing it along. "It already felt like we were running something like a family business," she said. "We love the small town charm of Millbrook. It's a charming, community-centric place to live."

Mayor Doro sees the transfers as emblematic of Millbrook's sense of history. "On behalf of the Village, we owe these new owners a debt of gratitude," he said. "For investing in Millbrook and for helping keep a little bit of Millbrook's history going."

"Having new ownership invest in these local businesses is a sign of confidence in Millbrook and helps maintain the vibrancy of our downtown."

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Dr. Miguel Cardona, the 12th United States Secretary of Education, and chair of the Connecticut Career Pathways Commission, will discuss the current landscape of education and the challenges facing students and educators, while offering guidance to support student success. He will examine the impact of education policy, the need for sustainable career pathways, and the promises and limitations of higher education in supporting those pathways.

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OUR TOWNS

Washington board reviews investments, fall events

By GRAHAM CORRIGAN
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The Washington Town Board approved a new appointment, discussed the town’s investment policy and reviewed upcoming fall events at its meeting Thursday, Sept. 10.

The board appointed Jane Burdis to the town’s Climate Smart Communities Task Force.

Town Clerk Chrissy Briggs reported that the town will have an informational booth at Millbrook Community Day on Sept. 19, where residents can meet local representatives.

Briggs also announced that the town received a \$25,000 county grant to replace windows on the first and second floors of Town Hall. The board approved issuing a request for proposals for the project.

The board then discussed the investment of town funds. The Bank of Millbrook remains the town’s designated depository, but board members disagreed over whether town deposits could be invested through NYCLASS, an investment pool for public entities.

Supervisor Gary Ciferri said the board approved NYCLASS as an additional

depository in January and that the town has since earned higher yields on its investments. However, the town’s investment policy was not amended to reflect the change. The board agreed to consider a resolution updating the policy at its next meeting.

Recreation Director Danielle Szalewicz introduced Movie Night, a new Recreation Department program beginning this fall. Admission will be free, and residents are invited to bring chairs and gather on the lawn at the town park. Snacks and beverages will be available for purchase.

“Captain America” will be shown Oct. 2 at 7:30 p.m., followed by “Hocus Pocus” on Oct. 16 at 7 p.m. and “Lilo & Stitch” on Nov. 6 at 5:30 p.m. Near the end of the meeting, Councilmember Maxine Verne said residents had approached her with concerns about donating to the library. She said they questioned how donations were being spent, given what they described as the building’s deteriorating condition.

Although the library is not overseen by the Town Board, Verne said residents had encouraged her to form a task force to examine the condition of the building and how donations are used.

Former education secretary to speak at HVRHS

By CHRISTIAN MURRAY
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FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — Miguel Cardona, a former U.S. secretary of education and former Connecticut education commissioner, will speak at Housatonic Valley Regional High School on Friday, Sept. 18, at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Salisbury Forum’s speaker series.

Cardona will discuss the state of education and the challenges confronting students and educators. His talk will also examine the need for sustainable career pathways and the promises and limitations of higher education in helping students prepare for careers.

Cardona was appointed

chairman of the Connecticut Career Pathways Commission, a group charged with developing a statewide strategy to better connect education, training and employment.

The commission brings together leaders from education, workforce development and industry. Its work is intended to expand access to career pathways that lead to credentials and well-paying jobs.

Cardona led the U.S. Department of Education under President Joe Biden from 2021 to 2025. Before joining the Biden administration, he was Connecticut’s education commissioner. He began his career as a fourth-grade teacher in Meriden.

The event will be held in the HVRHS auditorium.

OBITUARIES

Irene (Renie) Dietter



well-oiled machine, and she took such pride in the church hall. The church was her favorite place to be after her home. For many years she was the snack lady for Bible School. She devoted many Sundays to preparing food for coffee hour. And there were all of the behind the scene tasks she did without much notice like polishing the collection plates, starching tablecloths and dusting hymnals.

Renie loved her family and large extension of friends. She was a collector of people. For years she and Prope could be found surrounded by friends having coffee at the Farmer’s Wife or eating lunch at the Moose on the Loose. But her favorite place to be was home. After Prope had retired, they went on an extended trip with friends across the United States. Renie would say that she saw many beautiful sights but that no place was as beautiful as Ancramdale and her home.

Renie was known for her jewelry, especially her earrings. You could always tell what holiday was coming up by the earrings Renie wore. She had hundreds of them and took great pride in them. When she eventually went to stay with her daughter Gail, it was with her enormous jewelry box safely seat belted into the back seat of the car.

Renie will be missed not just by her large extended family but by the Ancramdale community as well.

Irene is survived by her two daughters and sons-in-law, Jean and Ronald Brant and Gail and Nickie Heath,

all of Ancramdale, two granddaughters and grandson- in laws, Monica and Brandon Cleveland of Ancramdale and Amanda and Edward Bishop of Pine Plains. Grandson and granddaughter-in-law Avery and Jennifer Heath of Stanfordville. Five great-grandchildren Sydney Cleveland (Calvin), Ronald Cleveland, Karlee Bishop (Michael) and Lilah and Thomas Heath. Renie leaves behind many nieces and nephews and friends as well as two sisters-in-law, Helen Boyles and Bertha Boyles both of Ancramdale.

In addition to her parents and husband Avery, Irene was predeceased by her son Avery Dietter Jr., all of her siblings; brothers Russel, William, Henry, Charles Jr., Harold, Clifford and Robert and sisters Gladys (Millius), Eleanor (Cookingham) and

Susan (Dietter) as well as her beloved cousins James and Eleanor Hoag.

Irene’s family would like to give a special thank you to Renie’s caregiver, Violet, who took such good care of her in the final weeks as well as the members of the Community Rescue Squad and the Town of Ancram Fire Department.

A funeral service was conducted on Monday, September 14, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. at the Ancramdale Presbyterian Church, 15 Co Rd 8, Ancramdale, NY 12503. Burial followed in Evergreen Cemetery, Pine Plains. In lieu of a traditional wake, Renie wished that folks gather in the fellowship hall following the interment for a celebration of her amazing life.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be directed to the Ancramdale Presbyterian Church, PO Box 99 Ancramdale, NY 12503. For directions or to leave a message of condolence for the family please visit www.PeckandPeck.net



Worship Services

Week of September 20, 2026

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info@congbethdavid.org

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10 a.m. Worship Service
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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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860-824-0194

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
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9 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

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Contact us at 860-364-5002 or
info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

Millerton United Methodist Church
6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812
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In-Person and on You-Tube
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Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church
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LET'S HEAR IT...

THIS WEEK

As summer comes to an end and the days begin to get a little cooler, signs of fall are starting to appear all around us. The leaves are beginning to change, the evenings are getting shorter, and a new season of activities and traditions is just around the corner.

What fall activities are you looking forward to?

Send your responses to social@lakevillejournal.com by Monday, Sept. 21 at 10 a.m. or comment on Facebook or Instagram. We'll publish a selection in next week's paper.

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION

How will Eddie Collins Memorial Park's temporary closure impact you and your family?

- "We visit the playground daily. We bring our picnic lunch and play until nap time. I don't know where to go and we miss the park very much!!!"
— Diane Nelson Selino

"I hope they will be adding an area where we can take our dogs while it's closed."
— Gregory Lanphear

"Amenia has a great park for the kids. Our grandchildren enjoy it."
— Jennifer McRoberts

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



"I feel like you're the one that's changing..."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for reminder of how friends should treat each other

The Sharon Playhouse production of *Come From Away* is timely not only for the 25th anniversary of September 11 but also as a reminder of the special relationship between Canadians and Americans. When Newfoundlanders welcomed thousands of stranded Americans and others headed to the United States in 2001, they were not just acting as gracious small town folk living their Rock values; they were also enacting the relationship that Canadians and Americans have built by crossing our shared border — the longest undefended border in the world. The heart of the U.S.-Canada relationship is, as the historians Marcus Lee Hansen and John Bart-

let Brebner put it in 1941, the mingling of the Canadian and American peoples. It is that relationship — not to mention the story of Gander or the shared sacrifices made by Canadian and American soldiers in both World Wars and Afghanistan — that Donald Trump is now tearing asunder. He tosses out random national insults on social media and purports to rename Great Lakes. Worse, in the name of a quixotic and pointless trade war, Trump is attacking Canadian sovereignty. He and his negotiators attempted to strong arm Canada into sacrificing its language policy, forego its sovereign right to make trade pacts with third countries

without American approval, and dismantle its unionized automobile industry. Meanwhile, he leaves the very Canadians celebrated in *Come From Away* wondering how literally to take his repeated threats to annex their country. Leaving the theater, I could not help but feel ashamed and embarrassed that my country is repaying the kindness of our neighbors with such ugly attacks. Thank you to the Sharon Playhouse for the reminder of how friends and neighbors should treat each other — and for a reminder of how Canadians and Americans acted before Donald Trump.

Jacob Remes

Sharon



PHOTO BY CAITLIN HANLON

Easy on the eyes ...



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Residents opposed to the proposed 42-megawatt solar project in Craryville line up in front of the Copake Town Hall on Monday, Sept. 14 ahead of a state-held adjudicatory hearing.

State hears testimony on Copake solar project

By JOHN COSTON
Special to The Millerton News

COPAKE — The nearly 9-year saga of a utility-scale solar farm plan for this rural hamlet continued on Monday, Sept. 14 with an adjudicatory hearing held by two New York State judges who heard testimony for and against the project.

