



SPORTS

Dragons face Mountaineers **B3**



MILLBROOK
Gingerbread houses **A6**

COMPASS

10 Years of Five Points; Calendar; And More **B1-2**



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Marathon hearing airs Sharon Hospital request

By **PATRICK L. SULLIVAN**
patrick@lakevillejournal.com

SHARON, Conn. — The state Office of Health Strategies online public hearing on Sharon Hospital's application to close its labor and delivery unit started on time at 10 a.m. and ended at 9:36 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Sharon Hospital and Nuvance Health, its parent, kicked things off. Hospital representatives stated and restated their argument

that the labor and delivery unit is a low volume service (173 births in fiscal 2021) that loses \$3 million per year and is economically unviable.

The hospital officials argued that closing labor and delivery is a critical part of its overall plan for the hospital, allowing it to expand and add other needed services, especially care for seniors.

The hospital officials also said that women can — and often do — choose other, nearby hospitals for

deliveries, and that Sharon Hospital's Emergency Department will be able to handle pregnancy-related emergencies should they arise.

The Save Sharon Hospital group, which appeared as intervenors and on the Zoom meeting as a group from Sharon Town Hall, argued that there is a crisis of maternal care in the country and that the area served by Sharon Hospital has been largely shielded

See **SHARON HOSPITAL, A8**



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Sharon Town Hall was an access gathering point for viewing and testifying at the state's virtual hearing on Tuesday, Dec. 6, about Sharon Hospital's application to close its maternity unit.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left, Gerda Thuell reaches out to Baku, a six-month old miniature horse that came to visit at The Fountains on Thursday, Dec. 8. Equine therapist Kelly Lattin and resident Jenifer Thuell look on.

Horse therapy comes to the Fountains

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Dogs are probably the most common therapy animals; both cats and dogs are most likely the most popular house pets.

But if you ask the residents of the Fountains, there's a good chance that they will say their favorites are the horses that visit them once a month.

Yes, Baku and Bug are very popular with them and it's no wonder, because the miniature horses are friendly, mostly quiet, and unique when visiting in the living room at

the Inn, or in the gardens outside when the weather is nice

Kelly Lattin is the volunteer who brings both Baku, 6 months old, and Bug, 5 months old, for the much anticipated visits.

Lattin is a U.S. Army veteran, having served from 1990-98. Originally from this area — growing up, in fact, in Morse Mills — Lattin has always been fond of horses and she has four horses besides Bug and Baku, some of which are rescues. She has a Thoroughbred named Journey, and her family also includes a quarter horse called Kivi, and Felix,

See **HORSE THERAPY, A8**

Passage of school capital spending referendum marks start of infrastructure work

By **DEBORAH MAIER**
Special to The Millerton News

AMENIA — With the \$12.5 million capital project spending referendum for Webutuck schools handily voted in on Tuesday, Dec. 6, the long process leading to meeting the school district's infrastructure needs can begin, said Webutuck Central School District Superintendent Raymond Castellani.

Castellani noted that the turnout and range of votes, with 141 "yes" and 46 "no" votes, was about

"A power outage of two days caused the pipes in our basement to freeze, which could have been prevented if a generator had kept the water running."

Raymond Castellani, Webutuck Central School District Superintendent

typical for such referenda.

The superintendent stressed that the upcoming expenditures are strictly for infrastructure and for "needs, not wants." Those are enumerated below and on several short videos on the district's home page, www.webutuckschools.org/domain/402.

As to timing of the work, what happens now is that the district's engineers will "design specs for everything and submit those to New York state for review." That process normally takes a few months, and Castellani estimated that the next

See **SCHOOL SPENDING, A8**

Dutchess Stadium gets funding boost from county legislature

By **EMILY EDELMAN**
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POUGHKEEPSIE — The Dutchess County Legislature prioritized investments in recreation and municipal services as well as grant opportunities for youth programs when it passed the 2023 county budget on Thursday, Dec. 8, by a vote of 18-7.

The largest expenditure was a \$25 million fund transfer to the Capital Project Fund to finance im-

provements to Dutchess Stadium in Wappingers Falls, according to a press release. The budget totals nearly \$588 million.

A number of town hall forums preceded the adoption of the budget, and residents were given the opportunity to communicate with County Executive Marc Molinaro to learn budget details and put forth questions and feedback.