It was standing room only in the Copake Town Hall as more than 100 people attended a hearing on the merits of a 42-megawatt solar installation proposed by Chicago-based Hecate Energy LLC.

"How are you?" came the comment from one woman who entered the room. "Here we go again," a remark referring to the numerous times the public has gathered to hear about Hecate's plans. The company first came to Copake in 2017.

Maureen F. Leary and Dawn MacKillop-Soller, administrative law judges at the New York State Department of Public Service's Office of Renewable Energy Siting and Electric Transmission (ORES), conducted the hearing. The focus was twofold: flood plain compliance and meeting the requirements of the town's wetlands laws.

At the start, Judge Leary commended the townspeople on their "engagement in the community."

Hecate, the state's ORES office, the New York's Department of Environmental Conservation and the Town of Copake were present to examine and cross-examine expert witnesses with the goal of establishing facts for the judges to consider. In addition to the expert testimony given at the hearing, more than 100 documents were filed ahead of time, nearly all opposing the project.

State Sen. Michelle Hinchey (D-41) wrote: "Have

previously written to the Office of Renewable Energy Siting regarding potential negative impacts on farmlands and forests, water supply, and tourism, as well as the developer's potentially insecure financing as reported in the press and legal filings."

The clock is running on the project. The judges will issue a ruling on the matter, after which the ORES executive director is required by law to make a decision on the project by Oct. 19 to either grant or deny a permit. If Hecate receives a go-ahead from ORES, it then will have to come to the town for a permit.

At Monday's hearing, a senior engineer from Hecate, Kip Smith, was questioned by Copake's attorney, Benjamin Wisniewski, about parts of the project that will be located in a flood zone. Smith said that several solar arrays would be partially located in a flood zone.

Smith said Hecate plans to install arrays that can be raised in the event of flooding, and noted that one important component, an inverter, would be moved from its current planned location because it is in a flood zone. In response to a question from Judge MacKillop-Soller, Smith said that 9 or 10% of the project is located in an inundation zone.

The inundation model used by Hecate presumes the impact of a 100-year flood. With flooding estimates ranging from two feet to seven feet, MacKillop-Soller ques-

tioned how first responders would be able to enter the site. "First responders must have or need to have access," she said.

Smith responded that the access roads would not be affected by flooding, adding that no one should be on the site anyway. MacKillop-Soller then asked about the road construction, and Smith said it would be a gravel base.

Judge Leary asked Smith if he had any reason to second-guess his assumptions. "I have no concerns about our ability to meet the guidelines," he said. "Or to rethink the model."

Hecate has been interested in developing a utility-scale solar farm in Copake for almost 10 years.

The application process has dragged out and the company's first application was denied by the state.

The current application was submitted in December 2024. Late in 2025, the state began a hearing and public comment process, holding four public hearings in Copake in late January.

Overall, more than 1,000 public comments were received and posted in the state's project management system. By June of this year, the two administrative law judges who oversaw the hearings issued a ruling on issues related to the project, and subsequently in August the state called for an adjudicatory hearing to develop a factual record, notably on the impact to wetlands and floodzones.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

(USPS 384600)
An Independent New York Newspaper
Official Newspaper of the Village of Millerton, Town of North East, Town of Washington, Town of Amenia, Town of Pine Plains, North East (Webutuck) Central School District and Millbrook Central School District
Published Weekly by LJMN Media, Inc.
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; Dan Dwyer, Chair
P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546
(860) 435-9873 ext. 608 • millertonnews.com • editor@millertonnews.com

Volume 95, Number 34 Thursday, September 17, 2026

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

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LJMN Media, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Subscription Rates - One Year:

\$120.00 in Dutchess and Columbia Counties, \$147.00 Outside Counties
Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Millerton, NY 12546. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LJMN Media, Inc., PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

OUR TOWNS

NASA’s International Observe the Moon Night at Innisfree Garden

By D.H. CALLAHAN

There are hundreds of moons orbiting the planets of our solar system. Jupiter has more than 100, and Saturn has even more. In 1975, the International Astronomical Union created an official process for naming the moons of Jupiter after the lovers and descendants of the ancient Roman God, Jupiter. Only one moon in our solar system is called “The Moon”: ours.

The Moon is more thoroughly explored than the bottom of the Earth’s ocean. It’s the source of countless fables and stories throughout human history. It’s Earth’s closest neighbor. But how often do we nonscientists take the time to really look at it?

On Saturday, Sept. 19, Innisfree Garden in Millbrook will host a special event in celebration of International Observe the Moon Night. The annual event, started by NASA in 2010, invites people around the world to observe, appreciate and learn about the Moon. Inspired by the 2009 Interna-



PHOTO PROVIDED

Visitors gather at Innisfree Garden for the 2025 moon-observation event. This year’s event will be on Sept. 19.

tional Year of Astronomy, the event has sparked hundreds of official and unofficial gatherings of scientists, amateur astronomers and curious folks looking for a clear view of that celestial body.

The event at Innisfree is more than just looking up at the sky, though that certainly is part of it. It’s hosted in conjunction with the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Society, a nonprofit group of amateur astronomy enthusiasts in the area. NASA, however, is the principal organization responsible for such events. Each year, it designates

a Saturday evening in autumn, which aligns with a waxing gibbous moon-phase. It aims for a perfect half-moon, as the shadows and level of illumination during that phase make viewing easier and more dramatic, but the Moon has yet to comply with requests to accommodate our earthly calendar.

The Mid-Hudson Astronomical Society will place telescopes throughout Innisfree, allowing attendees to view the Moon from slightly different angles using a variety of equipment. Visitors are encouraged to bring binoculars, as even a

little extra magnification can really enhance the view.

As the sun sets and the Moon takes the night’s stage, award-winning science writer Corey S. Powell will give an informal talk about the Moon’s history and importance to humanity. Powell has served as editor-in-chief of Discover and American Scientist magazines. He has worked with famed science educator Bill Nye on the television programs “Bill Nye Saves the World” and “The End is Nye,” as well as his “Science Rules” podcast.

While the event is open to everyone, a little personal restraint is required to be part of the program. Attendees will be asked to keep their phone screens on low and use only red-light flashlights so as not to ruin other visitors’ night vision.

The event is also an opportunity to explore Innisfree at night, when the gardens are usually closed to everyone but opportunistic wildlife. Will they be observing the moon as well? To find out, make your reservation at innisfreegarden.org.

Millbrook receives \$25,000 grant for LED lighting upgrades

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK – Lighting upgrades at Village Hall and throughout Millbrook will move forward with the help of a matching grant from Dutchess County.

The Village Board of Trustees accepted the \$25,000 Municipal Investment Grant at its regular meeting Wednesday, Sept. 9. The grant will fund the installation of energy-

efficient LED lighting throughout Village Hall and the replacement of other municipal lighting across the village.

LED systems use far less electricity than traditional lighting, improving energy efficiency and reducing costs.

Mayor Peter Doro said the required \$25,000 match will come from the village’s unrestricted funds, bringing the total available for the lighting upgrades to \$50,000.



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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Ducillo Fine Carpentry LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 5/3/2026. Office located in Dutchess Co. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LegalZoom USCA, Inc., 45 Main Street, Suite 238, Brooklyn NY 11201. Purpose: any lawful activity.

09-10-26
09-17-26
09-24-26
10-01-26
10-08-26
10-15-26

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY True Kettle Corn, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/30/2026. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 14 Wright Boulevard, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

08-20-26
08-27-26
09-03-26
09-10-26
09-17-26
09-24-26

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Polonia Hudson Valley, LLC (the "LLC"). Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York ("SSNY") on July 27, 2026. Office location: 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 served against the LLC to: 4 Marshall Rd, Unit 143, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

08-13-26
08-20-26
08-27-26
09-03-26
09-10-26
09-17-26

Legal Notice

The Union Cemetery Association will hold its annual meeting on Sept. 18, 2026, at St. Thomas Church, 40 Leedsville Rd., Amenia, NY from 10:30am to noon. Call Gail with any questions at 845-454-6641.

09-03-26
09-10-26
09-17-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWN OF AMENIA
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION
SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

Notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, at a regular meeting thereof, held on September 3, 2026, duly adopted the following resolution, subject to permissive referendum:

Resolution No. 75 of 2026

RE: AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF PLOW TRUCK FOR HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

WHEREAS, the Town of Amenia previously established a Highway Department Equipment and Machinery Reserve Fund for the purchase of capital equipment and machinery for the Town of Amenia Highway Department, such as pickup trucks, loaders, backhoes, sanders, dump trucks, and related equipment; and
WHEREAS, the Town Highway Superintendent has recommended the purchase of a new plow truck for the Highway Department to add to their aging fleet to ensure plowing capacity and capability in the future; and
WHEREAS, pursuant to General Municipal Law § 103(16), municipalities are authorized to purchase equipment and contract for services related to installation thereof through the use of a contract let by the United States of America or any agency thereof, any state or any other county of political subdivision or district therein, if such

contract was let in a manner that constitutes competitive bidding consistent with state law and made available for use by other governmental entities; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Amenia has been provided with a proposal from Zwack Inc. through Onondaga Bid # 0010914 for the purchase of the plow truck body in the amount of \$161,995.00; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Amenia has been provided with a proposal from Allegiance Trucks Hudson Valley at Upper Hudson Valley, LLC through ON/GOV Bid # 106-19 for the purchase of the plow truck cab and chassis in the amount of \$183,944.80; and

WHEREAS, the total purchase price for the plow truck is \$345,939.80; and
WHEREAS, the funds are available in the Highway Department Equipment and Machinery Reserve Fund; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Amenia wishes to award the contract to Zwack Inc. through Onondaga Bid # 0010914 for the purchase of the plow truck body in the amount of \$161,995.00, in accordance with the annexed proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Amenia wishes to award the contract to Allegiance Trucks Hudson Valley at Upper Hudson Valley, LLC through ON/GOV Bid# 106-19 for the purchase of the plow truck cab and chassis in the amount of \$183,944.80, in accordance with the annexed proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed each of the proposed bids and verified that the contracts have been properly let in a manner that constitutes competitive bidding consistent with New York State Law and made available for use by other governmental agencies.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. The recitations set forth

above are incorporated in this Resolution as if fully set forth and adopted herein.

2. The Town Board of the Town of Amenia hereby awards the contract for the purchase of the plow truck body to Zwack Inc. through Onondaga Bid # 0010914 in the amount of \$161,995.00, in accordance with the annexed proposal.

3. The Town Board of the Town of Amenia hereby awards the contract for the purchase of the plow truck cab and chassis to Allegiance Trucks Hudson Valley at Upper Hudson Valley, LLC through ON/GOV Bid# 106-19 in the amount of \$183,944.80, in accordance with the annexed proposal.

4. The Town Supervisor is authorized and directed to execute any documentation necessary to effectuate this Resolution.

5. The purchase of the plow truck body, cab and chassis shall be made from the Highway Department Equipment and Machinery Reserve Fund and is subject to a permissive referendum in accordance with New York State Town Law Section 6-C of the General Municipal Law.

Motion made by S/Hamm
Seconded by C/Ahearn
The foregoing resolution was voted upon with all councilmembers voting as follows:

Supervisor Hamm
Aye
Councilmember Ahearn
Aye
Councilmember Doyle
Aye
Councilmember Dietrich
Absent
Dated: Amenia, New York
September 3, 2026

DAWN MARIE
KLINGNER,
TOWN CLERK
09-17-26

TOWN OF AMENIA
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF
PUBLIC HEARING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Part 617 of the implementing regulations pertaining to Article 8 (State Environmental

Quality Review Act) of the Environmental Conservation Law. A Draft Environmental Impact Study has been completed and accepted for the proposed action described below.

Name of Actions: Keane Stud Subdivision

Description of Action:

Project Site

The Project Site for the proposed action is located in Dutchess County Agricultural District # 21 and consists of approximately 605.7 acres in two (2) existing lots identified as tax parcel numbers 132000-7166-00-403720 and 132000-7167-00-212034, located partially along Old Route 22 and partially along Depot Hill Road in the Town of Amenia, NY (the "Project Site" or the "Site"). The Site is currently used for and improved with existing residential buildings, equestrian facilities, paddocks, and other agricultural uses, and surrounded by low density residential and agricultural uses. The northwestern area of the Site, as well as portions of the eastern and southern areas of the Site, are farmed for row crops. The southwest portion of the Site is used for equestrian uses, including a large paddock and various equestrian buildings. The eastern portion of the Site, as well as the perimeter along the south, are dominated by forest land, with areas of brush interspersed. There are a few ponds on the Project Site, as well as a larger wetland area in the northwest corner of the Site. Portions of the Site contain Prime Agricultural soils and Soils of Statewide Importance. The Site ranges in elevation from approximately 514' to approximately 1,226'. There are areas of steep slopes on the Site, primarily in the eastern, forested, portion of the Site.

The Project Site is located within the Town of Amenia's Rural Residential "RR" and Rural Agricultural "RA" zoning districts. Portions of the Site are within the Scenic Protec-

tion Overlay District ("SPO"), the Stream Corridor Overlay District ("SCO"), the Resort Development Overlay District ("RDO"), and the Aquifer Overlay District ("AQO").

Location:

The Proposed Action is located in Dutchess County Agricultural District # 21 and consists of approximately 605.7 acres in two (2) existing lots identified as tax parcel numbers 132000-7166-00-403720 and 132000-7167-00-212034, located partially along Old Route 22 partially along Depot Hill Road in the Town of Amenia.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hold the public hearing on September 23, 2026, at 6pm at Amenia Town Hall, 4988 NYS Route 22, Amenia, New York 12501. Comments are requested and will be accepted by the Planning Board Secretary, until 4:00pm on October 5, 2026.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the Application is on file in the Amenia Town Clerk's Office for public viewing and inspection during normal business hours. The Application can also be viewed and downloaded from www.keanestudseqra.com.
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hear all persons interested in the Application at the public hearing noticed herein. All persons may appear at the hearing in person or by agent and may also submit written comments to the Planning Board at or prior to such hearing by emailing comments to Planning Board Secretary Ericka Howard at ehoward@ameniany.gov. Dated: August 31, 2026.

Robert Boyles, Jr.,
Chairman
Town of Amenia
Planning Board
09-17-26



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SEPT. 11 Continued from Page A1

High School.

Bagpipers opened the ceremony shortly before 7 p.m., followed by welcoming remarks from Stanford Fire Company President Evelyn Seipp. The Pledge of Allegiance and the national anthem, sung by Rosalee Cade, followed.

Stanford Town Supervisor Julia Descoteaux and Dutchess County Legislator Chris Drago spoke about the importance of honoring those who died and the sacrifices made by first responders.

“I remember the shock and the sorrow, but I also remember what came next,” Descoteaux said. “I remember people coming together, strangers helping strangers, and first responders running toward danger while others were running away.

“The ribbons and flags surrounding us tonight were placed here one at a time, by neighbors working alongside neighbors. In its own small way, this is what remembrance looks like.”

Drago was in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001.

“I’ll never forget how quiet people became as we processed what was happening,” he said in his remarks. “But New York came together. We helped one another. We cried on each other’s shoulders.”

“We cleaned up, and we remember,” he continued. “Forty volunteers came out in the rain last week and hung these ribbons. That’s Stanford... neighbors showing up so we can have this moment of community together.”

Students from the Pine Plains Central School District shared essays about the continuing resonance of an event that occurred before they were born.

HOPYARD BREWERY Continued from Page A1

of farm breweries and distilleries that have reshaped the region’s rural crossroads. This month, the brewery is offering house-brewed Oktoberfest beers, Apple Cider Donut Hard Cider and Pumpkin Ale.

Located at 4679 NY-82, the brewery is open Thursday to Sunday. Hopyard Brewery’s brewmaster is Michael Bucey, who bought the property after selling his diesel business in Pleasant Valley.

He fell in love with brewing in the 1990s, long before the craft beer industry had a foothold in the Hudson Valley. But loving beer and opening a brewery are two very different projects.

When the Hopyard property went up for sale, Bucey bought it with a contingency plan. “If the brewery didn’t work out, we were just going to put a house there,” he said. “But it had a great well on-site, and when we had the water tested, it came back perfect for beer.”

With the help of the neighboring Cary Institute, Bucey set about planting hops and apple trees. Hops take a few years to fully mature, and Bucey took that time to go through the painstaking process of getting business



Firefighters and other uniformed first responders stand alongside flag bearers during Stanford’s ceremony marking the 25th anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Nearly 3,000 American flags covered the hillside at Stanford Recreation Park.

The display also paid tribute to Dennis Gilhooly, a Stanford Fire Company member and commissioner who served with the New York City Fire Department during the Sept. 11 attacks before moving to Stanford.

He was diagnosed in 2005 with cancer related to his service at the World Trade Center and died in 2019 at age 68.

Gilhooly’s firefighter jacket stood at the center of the hillside display, flanked by two columns of orange and red flags and held aloft on a flagpole. A placard detailing his contributions and displaying his obituary stood near the park entrance. In the days immediately following the attacks, communities across the region organized relief efforts. Cub Scout packs in Millerton and Dover collected clothing for rescue workers in New York City, while store

employees in Amenia gathered water and other supplies for the National Guard. At the time, local organizer Susan Patnode described the response as something that “took on a life of its own,” with contributions arriving from towns throughout the Harlem Valley.

For residents of Stanford and surrounding communities, the flag memorial has become an annual reminder not only of the lives lost on Sept. 11, but also of how the region came together after the attacks.

TOWN HALL Continued from Page A1

The building is a single-story structure without a basement, allowing all records and government operations to be located on the ground floor.

The project will be funded by the town and two state grants. The town’s next step will be to adopt a bond resolution finalizing the financing.

Kennan compared the estimated \$1.4 million cost with municipal building projects in Pine Plains and Pleasant Valley. Pine Plains is seeking to construct a new Town Hall at an estimated cost of about \$4 million. Pleasant Valley chose to renovate an existing building in a project costing more than \$8 million.

Wastewater system
Millerton’s planned wastewater system was also discussed at the meeting. Kennan said he walked the proposed installation area with engineers last week. Pipes will run along both sides of the Boulevard, with two connections crossing beneath the road.

The \$13.8 million project, one of the community’s largest infrastructure investments in decades, would serve the Village of Millerton’s core

As the sun set, the bagpipers gathered at the top of the hillside to play “God Bless America,” “Amazing Grace” and “You’re a Grand Old Flag.” Two searchlights illuminated the darkening sky in tribute to the twin towers.