Amendments made by legislators included \$1.2 million for the Department of Planning and De-

velopment's Competitive Grant Program, with \$1 million going to not-for-profit infrastructure grants and \$200,000 to youth programming for at-risk teens, respite and parenting programs; an increase of \$500,000 to fire, safety and law enforcement grant opportunities for the Department of Planning and Development; a \$200,000 increase for the Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet of the

See **DUTCHESS STADIUM, A8**



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OPINION

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OUR TOWNS

News Analysis: Workforce and affordable housing

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — If one has attended Amenia Town Hall meetings over the past few years, you would have heard much about affordable housing, Silo Ridge, Workforce Housing and more that might seem complicated.

What most do understand is that Amenia, like many other communities in the region and across the country, needs affordable housing. Throughout the surrounding communities of Millerton, Millbrook, Pine Plains and others, the people who work in those towns often can't afford to live there.

Silo Ridge was recently built, but its accommodations fall into the luxury category, so its builders are expected to also build workforce housing. They can opt out, under current local law, and pay a fee instead. Many

Relationships discussed at Peace Sanctuary

WASSAIC — Learn about the importance of relationships — how to cultivate and develop healthy ones — starting with oneself.

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The workshops are facilitated by Kishma Turnbull.

To register or learn more, email info@worldpeace.org.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

A billboard along Route 22 in Amenia is a part of a wider effort by the Tri-Town Coalition to increase awareness about the lack of affordable housing in northern Dutchess County.

local residents oppose this provision. Amenia has a Town Board, a Planning Board and a Zoning Board, and discussions about this problem are ongoing at all of these boards.

Workforce housing is described as being built for

families that are between real affordable housing and luxury housing. Many families have two members working full-time jobs, but still can't afford to buy a house at the current market rates. It's for families that earn 80-120% of median in-

come, but the actual amount depends on where you live and the market you fit in.

Often people mistake workforce housing and affordable housing, but there is a difference. Affordable housing means any housing that can be afforded by a family that is at 60% of median income or below.

Workforce housing is

Millerton Farmers Market moves to indoor venue through January

The Millerton Farmers Market, sponsored by the North East Community Center, has moved a few steps from the park at the corner of Dutchess Avenue and Main Street to the indoor warmth of the United Methodist Church at that location.

The market will continue every Saturday — including Christmas and New Year's Eve — from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. until the end of January. At that time, it will operate every other Saturday. For details including vendors, check www.neccmillerton.org/farmers-market.

Wreaths on veterans' graves set for Dec. 17

PINE PLAINS — The Wreaths Across America ceremony will be held at Evergreen Cemetery in Pine Plains on Saturday, Dec. 17 at noon.

All are invited to join in laying wreaths on veterans' graves.

61% or a higher amount, for families that are not dependent on the government, or a subsidized program such as Section 8 which can relate to both affordable housing and workforce housing.

What this has to do with Amenia and Silo Ridge is that Silo Ridge has the ability, through current local law, to opt out of building workforce housing by paying a fee. In lieu of building that housing. Resolution 53 of 2021 title reads "...accepting payment in lieu of providing Workforce Housing from Silo Ridge Ventures, LLC. pursuant to the Town of Amenia Workforce Housing Law." It further states that according to law, any development of 10 or more dwelling units must have at least 10% of the units classified as workforce housing units. Resolution 36 of 2021 created a Town Workforce Housing Trust Fund to hold the funds received either for payments or donations.

Silo Ridge had, at that time, 345 approved units requiring a total of 25 units to be classified as workforce housing units. The town acknowledged receiving payment of \$61,000, which was 10% of the calculated \$611,000 total agreement amount that was to be paid immediately, as 62 Certificates of Occupancy had been issued.

What Charlie Miller of the Housing Committee would like to see is the use of density bonuses, and not an option to pay a fee in lieu

of building.

Affordable housing has become a problem, and since COVID, many city dwellers have opted to move to more rural locations. But some rural zoning laws and height restrictions can work against many feasible options. So, too, laws that require a certain amount of acreage per dwelling. Add to that the high cost of buying a home; the influx of city buyers helped to elevate pricing, both in buying and in renting. Many people who work in this area just can't afford to live here.

On Sept. 17 Millerton held a meeting with Community Planning and Environmental Associates (CPEA) and residents from Pine Plains, Amenia and Stanford to discuss the problem of affordable housing.

There has to be a new look at how affordable housing can be made to happen. Workforce housing is one answer. Another answer might be the local communities reviewing their comprehensive plans, and possibly making changes to current local zoning laws to allow for greater housing density.

Amenia is just one community that is trying to come to grips with the problem, but there is much work to be done. As Amenia works on a solution, surrounding communities will be watching, and hopefully solutions will be forthcoming before we lose our workforce to communities that can actually house them.

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There was a wonderful event at Scoville Library last week centered around a discussion on the new book by Annie Proulx entitled: Fen, Bog and Swamp. The discussion was led by Vivian Garfein, a former director for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Dr. Micheal Klemens, a distinguished conservation biologist. The book is focused on the value of wetlands and our understanding of their importance to the health of our environment. There is an excellent review of the book by the Guardian, www.theguardian.com/books/2022/sep/19/fen-bog-swamp-by-annie-proulx-review-history-of-peatland-destruction-and-role-in-climate-crisis-where-have-all-our-wetlands-gone. Also, you can find the book at the library www.scovillelibrary.org. Well worth reading!



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OUR TOWNS

Board recognizes athletes, discusses planning

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
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MILLBROOK — The Millbrook Board of Education recognized star athletes at the Millbrook Central School District at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

Board President Perry Hartswick cited Dylan Vasquez, who qualified for the New York State Class D Cross Country Championship, and the girls' soccer team, which

advanced to the state Class C Final Four under Coach Kelly Mahoney.

The second item on the agenda was a report on interviews with three sets of financial advisors.

The first was from Bernard P. Donegan, Inc., (DBI) formerly known as the Donegan Insurance Agency. The second group was Capital Market Advisors, LLC, an independent registered municipal advisor serving jurisdictions throughout New York state and the

northeastern United States. The third group was Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, Inc., a registered municipal advisory firm with 16 consultants, 13 of which are municipal advisors, skilled in various aspects of New York state local government and school district finance.

Education Elements, Inc. a firm that specializes in identifying and engaging the students that need support, made a presentation about its student retention program geared to ensure student success.

A 2022-23 tax refund for two parties was approved: Harold Levy, from \$442,800 to \$403,700, \$359.81; and Lawrence Graham, \$745,000 to \$720,000, \$336.99.

The board approved the removal of surplus items, a cafeteria table and surplus Elm Library books.

A Technology Corrective Action Plan was approved based on a New York state Office of the State Comptroller audit of 2021 regarding information technology. The Corrective Action Plan was signed off on by Elliott Garcia, assistant superintendent for business and personnel.

The board approved the creation of a full-time senior custodial worker position in the non-competitive class of

the civil service, effective Jan. 1, subject to approval of the Dutchess County Civil Service Commission.

A request for leave from post as teaching assistant was granted to Jessica McRoberts for one year upon being named senior typist, provisional, salary \$37,016.90. Nancy O'Hara was appointed receiver of bids for 2022-23 at no increase in salary. A letter of resignation from a custodial worker post was accepted from Kevin Murray.

Board member Dena Ghobashy took the lead in discussing a communication from New York State School Board Association (NYSSBA) that invited the board to weigh in on supporting a program for statewide, permanent free or reduced school meals. The board can send a letter, as furnished by the NYSSBA, to state representatives, or edit it to include district-specific perspectives.

Interim Superintendent Caroline Hernandez Pidala reported on Dutchess Community College course fees.

She noted that there are several winter concerts coming up, including the middle school concert on Wednesday, Dec. 21.

Pidala touched on completing grant amendment ap-

plications, as well upcoming legislative issues, including civil service shortages, school safety funding and foundation aid money.

The superintendent mentioned several Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) events planned for the year with topics such as Hang up and Drive, Internet Safety, Anti-Bullying Assemblies, Teen Healthy Relationships and a Cyber Bullying Prevention.

There will also be programs on child abuse prevention and safe internet use. These programs are school-specific, age-appropriate, and some will include the parents in the audience.

Assistant Superintendent Garcia reported on staffing updates; the 2022-23 budget preparation and the transportation bid process; instructional technology; and facilities and operations, including the next capital project.

Amy Watkins, executive director for instruction and community relations reported

on several topics, including meeting with the Mock Trial Team; the Teacher Internship Update Program; and the start of the observation cycle allowing conversations around instruction with teachers, strategic planning with educational elements.

Tom Libka, Alden Place Elementary School principal, presented on what his students are doing, actions being taken by staff, and the general condition of students and study.

The board reviewed and adopted the 2023-24 school budget calendar.