Seipp closed the ceremony with a reminder of the importance of carrying its message forward.

“May we never forget the lesson that hope is stronger than fear...By your presence, you prove that. The greatest tribute we can offer is to carry that spirit.”

BEAN BANK COFFEE Continued from Page A1



Bean Bank Coffee owners Amy and Dave Cocheo stand inside their newly opened coffee shop and bakery at Frestown Plaza in Amenia on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

taught her the craft.

“She fell in love with it,” Dave Cocheo said, adding that the family also includes a chef. An interest in baking spread through the family.

Having moved to Millerton a year ago, both saw the vacant bank branch building as a possibility, Cocheo said, crediting the 2025 Planning Board’s online survey results for sparking the idea of opening a bakery at the location. The survey report had cited a bakery as the top need in the town.

“We thought people might really enjoy having our bakery and at the same time we would get to do what we enjoy doing,” Cocheo said.

“It’s been busy,” Cocheo said of the new business.

As fall approaches, the shop will offer even more coffee options, including pumpkin spice, and will begin making “steamers.” Steamers are steamed milk with assorted flavors. The winter season will also feature more tea varieties.

Current offerings include a selection of pastries as an accompaniment to different types of espresso, lattes, and hot and iced coffee. Coffee is sourced from Peak’s in Syracuse, and the teas are Harney’s.

Bean Bank Coffee is open Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Saturday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The shop is closed on Sunday. For more information visit, www.bean-bankamenia.com.



Bean Bank Coffee is now open at Frestown Plaza, offering drive-through service with a selection of pastries, coffee and tea.

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

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PHOTO BY L. TOMAINO

Artist Danielle Mailer at her studio and showroom in Goshen.

Danielle Mailer's lifelong love

By Robin Roraback

A visit to Danielle Mailer's colorful Goshen studio found her busy getting ready for a show at Hunt Library's ArtWall in Falls Village. The show opens Sept. 19 with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. and runs through Oct. 23.

She explained, "With just weeks to go and a stack of blank small wooden panels, I set up a challenge to do a painting a day. This became a painting a week. I always forget how little works can be brutal to resolve."

Well-known for her large-scale work, she commented on taking a break from it.

"I love the way the public art projects involve the community. All of the large-scale works include many hands. But I also welcome the times when I

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

BUSINESS

From grain to glass at Mine Hill Distillery

By D.H. Callahan

Mine Hill Distillery wants to stock your bar. They're working throughout the year to provide professional and amateur mixologists with the ingredients they need to make cocktails their way, which distiller Chris Byles claims is the best way to make them.

To do it, they're distilling some of the finest grain-to-glass spirits in the state. Nestled in Roxbury, the second-to-last town in Connecticut to allow the sale of alcohol, the distillery occupies three carefully restored buildings: one a former cigar factory, one a converted train station and the third an old lumber storehouse.

Grain-to-glass is what you might conjure up when you picture a distillery. It's sourcing raw ingredients like wheat, rye or barley and using some complicated equipment to create time-honored spirits. In other words, they only bottle what they make themselves. It's how Byles has done it throughout his career, having built two distilleries in his home state of Texas before striking out to

CONTINUED ON PAGE B3

BOOKS

Haystack Book Festival returns to Norfolk

By Mike Cobb

Now in its eighth year, the Haystack Book Festival brings together many of today's best authors Oct. 2 through 4 for unmoderated conversations about their work in Norfolk, Connecticut.

On Friday, Oct. 2, Infinity Hall will host "The Brendan Gill Lecture" at 6 p.m., with Belle Burden in conversation with Roxanne Coady, founder and owner of RJ Julia Booksellers.

"We have a terrific program this year," said festival organizer Michael Selleck. "We're going to kick it off with Belle Burden, the best-selling author of 'Strangers.' The event has quite a bit of draw, so we moved it to Infinity Hall. It's the first time we're doing that."

Burden's book recounts the early days of the pandemic with her husband, who, without warning, announced that he was leaving her after 20 years.

In "Strangers," Burden revisits her marriage, searching for clues that her husband was not who she always thought he was. As she examines her relationship through a new lens, she reckons with her own family history and the lessons she intuited about how a woman is expected to behave in the face of betrayal. Through it all, she is transformed.

"The Brendan Gill Lecture" was originally a program that the library associates started. It's a really great platform for us to have writers. This year we chose to do it as a conversation," Selleck said.

A longtime Norfolk resident,



PHOTO PROVIDED

Belle Burden, No. 1 New York Times bestselling author of "Strangers," will kick off the Haystack Book Festival in conversation with Roxanne Coady, RJ Julia Booksellers, on Oct. 2.

Brendan Gill wrote for The New Yorker for more than 50 years. He contributed short stories, profiles and book reviews and was, in successive decades, the magazine's movie, theater and architecture critic.

In 1998, "The Brendan Gill Lecture" was established by the Norfolk Library Associates to honor Gill's generous contributions to the library.

Saturday's events will be held at the Norfolk Library and include three conversations on America at 250.

"This year our Saturday program will celebrate America 250 through conversations that

examine identity by living a life abroad, the effects of war and its aftermath, and the exploration and myth of the western frontier," Selleck said.

"Across Borders and Belonging — Exile, Identity and American Lives Abroad" will kick off the day at 10:30 a.m. with David Mayers and best-selling author Nicholas Boggs.

At 1 p.m., "After the Wounds — War, Memory and the Search for What Endures" will feature authors David Nasaw and Elizabeth Samet. It will be followed at 3 p.m. by a conversation with Craig Fehrman and Megan Kate Nelson, "Inventing

America — Power and Myth at the Nation's Edges."

On Sunday at 11 a.m., "Among the Trees — History, Science and Environment" will be discussed by Sophie Pinkham and Robert Moor. This event is sponsored by Great Mountain Forest.

When asked what he likes best about the festival, Selleck said:

"We like the intimacy and unmoderated conversations between the authors. Our hope is that people will be interested and want to come."

For tickets and information, visit haystackbookfestival.org

ART

There's still time for monsters in Wassaic

By D.H. Callahan

"Because, now is the time of monsters," the summer group show at the Wassaic Project, held its closing reception on Sunday, Sept. 13. Like many exhibitions at the venerated arts gallery, incubator and cultural center, the space was packed full of innovative art of a wide variety of media..

Housed in the iconic Maxon Mills building, the show started on the first floor, just beyond the Project's vibrant and funky gift shop. To name all the artists and mediums might take this week's entire Compass section, but it's worth highlighting some standouts.

Dennis Gordon is a retired firefighter from the South Bronx. His realistic architectural-model-style sculptures of abandoned buildings are eerily realistic and elicit the uncanny feeling of recognizing a place you've never actually seen.

The ceramic sculptural objects by Kelly Cox seem similarly pulled from a world of a failed capitalistic experiment, with an office chair, safety cones, and mouse and bear traps in dreamy

colors occupying space along the narrow staircase that leads from gallery to gallery. Further up those stairs, Saul Chernick explores the possibilities of colors and simple shapes through painting, felt work and sculpture.

The doorway of the fourth floor was overwhelmed by a grand, site-specific sculpture by Samuelle Green, conjuring the likeness of angelic clouds of heavenly feathers, all made from the pages of old books. The gran-

deur and glory of the piece was inescapable.

Two full-room installations towards the top of the building tapped into parallel themes of home and imagination. "Protect Me From My Dreams" by Jessica Hargreaves, and "A Room of My Own" by Clarissa Pezone both explored unique interpretations of fear, safety, and the existence — imagined or real — of monsters.

While the summer exhibition

has closed, the Wassaic Project continues to host events, including an author's talk with writers and former podcast hosts Amy Stephenson and Casey Childers. A new exhibition featuring National Endowment for the Arts-commissioned works by photographer Liz Nielsen and fiber artist akeylah wellington will open on the same day, Oct. 3. That evening, musician Tim

CONTINUED ON PAGE B2

FIELD NOTES EVE BIDDLE

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INSIDE

REAL ESTATE

Amenia median home price reaches \$389,000

CALENDAR

A list of upcoming events



... Danielle Mailer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

can be in the studio working in solitude and managing a modest-size canvas as opposed to a 200-foot mural.”

Besides the small paintings, she is finishing art for gardens, which will also be in the Hunt show. These tall metal columns are topped with birds, cats or rabbits. Each side takes her about a week to paint, with the intricate patterns and designs that are trademarks of her art.

“My lifelong love for pattern spills over onto every surface, often stepping beyond canvases to chairs, walls, etc. I once saw a quote by an unknown artist who said, “To pattern is to make human.”

Mailer has also been designing costumes for the Nutmeg Ballet’s upcoming production of “El Colibri” (“The Hummingbird”).

Recently, she had a piece in Provincetown.

In mid-August, The Berta Walker Gallery which represents her, commissioned Mailer to make a piece for a show titled “Collaboration.”

“I created a five-foot spinning, two-sided figure silhouette, and my husband, Peter McEachern, a professional jazz musician, composed a piece to accompany this swinging muse. It’s the first time in our 25-year relationship that we have joined forces this way. It was very exciting and possibly a new path.”

Murals by Mailer decorate

“That painful time inspired me to pursue a career in teaching art so that I could find the kid like me who struggled academically but was able to find some joy in the art room.

DANIELLE MAILER

the city of Torrington, ranging in size from 12 feet to 200 feet. They include “Horse Tale” near the children’s museum, “Fishtales” behind Staples above the Naugatuck River, “Cat Tales” above Five Points Gallery and “Ballet Dancer” at Nutmeg Ballet. At the Bantam Arts Factory is a mural of a potter at work. Leonora, the mountain lion, is a well-known figure outside Scoville Library in Salisbury.

“As a young child I was in certain ways defined by my inability to read. I was and am, most definitely dyslexic, but in those days, some 65 years ago, they did not have the diagnostic tools. So, I felt clueless in the classroom for years. But in the art room I was often a star, and it pretty much saved me from despair. Eventually I managed and did well academically. When making things, I felt successful. I think that painful time inspired me to pursue a career in teaching art so that I could find the kid like me who struggled aca-



“Mi Alma Gemela” by Danielle Mailer, 2026. Acrylic on canvas.

demically but was able to find some joy in the art room.”

Mailer taught for 30 years, first at Indian Mountain School and then at Salisbury School.

Mailer’s parents — her father, a writer, and her mother, an abstract expressionist painter — were always very supportive of her.

“I would describe my childhood New York City apartments with my mother as creative chaos. She always picked the room with the best light to set up her studio. Invariably, this was the living room, which became an ongoing, ever-changing giant still life. Color, pattern, palettes, with large globs of paint that several cats would often run through, making colored paw

prints on the parquet floors. And then a smell of some savory stew (she was a great cook) mingling with the odor of turpentine. All of this was my childhood backdrop.”

Mailer studied at Bowdoin College, New York Studio School and the School of Visual Arts.

At New York Studio School, “We drew from the figure five hours a day and the instructors were very rigid. It was the early ’80s, and Cezanne was the artist du jour. I was more interested in making giant Matisse-like paintings but quickly realized that to survive the program it would be Cezanne. It temporarily killed my joy for painting, but I got a solid art training and so it had its value.”

She continued, “Years later, after a decade of becoming a graphic designer, I returned to painting with the move to Connecticut. There I finally felt free to shed all the ‘art teaching voices’ and make work that expressed more of my ‘inner reality.’ I wanted to make female figures and so started with simple collage and eventually moved over to acrylic on canvas and still later found a desire to pull the figure out of the picture plane and make a stand-alone silhouette.”

Mailer credits her husband with helping her figure out any problems that come up with her work and its installation.

“Peter has been my number one everything! He helps me in every way. A gatekeeper and a sounding board and a smart problem solver and a talented musician in his own right. And a really good guy.”

Art has been a support throughout her life.

“Painting keeps me glued together,” she reflected.

Mailer will take part in a panel discussion at Hunt Library, “The Business of Art,” on Sept. 24 at 5:30 p.m., along with artists Robert Cronin, Janet Andre Block and Jason Losh. The discussion will be moderated by Compass editor, artist and musician Natalia Zukerman.

To see more of Mailer’s work, visit daniellemailer.com.

LIFESTYLE

Fireplace season: make the hearth the heart of your home

By Kerri-Lee Mayland

There is something about that first wood fire of the season mixed with crisp New England air that feels like fall’s own potpourri. It’s nostalgic. It makes us think of chilly evenings, Sunday dinners, sweaters pulled out of storage and everyone coming inside a little earlier as the days grow shorter.

Even just looking at a fireplace can spark that feeling.

Fireplaces have always had a way of drawing us in. Long before we had televisions hanging above them, the hearth really was the heart of the home — a source of warmth, light, food and gathering. And while we may not depend on our fireplaces in quite the same way today, we still instinctively gravitate toward them.

So, fireplace season is here. Let’s make the most of it.

If you have a working wood-burning fireplace, use it! Once the fireplace has been properly inspected and cleaned as needed, bring in the wood, find a beautiful basket for the logs and put those fireplace tools where you can actually reach them. A fireplace doesn’t need to look pristine. In fact, they are better when they look as though someone actually lights a fire there.

Fall is also a great time to rearrange the room around your fireplace. Angle a favorite chair toward it. Pull an ottoman closer. Bring out the throws and pile them into a basket. Add a little table for a cup of tea or a glass of wine. Suddenly, you have a place that practically begs you to sit down and stay awhile.

And then, of course, there is the mantel.

We love decorating our mantels in New England, especially as the seasons change. But fall decorating doesn’t have to mean covering every available inch with orange pumpkins.

Start with what you already have. A favorite painting or mirror can be the anchor. Add candlesticks, pottery, a few branches clipped from outside, perhaps some tiny pumpkins or gourds. The best mantels feel collected and slightly imperfect — as though they evolved with the season rather than arrived in one giant shopping bag.

But what if your house doesn’t have a fireplace?

Fake it. A good trick is to find an old mantel at an antique store, flea market or architectural salvage shop and use it purely as decoration. A beautiful old mantel instantly adds architecture, history and character to a room, even if there isn’t a chimney anywhere in sight.

And don’t forget: The space underneath is just as much of a design opportunity as the mantel itself.

Place a large basket beneath it and fill it with logs. You may never burn a single one, but you’ll still get that wonderful

CONTINUED ON PAGE B5

...Wassaic Project

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

Love Lee will present the first of three “Resonant Reflections” performances in the Gridley Chapel, which are being described as “part nightclub, part ashram and a sonic bath for your heart and feet.”

On the weekend of Oct. 23, however, the monsters will reappear at the Wassaic Project’s Haunted Barn and Monster’s Ball. In the past, the Project has hosted their Haunted Mill, an artist’s rendition of a grand-scale haunted house with scares and sculpture given equal weight. This year, they’re moving to a barn building with fewer stairs and more possibilities for frights. On Saturday, Oct. 24, they’ll team up with Wassaic’s Lantern Inn bar and pizza restaurant for some serious celebration of the season. The Monster’s Ball is not for the casual observer. Costumes are required, and tickets sell out early. Show up with a ticket but no cos-



PHOTOS BY D.H. CALLAHAN

Above, A site-specific sculptural work by Samuelle Green at Wassaic Project. Right, “Protect Me From My Dreams” by Jessica Hargreaves at Wassaic Project



tume, and they’ll turn you away. But arrive in the appropriate attire, and get ready to boogie with the baddies.

To learn more about the Wassaic Project’s upcoming programs and snag your tickets to the Monster’s Ball, head to wassaicproject.org.

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New Harmony

Where the music takes you.

Shortly after WKZE was founded in Sharon in the late 1980’s, the station approached Oblong Books as a possible advertising client. Unwilling to part with cash at that point, Dick Hermans and Holly Nelson proposed creating a radio show in return for advertising. **Harmony Junction** (as the show was called then) was born.

The Millerton News and The Lakeville Journal congratulate **Dick, our 2026 Estabrook Community Leadership honoree**, who continues hosting his weekly program nearly 40 years later, live from 98.1 KZE’s studios in Red Hook.

New Harmony is every Saturday morning from 9 to 11 and features an eclectic blend of acoustic folk, bluegrass, Celtic and related musical genres contributing to the station’s notable musical diversity.

The Millerton News | The Lakeville Journal
Local Matters

You may have heard Dick before ...

For several years, Dick also did a similar show, “The Borderline,” on Robin Hood Radio. Those programs were recorded and are rebroadcast every **Tuesday at 8 pm** and **Saturday at 6 pm**, on WHDD 91.9.



A wall at the Mine Hill Distillery tasting room.

PHOTOS BY D.H. CALLAHAN

... Mine Hill Distillery

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

work stills in Montana and Wisconsin.

Through that time, Byles picked up quite the passion for what you can do to spirits, as well as what you can do with them. He'll be quick to give visitors tips and tricks to tweak their old-fashioned to their preferences, but ask the right questions in the Mine Hill Tasting Room, and he might start telling you about ways to use their Amaro to cook burgers or top your ice cream. That's right: Amaro.

When the distillery opened in 2019, they started, as many small distilleries do, with their whiskeys. Whiskey is the only spirit they make that requires substantial time to age. So they started there, allowing their product to mature as they experimented with other spirits. Gin and vodka are the logical next in line.

Very few distilleries venture into the world of Amaro. In fact, Mine Hill seems to be the only one in the state. The decision was partially a fun experiment and partially a tactic in their game plan to provide cocktail enthusiasts with the ingredients they need to concoct their own creations. Similarly, Byles is making his Amaro his own way, using maple syrup as a sweetener. By his estimation, he may be the only one in the world using this process as such a scale, adding 170 gallons of Vermont Maple Syrup to 490 gallons of wine from Hopkins Vineyard, just



Mine Hill distiller Chris Byles

up the road in Warren, Connecticut. They mix it all up with a secret blend of herbs and spices, age it for over seven months and end up with a unique spirit perfect for mixing, cooking or even sipping over ice.

Amaro isn't their only tactic for filling out a cocktail bar. Understanding that not every casual cocktail creator wants to use a nicer, pricier spirit as their base, the distillery released their Iron

Trail line. Named after the historic iron blast furnace just up the road from the distillery, their Iron Trail bourbon and vodka offer quality distilled spirits at a more affordable price point.

As we leave summer behind us and evenings reclaim their crisp temperatures, now is also a great time to explore the possibilities of Mine Hill's signature bourbon and rye. The tasting room and their website are

chalk full of cocktail ideas, but as Byles says, the best cocktails are the ones made to your taste. So have fun with their spirits, and enjoy the process.