Some items are the 2023-24 general budget preview and budget development update on Feb. 21; department budget presentations on March 7 and March 21; and a budget development presentation at the March 31 board of education meeting.

The next school board meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m., in the Millbrook Middle School cafeteria.

Amenia Fire Auxiliary craft fair

AMENIA — The Amenia Fire Co. Auxiliary will hold its annual craft/vendor fair

Saturday, Dec. 17, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22.

Amenia Lions plans Memory Tree to support hearing aid campaign

AMENIA — The Amenia Lions Club is accepting donations for its Memory Tree, which benefits the Dutchess County Hearing Conservation Committee and purchases hearing aids for those who can't afford them.

President Lori Hale at bjdahale@gmail.com. The names of loved ones may also be submitted by emailing Lori Hale at the address above and paying via Venmo (@amenia-lionsclub).

Forms may be picked up at Jack's Auto, Havens Real Estate, and from any Amenia Lions Club member. Forms can also be downloaded from the Amenia Lions Facebook page or by contacting Lions Club

Names must be submitted before Friday, Dec. 16, to be included in the listing in the Thursday, Dec. 22, issue of the Millerton News. Those interested in more information about Club activities or how to join may reach out via the Amenia Lions Facebook page.

Office for the Aging needs volunteers to deliver meals

MILLERTON — The Dutchess County Office for the Aging's (OFA) Home Delivered Meals program is in immediate need of volunteer drivers to bring nutritious meals to homebound seniors in Millerton and nearby in northeastern Dutchess County.

Volunteers with their own vehicles and licenses are encouraged to join the team; volunteers may choose which days to deliver the meals.

Hours are between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. weekdays. Mileage can be reimbursed. COVID-19 safety protocols are observed.

To learn more, call the OFA at (845) 486-2555 or email ofa@dutchessny.gov.



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Sharon Hospital

OBITUARIES

Alan Graham Collier

SEDONA, Ariz. — Alan Graham Collier died peacefully of old age at his home in Sedona, Arizona, on Dec. 7, 2022.

He was born in Manchester, England, on Sept. 12, 1923, the son of Anne Millier Collier and Robert Stanley Collier. Educated at Manchester Grammar School and later at Honley High School in Holmfirth, he received a scholarship to the Slade School of Fine Art, University College, London, but instead joined the Royal Air Force in the summer of 1940 and was thrust immediately into the Battle of Britain. For the next five years, he flew Lancaster bombers over Germany and welcomed some of the first American flyers into Lincolnshire.

In 1944, he married a young classical singer, Mary B. E. Clacy, the daughter of the Vicar of Honley, Yorkshire, over her father's objections, receiving permission from the courts and making national headlines in the process.

After the war, he received his diploma from the Slade and began his teaching career at St. Peter's School, York, founded by Paulinus in 627 BCE, moving on to Giggles-

wick School, also in Yorkshire, and, finally, to Lancing College on the south coast where he established an art school in the crypt of the school's magnificent 19th century Gothic chapel that was to grow into one of the most significant in the country.

During these years he was also painting and exhibiting, travelling abroad making drawings of the great cathedrals, and portraits of artists and musicians for the Radio Times. At an exhibition of his paintings in London, he was approached by James L. Jarrett, President of Western Washington State College, and offered the headship of its art department. In 1960 he moved with Mary and their three children to Bellingham, Washington and three years later to the University of Connecticut where in 1965 he was named Teacher of the Year.

He and Mary divorced in 1968 and in the course of a brief second marriage he moved back to Europe and worked for Prince Rainier and Princess Grace, helping to catalogue their collection of prints, until he was offered a

full professorship at the University of Georgia where he taught until his retirement in 1984, as Professor Emeritus and later, as a Fellow of Davenport College, Yale.

In the 1960's he wrote "Form, Space and Vision," a seminal textbook that was to influence generations of art students, going into four editions and its companion, "Art and the Creative Consciousness," both dealing with perception and the wellsprings of creativity, and strongly influenced by Jungian psychology. What is creativity, what makes an artist, what is the nature of the human spirit, why are we here, were questions he asked his entire life.

In 1977, he married Patricia Grover (nee Garvan) and for the next nearly forty years they travelled the world visiting all seven continents several times. Together they produced "Antarctic Odyssey," a book on the rarely visited west side of the continent. He wrote a novel, "War Night Berlin," about a nighttime

bombing raid over that city and "What the Hell are the Neurons Up To?," his final summation of those questions he had spent a lifetime asking, and for many of his later years, contributed regular blogs to Psychology Today.