To see their full lineup and get some cocktail suggestions, visit minehilldistillery.com.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Limited-edition print "Wander, Dusk," by Sharon painter Jeff Joyce will debut at Sharon Land Trust's Cider Press Party on Sept. 19 and then be on view at DUGAZON in Sharon through Sept. 27.

ART

The 'gray hum' of the Sharon landscape

By Natalia Zukerman

Sharon painter Jeff Joyce has created a new limited-edition print, "Wandering, Dusk," to benefit the Sharon Land Trust.

The print, which will debut at the Land Trust's annual Cider Press Party on Sept. 19, captures the quiet atmosphere of the Northwest Corner at day's end. Trees and clouds appear in translucent shades of gray against a pale gray ground, creating a shifting sense of space and perspective. Joyce describes the effect as a pictorial equivalent of a "gray hum," an homage to the stillness of a winter evening as the sun disappears early.

Joyce, who has lived in Sharon since 2013, is a frequent visitor to the Sharon Land Trust's trails. The landscape and history of Litchfield County have become central to his work, which has been exhibited national-

ly and locally, including at the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art and the Carnegie Museum of Art.

"Since moving to Sharon 13 years ago, I've drawn most of my inspiration, ideas about painting, and the landscape, from the land in and around Sharon," Joyce said. "I am grateful for the opportunity to support the mission of the Land Trust."

Following the Cider Press Party, "Wandering, Dusk" will be on view at DUGAZON, 19 West Main St., Sharon, from Sept. 23 through Sept. 27. Proceeds from the sale of the print will support the Sharon Land Trust's work conserving and stewarding more than 4,840 acres of open space, forests and farmland in Sharon.

Information about the Cider Press Party and tickets is available at tinyurl.com/2026CiderPress.

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Bronze sculpture “Tierra y Cielo” by Jon Riedeman.

PHOTO BY BARRY WEBBER

ART

Norfolk sculptor’s raven lands at The Mount

By Patricia Platt

A bronze sculpture by Norfolk artist Jon Riedeman is on view through Oct. 24 at The Mount, Edith Wharton’s home in Lenox, Massachusetts. The work is one of two dozen large-scale sculptures selected for this year’s juried exhibition, which carries the theme “Flourish” and celebrates connection, growth, hope and resilience. The exhibition is free and open to the public daily from dawn to dusk.

Riedeman’s sculpture, titled “Tierra y Cielo” (Earth and Sky), depicts a raven balancing two ideas at once.

“Across cultures, the raven represents survival, transformation and wisdom,” explained Riedeman. “The raven is neither in flight nor at rest, balancing strength and vulnerability as it reaches outward. Its extended wings suggest growth and possibility, while its firm grip on the branch reflects stability, grounding and connection to place.”

Riedeman built the original in microcrystalline wax over an aluminum armature, and it was cast in bronze at Argos foundry in Brewster, New York. It recently received a fresh patina from WellSculpt, a foundry in Albany, New York.

Barry Webber, director

of the Norfolk Historical Society and Museum, commented on having local work featured at the show.

“I love visiting the annual sculpture show at The Mount, and this year especially, knowing that Jon had a piece in the exhibition,” he said. “It’s so wonderful having such a talented sculptor in Norfolk.”

Sculpture at The Mount is a fixture of the Berkshire cultural season, drawing thousands of visitors over its summer-to-fall run. Selection is competitive: Guest juror Jess Wilcox reviewed the 2026 submissions from an open call alongside Mount staff, trustees and professional artists. Because the grounds are expansive, large-scale work is favored, and all materials must withstand outdoor conditions, including extreme heat, direct sun, heavy rain and high winds.

Many of the sculptures are available for purchase. When a piece sells, the artist receives 70% of the sale price and The Mount keeps 30% to support the program. Not every work is for sale; that decision rests with each artist. Visitors interested in a specific sculpture can inquire about availability and pricing.

For more information on “Sculpture at The Mount,” visit edithwharton.org.

WRITER’S NOTEBOOK

You can’t see Brimfield in a day

By D.H. Callahan

The first thing you’re going to worry about when you get to Brimfield is parking. Luckily, there are tons of fields reserved for that exact purpose. Don’t just take the first available one, because that walk back to your car will get tiring by the third trip. Next, you’re going to worry about timing. When does this market open? When does that one close? Are there any vendors sticking around until 5 p.m.? How could you possibly see it all?

You can’t. At least not in one day.

If you mention Brimfield to anybody who’s been there, they’ll be quick to tell you that it is not actually one unfathomably large antiques flea market. It’s many big markets, all coordinated to open the same three weeks every year: once in May, once in July and once in September.

The whole thing started in 1959, when auctioneer Gordon Ried decided to emulate the outdoor antiques flea markets he’d seen in Connecticut up on his farmland in Brimfield, Massachusetts. It began with 67 vendors but would never be that small again. Within a few years, his Auction Acres was packed to the brim, and nearby farmers started opening their fields to more vendors.

Today, there are more than 20 individual markets, all with different schedules and specialties. Despite the varying lineups, one thing remains consistent throughout the event: quality. No matter what field you wander onto



A whole section dedicated to camping and outdoor gear at Brimfield.

and whether or not they have an entry fee, you’ll find treasures everywhere you look.

Sure, there are some tents that have more of the contemporary collectibles, like boxes of Funko Pop! dolls and Marvel movie posters — the same stuff you see at every event of this kind. They’re always easy to identify and usually just steps away from some serious treasures, like a whole tent of midcentury furniture or one full of old, obsolete hand tools for oddly specific jobs. There are tents dedicated to vintage lighting and antique fixtures for restoring your new old furniture. Political pins and postcards dating back to the 1800s. Clown shoes and cauldrons and canoes. Funerary art made from the deceased’s



PHOTOS BY D.H. CALLAHAN

A wicker viewing coffin from a closed funeral home for sale at Brimfield.

hair. More things made of wicker than you’d imagine necessary.

Many of the vendors have their own antiques or interiors shops, and they make the trip once, twice and even three times a year from all over the country. More and more, though, it seems to be avid collectors who use the events as a way to justify their collections, selling off items to make way for new stuff.

The buyers are everybody from locals interested in the hubbub to regional antique enthusiasts to career collectors. It’s not hard to find interior designers from Florida picking through the good stuff at every field. The

social diversity is also pretty rich, with all races, ages and economic categories represented. Everybody seems to get along wonderfully, encouraging one another to make fun purchases and laughing together at the awkwardness of navigating their bodies around all the delicate delights.

Brimfield is all wrapped up for this year, but now is the perfect time to plan for next year. The trip is about two hours from the Northwest corner, so if you want to see all you can see, there are many hotels and motels with rooms available for the May show. Learn more, and plan your next trip at brimfieldantiquefleamarket.com.

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Mod-style egg chairs in wicker at Brimfield.

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Trinity Gallery Juried Show
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Opening Reception & Awarding of Prizes
Friday, September 18, 2026 5:00 to 7:00 PM

The Show Continues:
September 19, 20, & 26, 27
12PM to 4PM each day



PHOTOS BY BOBBY GRAHAM

A taste of late summer, with tomatoes, herbs and plenty of good sauce.

Bobby’s Chicken Provençal

September is one of our favorite times of year in the kitchen. Summer isn’t quite over, fall is beginning to make itself known, and gardens and local farm stands are overflowing with some of the best tomatoes of the season.

That’s when we make this Chicken Provençal. It’s one of those recipes that feels special enough to serve to friends but easy enough for a weeknight dinner for two. That’s how we like to cook: simple, generous food that brings people to the table without keeping you in the kitchen all evening.

The tomatoes are really the star here. They cook down with garlic, shallots, Herbes de Provence, white wine and capers into a rustic sauce. The chicken cooks right alongside everything, soaking up all those wonderful juices.

Serve it straight from the pot with couscous or rice to catch the sauce, a simple green salad and perhaps a crisp, cold white wine. Put it all on the table and let everyone help themselves.

Easy, delicious and made for sharing. Our kind of dinner.

Bobby’s Chicken Provençal
Serves 4 to 6

Ingredients

- 8 bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 shallots, thinly sliced
- 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 5 ripe medium tomatoes, roughly chopped
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 2 teaspoons Herbes de Provence

What’s cooking ...

Bobby Graham
& Matthew Marden

- 2 tablespoons capers, drained
 - 1 bay leaf
 - Fresh parsley or basil, roughly chopped, for serving
 - Lemon wedges, for serving
- Preparation**
- Pat the chicken dry and season generously with salt and pepper.
 - Heat the olive oil in a large Dutch oven or heavy skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chicken, skin-side down, and cook until deeply golden, about 6 to 8 minutes. Turn and cook for another 3 to 4 minutes. Transfer the chicken to a plate.
 - Lower the heat to medium. Add the shallots to the same pot and cook until softened, about 3 minutes. Add the garlic and cook for another minute, being careful not to let it brown.
 - Pour in the white wine, scraping up the browned bits from the bottom of the

- pot. Let the wine simmer for 2 to 3 minutes.
- Add the tomatoes, Herbes de Provence, capers and bay leaf. Season with a little salt and pepper and stir to combine.
 - Nestle the chicken back into the pot, skin-side up, along with any juices that have collected on the plate. Spoon a little of the tomato mixture around the chicken, leaving the crispy skin exposed.
 - Transfer the uncovered pot to a 375-degree oven and cook for 30 to 35 minutes, until the chicken is cooked through and the tomatoes have softened into a rich, rustic sauce.
 - Remove the bay leaf, taste the sauce and adjust the seasoning. Scatter fresh parsley or basil over the top and serve straight from the pot with lemon wedges alongside.
- NOTE:** Don’t worry about making this too perfect. Use the tomatoes you have, add a little more garlic if you love garlic, throw in a few more capers if that’s your thing. Put the pot in the middle of the table, open the wine and enjoy.
- Each month, Bobby Graham and Matthew Marden, owners of Dugazon in Sharon, share a recipe inspired by the traditions, stories and a sense of welcome.*

...fireplace season

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B2

visual warmth and texture. Or fill the space with an enormous arrangement of dried hydrangeas from summer. By fall, those bright summer blooms have faded into beautiful muted greens, dusty pinks and creams. Pile them generously into an old basket, crock or oversized vessel and suddenly you have this gorgeous, romantic focal point.

You could even turn the space into a tiny library. Tuck a small bookshelf beneath the mantel or stack favorite books inside. Add a chair nearby, and you’ve created a charming little reading corner around a fireplace that doesn’t actually exist.

And if you want more than the illusion of warmth, electric fireplaces have come a long way.

There are beautiful options now that can be inserted into an existing nonworking fireplace or incorporated into a new mantel. You get the glow and movement of flames, plus actual heat, without needing a chimney. For apartments, newer homes or rooms where adding a traditional fireplace simply isn’t practical, they can completely change the atmosphere.

Because fireplace season isn’t really just about fire.

It’s about creating a reason to gather. To turn off a few lights, pull up a chair and settle in. It’s about the glow, the warmth and that unmistakable feeling that fall has arrived.



PHOTOS BY KERRI-LEE MAYLAND

A cozy fireplace sets the stage for fall, with layered textures and seasonal touches creating a warm gathering place.

The MILLERTON NEWS

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arts

Local Matters

News and Arts reporting in Northwest Connecticut and Eastern Dutchess County in New York

The Lakeville Journal lakevillejournal.com

The Millerton News millertonnews.com

the Moviehouse

SHOWTIMES & TICKETS

FRI 09/18 > THU 09/24

themoviehouse.net

PRACTICAL MAGIC 2	Sun. 9/20 @ 1PM JAMES McNEILL WHISTLER
RESIDENT EVIL	Wed. 9/23 @ 6PM LAST ECSTATIC DAYS +Q&A
THE UPRISING	Thu. 9/24 @ 7PM NT Live MISANTHROPE

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PHOTO BY JOSHUA SOUTH

On Saturday, Sept. 19 at 3 p.m. at Smithfield Church (656 Smithfield Road, Amenia), organ virtuoso Kent Tritle will perform works by J.S. Bach, Buxtehude, Frescobaldi, Jean Demessieux and Rachel Laurin on the church's historic tracker organ. The 14th annual performance benefits the Oratorio Society of New York. A reception with Tritle will follow. Suggested donation is \$25; all are welcome.

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Tri-Corner Calendar

SEPTEMBER 1-30

Library Card Sign-Up Month

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org Sharon residents can stop by the library to sign up for a library card and participate in a punch-card program for new and existing cardholders. Each library visit for a book checkout or program earns a punch; five punches earn a small gift and an entry to win a gift card to J.P. Gifford Café. For more information, call 860-364-5041 or visit hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org.

SEPTEMBER THROUGH OCTOBER

Beth Miller and Dylan Vadakin

Douglas Library, 108 Main St., North Canaan, Conn. douglaslibrarycanaan.org Canaan artist Beth Miller and her son, Dylan Vadakin, exhibit their work in a variety of media. Miller's work ranges from murals and painted furniture to portraiture and display signs, often drawing inspiration from nature. Vadakin specializes in signage, transforming unusual found objects, including old windows and cars, into works of art. More info and library hours at douglaslibrarycanaan.org

SEPTEMBER 16

Dahlia Festival

Dewey Hall, 91 Main St., Sheffield, Mass. Sept. 16 through Sept. 20

Cultivation to Completion workshop on Wednesday, Sept. 16 at 6:30 p.m. with Allison Chase of Dahlia Daughter. Dahlia contest, workshop and cocktail benefit on Saturday, Sept. 19 and And Afternoon of Blooms on Sunday, Sept. 20. For a complete listing and more information, visit deweyhall.org

SEPTEMBER 17

Exhibition: Field Notes, Work by Eve Biddle

Tremaine Gallery, The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn. Sept. 2 through Oct. 18

Multidisciplinary artist Eve Biddle explores memory, transformation and the cyclical nature of life in this solo exhibition, curated by Terri Moore. An artist talk with Biddle will be held Sept. 17 from 7 to 7:45 p.m., followed by a public reception Sept. 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. Free and open to the public.

Twilight Paddle Through Thousand Acre Swamp

New Marlborough, Mass. Explore the beauty of Thousand Acre Swamp at dusk during a guided evening paddle with the Housatonic Valley Association. Participants will explore wetland habitats, look for wildlife and experience the transition from day to night on the water. The leisurely paddle is appropriate for all levels and lasts approximately two hours. 6 p.m. More info at hvatoday.org

The Pyrocene: Living in a New Age of Fire

Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, 2801 Sharon Turnpike, Millbrook, N.Y. Environmental historian Stephen Pyne, a leading authority on the history and man-

agement of fire, joins Cary Institute ecologist Winslow Hansen for a conversation about humanity's changing relationship with fire. The program will also be livestreamed. 7 p.m. Free; registration required at caryinstitute.org

SEPTEMBER 18

Trinity Church Lime Rock

Art Show 484 Lime Rock Road, Lime Rock, Conn. Sept. 18 to 27

The annual Trinity Church Art Show features approximately 65 artists from Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts. An opening reception and awards presentation will be held Sept. 18 from 5–7 p.m.; the show continues Sept. 19, 20, 26 and 27, noon–4 p.m. More info at trinitylimerock.org.

“Who Were the Wobblies?: Hidden Labor History”

American Mural Project, 90 Whiting St., Winsted, Conn. American Mural Project presents a screening of “The Wobblies,” followed by a discussion with historian Hamish Lutris and author and activist Steve Thornton. Doors open at 5 p.m., with the program at 5:30 p.m. Tickets at americanmuralproject.org

Evolving Education: Issues Facing America's Young Adults and the Educators Who Guide Them

Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Falls Village, Conn. At 7:30 p.m., The Salisbury Forum presents Dr. Miguel Cardona, chair of the Connecticut Career Pathways Commission, former commissioner of the Connecticut State Department of Education and the 12th U.S. secretary of education. Cardona will discuss the current landscape of education and the challenges facing students and educators, as well as the impact of education policy, sustainable career pathways, and the promises and limitations of higher education.

SEPTEMBER 19

Berkshire Biodiversity Day

Bartholomew's Cobble, 105 Weatogue Road, Sheffield, Mass. Noon Saturday to noon Sunday, join the Berkshire Environmental Action Team for a 24-hour BioBlitz celebrating the biodiversity of the Berkshires. Participants can take part in guided walks, species surveys, demonstrations, presentations and hands-on activities with biologists, naturalists and other experts. Free and open to all ages and experience levels. More information at thebeatnews.org.

Cornwall Town-Wide Tag Sale on the Village Green

Cornwall Village Green, Cornwall, Conn. All Cornwall residents are welcome to set up tables. Come and find a treasure from 9 a.m. to noon. Please register for a space with Nancy Calhoun at cathedral-pinesfarm@gmail.com

Susan Carr: Sick of the Devil

LABspace, 2642 NY Route 23, Hillsdale, N.Y. Opening reception for Susan Carr's eighth and final solo exhibition at LABspace from 1 to 5 p.m.

Together Again: Squeak

Items appear as space permits.

Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com.

Carnwath and Kathy Butterly

daphne Gallery and Advisory, 55 West Morris Road, Bantam, Conn. Sept. 19 through Jan. 9

An exhibition bringing together the work of artists Squeak Carnwath and Kathy Butterly, whose friendship began when Carnwath was Butterly's professor at UC Davis in the 1980s. Open house Sept. 19, 2 to 6 p.m. By appointment thereafter.

Dual Vision: Photographs by Lazlo Gyorsok and Jack Kearney

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org Sept. 19 through Nov. 7

An exhibition of black-and-white photographs of animals by Lazlo Gyorsok and color landscapes by Jack Kearney. Artist reception Sept. 19, 5 to 7 p.m. Registration requested at cornwalllibrary.org

Kent Tritle Organ Recital

Smithfield Church, 656 Smithfield Valley Road (Route 83), Amenia, N.Y. New York Philharmonic organist Kent Tritle performs works by J.S. Bach, Buxtehude, Frescobaldi, Jean Demessieux and Rachel Laurin on Smithfield Church's historic tracker organ. 3 p.m. Suggested donation. Reception follows. Accessible and air conditioned.

My Heart Like a Kick Drum

Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 5 & 7 Fulling Lane, Kent, Conn. A two-person exhibition featuring artists Will Hutnick and Melissa Marks, whose work explores rhythm, repetition and emotional energy. Public reception 4 to 6 p.m.