Charismatic and colorful, a brilliant teacher, a generous and gentle man, he breathed, as a friend said of him, a different air from the rest of us. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, two daughters, Wendy Collier-Parker (Alan) of Boussac, France, and Ruth C. Collier of Sharon, a son, Andrew Collier (Judge) of Nehalem, Oregon, and his grandchildren Ruth Oreschnick of Cambridge, England, and Marisa and Ian Graham-Collier, both of Portland, Oregon. He was predeceased by Mary and his granddaughter Lisa Oreschnick.

He is survived also by Kara, his beloved Border Collie rescue.

Arrangements are private, but donations may be made in his memory to Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah and The Humane Society of Sedona.



Susan B. Lloyd

LAKEVILLE — Susan B. Lloyd, 65, of Leverett, Massachusetts, passed away peacefully on her favorite holiday, Thanksgiving, Nov. 24, 2022, with her loving daughters, their spouses and sisters by her side. She was born in Port Chester, New York, on Nov.



5, 1957, the daughter of Jack and Ann (Knowlton) Lloyd. Susan attended local schools in Connecticut and was a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Class of 1975. She continued her education, starting at Eastern Connecticut State College, then received her Associate's Degree from Greenfield Community College in Early Childhood Development.

Susan was an Infant and Toddler Teacher at Northfield Mount Herman for over twenty five years until her retirement. She loved all her children over the years and would even attend some of their graduations. She also worked at Mims Market in Northfield, Massachusetts, for many years. She loved visiting and chatting with all the locals and could make a really good sandwich.

Susan enjoyed putting together really difficult puzzles, reading a really good book, watching Law & Order, the annual family trips to Cape Cod and sitting on her favorite beach, Head of The Meadow. She enjoyed a really good meal surrounded by good company or go for a nice walk. Most of all, Susan's favorite thing to do was to spend time with her

friends and family, especially her grandbabies.

Among her survivors, Susan leaves her two beloved daughters, Kate Poole and her husband Doug and Mary Shanafelt and her husband Tyler, all of Hatfield; four grandchildren who were her greatest joy in her life, Olivia and Jackson Poole and Fallon and Palmer Shanafelt; a sister, Donna Stoetzner and her husband Eric of Salisbury; two brothers, Jeffrey Lloyd of Lakeville, and William Lloyd of Salisbury; a sister in law, Susan Lloyd of Hightstown, New Jersey; her uncle, William Knowlton of Liverpool, New York; five nieces, Sarah, Molly, Abby, Caroline and Brierley Lloyd; and her dearest friends, Celeste Shannon, Kim Farmer and Danielle Swords.

Besides her parents, Susan was predeceased by a brother, Steven Lloyd, and a sister, Jane Lloyd.

Calling hours were Saturday, Dec. 10, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at the Kostanski Funeral Home, 220 Federal Street, Greenfield. A celebration of life immediately followed at Hawks and Reed, 289 Main Street, Greenfield.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to thejanelloydfund.org. For condolences, please visit www.kostanskifuneralhome.com.

PINE PLAINS — Elizabeth L. Chestney, 84, passed away Thursday, Dec. 1, 2022.

Betty was born May 3, 1938 in the Bronx. Her parents, Henry and Elsie Frueh, moved to Craryville where she lived her young life and graduated from Roeliff Jansen High School. She continued on to Plattsburgh State Teachers College graduating in 1959. While attending college she met her future husband, Gerald W. Chestney, they married June 27, 1959.

Gerry and Betty settled in Pine Plains and became entrenched in the life. Betty began working for the Pine Plains Central School District as a teacher in the Cold Spring and Seymour Smith Elementary Schools. She supported Gerry during his career as a funeral director with Peck & Peck Funeral Homes. Together they were members of the Pine Plains United Methodist Church, as well as several other churches in the area. She was a member of several chapters of the Order of the Eastern Star and became active with the Pine Plains retired teacher's association. She was also a member of several Embroidery and Quilting Guilds.

In retirement Betty enjoyed her travels with Gerry and later cared for him through his illness. Many will remember Betty for her incredible talent as a seamstress and needle worker. Countless hours have

been dedicated to remarkable works of embroidery, quilts, potholders, pillowcases, and garments.