Wandering Dusk

Dugazon, 19 West Main St., Sharon, Conn. Sept. 19 through Sunday, Sept. 27

Sharon artist Jeff Joyce's new limited-edition print, “Wandering, Dusk,” debuts at the Sharon Land Trust's annual Cider Press Party fundraiser on Saturday, Sept. 19 at 48 Herrick Road in Sharon before going on view at DUGAZON (19 West Main St., Sharon) from Sept. 23 through 27. The print, inspired by the quiet beauty of the Northwest Corner at day's end, will be sold to benefit the Sharon Land Trust's work to conserve and steward land in Sharon. For more info, visit sharonlandtrust.org

Art Show

Common Place Craft, 50 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. Opening of a two-person show featuring the ceramics of Jennifer Langhammer and the papier-maché of Polly Shindler. 5 to 8 p.m.

International Observe the Moon Night at Innisfree

Innisfree Garden, 362 Tyrel Road, Millbrook, N.Y. Celebrate NASA's International Observe the Moon Night with a talk by science writer Corey S. Powell followed by telescope viewing of the Moon and other celestial objects with volunteers from the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association. 6 to 9:30 p.m. Preregistration strongly advised at innisfreegarden.org. Weather permitting.

Revolutionary Roundtable

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

The David M. Hunt Library

hosts a monthly reading and discussion group led by Falls Village resident and amateur historian Richard Berzine, exploring the emerging nation from 1740–1791. September's discussion, “Fueling the Road to Revolution,” will examine trigger events, acts of Parliament and the struggle over dual sovereignty, with readings from “The Last King of America: The Misunderstood Reign of George III” by Andrew Roberts. 10:30 a.m. Participants may attend individual sessions or the full series.

“Danielle Mailer: New Paintings”

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org Sept. 19 through Oct. 23

New paintings by local artist Danielle Mailer, featuring fig-

ures in motion, dancing silhouettes, musical motifs and her recurring crows and cats. A reception with the artist is Sept. 19, 5–7 p.m. On Sept. 24 at 5:30 p.m., Mailer joins artists Jason Losh, Janet André Block and Robert Cronin for “The Business of Art,” a panel discussion moderated by journalist and arts advocate Natalia Zukerman. More info at huntlibrary.org/art-wall or 860-824-7424.

Walk the Rattlesnake

Preserve Rattlesnake Preserve, Cornwall, Conn. Join Deb Bennett and Terry Burke for a guided walk through the fields and forests of Rattlesnake Preserve, exploring its agricultural history, stone walls, stone bridges, hedgerows, old foundations and varied forest habitats. 10 a.m.; approximately 1 hour and 1 mile. Free. Park

at the Rattlesnake Road entrance near Cogswell Road. Presented in collaboration with Housatonic Heritage Walks. Registration requested at cornwallconservationtrust.org

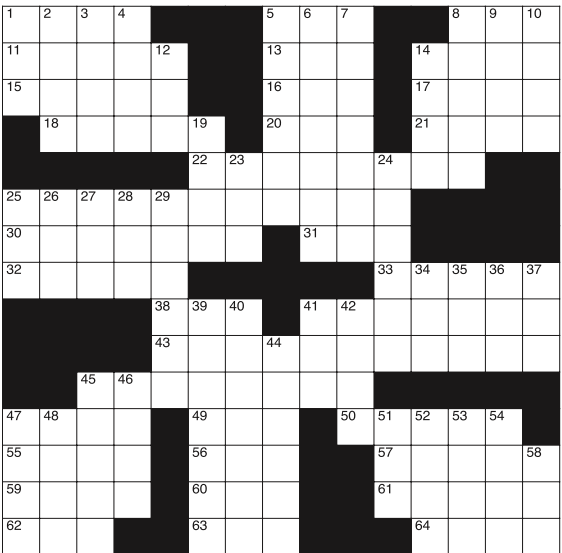
Craft Your Own Rustic Welcome Sign

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org Join Anne Cameron to create a simple, modern version of the traditional Scandinavian “velkommen” welcome sign, inspired by folk art traditions and rosemaling. All materials will be provided. Children ages 8 and up are welcome with an adult. 10 a.m.-noon. Free and open to all; registration required: hotchkisslibraryofsharon.org

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

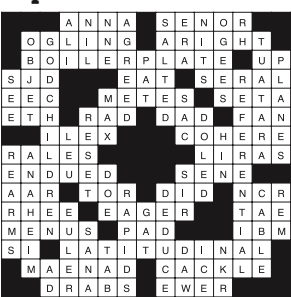
- 1. Egyptian bull god
- 5. A young canine
- 8. North Carolina university
- 11. “Oddbod” actor Tom
- 13. Midway between northeast and east
- 14. A place to shop
- 15. Mysterious “Severance” family
- 16. Single Lens Reflex
- 17. Malaria
- 18. Informal loan organizations
- 20. Twitching
- 21. Holm oak
- 22. Willing to consent
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Stuck it out
- 31. Language in Ghana
- 32. Obtain
- 33. Ancient Greek currency
- 38. One point east (clockwise) of due north
- 41. Popular baseball movie
- 43. Group of islands
- 45. Church building
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Late AC/DC frontman Scott
- 50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 55. Thick piece of something
- 56. Breakfast food
- 57. One mole of solute per kilogram of solvent
- 59. Ancient Greek City
- 60. Bitterly regret
- 61. Don't forget it
- 62. Dishonorable man
- 63. Affirmative
- 64. “_ and flows”



- 14. It's delivered most days
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Water soaked soil
- 24. Of a past era
- 25. Chest muscle (slang)
- 26. Ribonucleic acid
- 27. Doctor of Education
- 28. Coffee receptacle
- 29. Where rockstars work
- 34. International airport in Connecticut
- 35. Russian river
- 36. It's used to make cabins
- 37. OJ trial judge Lance
- 39. A means to persuade
- 40. Short poem
- 41. A way to begin hostilities with
- 42. Multi-function radar (abbr.)
- 44. Joints
- 45. Blatted
- 46. Swedish rock group

- 47. Millisecond
- 48. _ podrida: Spanish stew
- 51. Doctors' group
- 52. Trunk of a tree
- 53. Tattle
- 54. Metrical foot
- 58. _ Angeles

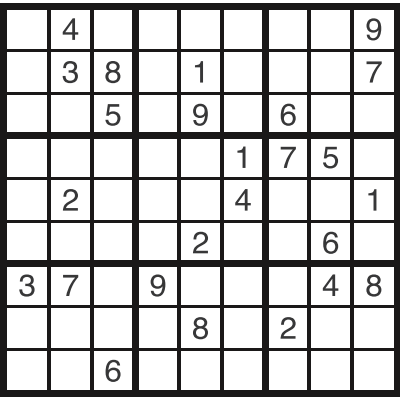
September 10 Solution



CLUES DOWN

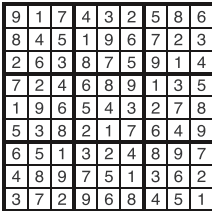
- 1. Bridge-building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Lizard species
- 4. Turkish leader title
- 5. A way to bother
- 6. Blank
- 7. A fine, closely woven cotton fabric
- 8. Sports broadcaster Ian
- 9. Popular whodunit board game
- 10. Alkali flats mineral
- 12. Large African antelope

Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

September 10 Solution



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OUR TOWNS

Amenia median home price reaches \$389,000

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — The median price of a single-family home in Amenias rose 21.5% year over year, reaching \$389,000 for the 12 months ending July 31, 2026.

A year earlier, the median over the same 12-month period was \$320,000, while the comparable figure in 2024 was \$345,000. The current median is 12.8% higher than it was two years ago.

The figures exclude sales pertaining to the Silo Ridge Field Club, where multimillion-dollar properties occupy a substantially different segment of the market.

While Amenias home prices increased sharply from a year earlier, the number of homes sold changed little. Excluding Silo Ridge, 27 single-family homes sold during the 12 months ending July 31, up from 25 during the preceding 12-month period.

There were 31 sales during the 12 months ending July 31, 2024. The latest total remained within Amenias historical range of approximately two to three home sales per month.

Fifteen single-family homes were publicly listed for sale in Amenias in early September. Seven were priced below the current median of \$389,000.

Silo Ridge has accounted for most of the money chang-

ing hands in Amenias real estate market this year. Public and private transactions in the town totaled approximately \$25 million for the year through July 31. Eight Silo Ridge sales represented about 80% of that volume, or approximately \$20 million.

July Transfers

60 Roundabout Way – 3 bedroom/2.5 bath townhouse assessed at \$967,400 transferred to MW Bros LLC for \$2,250,000

31 Yellow City Road – 3 bedroom/2 bath split level ranch on 2.58 acres transferred to Deborah Marturano for \$440,000

51 Depot Hill Road – 3 bedroom/1.5 bath home on .62 acres transferred to Harmanpreet Singh for \$381,000

Depot Hill Road (Parcel #297367) - .7 acres of vacant land transferred to Habitat for Humanity for \$30,000

108 Westerly Ridge Drive — A 27.01-acre property with western views transferred to Poconnuck Land Partners LLC for \$700,000. It previously sold for \$850,000 in December 2005 and was listed for sale beginning in 2016 for \$1.5 million, according to OneKey MLS.

* Town of Amenias property transfers are supplied by Dutchess County Office of Real Property. Property details are from Dutchess Parcel



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

31 Yellow City Road, a three-bedroom ranch with distant views, sold in May and was transferred in July 2026 for \$440,000.

Access, and current market data are from OneKey MLS and InfoSparks. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sothebys International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

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Email Resume and Writing Samples to [Christian Murray, christianm@lakevillejournal.com](mailto:christianm@lakevillejournal.com).

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