Betty lived her last two years in Rhinebeck where she grew friendships with several wonderful Ladies and neighbors. You know who you are, and we thank you for the blessing of friendship.

Betty is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Cathy and Bill Fitzpatrick of Pine Plains; her son and daughter-in-law, Christopher and Carol Chestney of Rhinebeck; her grandchildren, Bridget (Zachary) McDonnell, Scott Fitzpatrick (Kaitlyn Allen), Samantha Chestney, Matthew Chestney and Andrew Chestney; her great-grandchildren, Ella and Emmett Fitzpatrick and Aylee McDonnell; her brother Henry Frueh; and Andrea and Keith l'Anson, and their family, of Australia.

Friends called at the Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, Inc., 7749 Main St., Pine Plains, on Monday, Dec. 5. Funeral service was Tuesday, Dec. 6, 11:00 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be at the Evergreen Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to the Rhinebeck Rescue Squad, 78 E. Market St., Rhinebeck or the Pine Plains Rescue Squad, 7 Lake Rd, Pine Plains, NY 12567.

To leave a message of condolence for the family please visit www.peckandpeck.net

Elizabeth L. Chestney



Tib (Thomas Baldwin) Miller

CANAAN — Tib (Thomas Baldwin) Miller passed away from complications of cancer at age 59 on Nov. 15, 2022, in Jacksonville, Florida. Tib was born on July 16, 1963, in Great Barrington, and grew up in Canaan. He was the son of Kent B. Miller and Priscilla (Parsons) Miller. He is survived by his wife Mary Agnes (Sis) Van Cleve Miller, of Jacksonville, daughter Pepper, son Gram, and siblings Cynthia Miller, Lucille Nickerson, Evie Miller, and Kent Miller.

Tib graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School and received a BA from Trinity College in Hartford where he was a star baseball pitcher.

Tib was a concert producer in northeast Florida for twenty-five years, during which time he brought more than 500 artists of all musical genres to the region. Tib had a vast knowledge of music, with a record collection to match, and a personal style that gave him a special cachet with the

musicians he welcomed to the area, from the famous and established to emerging talents.

Performances by the Sun Ra Arkestra, Phoebe Bridgers, Christian McBride, Ani DeFranco, Rosanne Cash, Emmy Lou Harris, and numerous others brought enjoyment and enormous cultural enrichment to Jacksonville audiences.

While his first priority was as a loving father, music was a guiding force in his life, and he shared that with his whole community. Among the many tributes to Tib is this comment from Ryan Murphy, the former general manager of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre:

"Tib was a force of nature that truly changed the music and cultural landscape of Northeast Florida forever. Tib cared more about doing what is right and what is true and pure to the art of music than anyone I have ever met."

A private memorial service will be scheduled at the convenience of the family.

Worship Services

Week of December 18, 2022

Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.

<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m. www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock In person services on Sundays 8:00 and 10:30 A.M. Livestream at 10:30 on www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT WE ARE NOW MEETING IN PERSON! Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, January 8 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at lokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Pastor Joy Veronesi 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10 a.m. Worship Service, Nurse Care No Sunday School in Summer Pastor Sun Yong Lee 860-364-5634 sharonumc634@att.net</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online Bible studies and Sunday services Join us for a Carols by Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. We will not be offering a service on Christmas Day this year. Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 Rev. Robert Landback The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES 4 PM - Sacred Heart 6 PM - St. Bernard 8 PM - St. Bridget CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 8:30 AM - St. Bridget</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m. Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mngates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>

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Washington gets new members on Zoning, Planning

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — With public opinions both varied and often heated concerning changing local zoning laws and amending long-standing comprehensive plans, all hands are needed on the Planning and Zoning Boards local municipalities.

Town Supervisor Gary Ciferri was pleased to open the Thursday, Dec. 8, meeting of the

Town of Washington by honoring a request, after a motion was made, by appointing Elizabeth Abrahams to the planning board, and Tate Kunkle to the Zoning Board.

Abrahams and Kunkle filled positions left open by Peter Audia on the Zoning Board and Edvard Jorgensen on the Planning Board.

Deputy Town Clerk Chrissy Briggs administered the oath to both parties and they signed the official ledger.

A public hearing on the fire

department contract with the Village of Millbook was opened, along with a request to grant Ciferri authorization to sign contacts with the Village of Millbrook for the use of the Guertin Gymnasium and for a police officer to be on duty in the town court.

Highway Superintendent Joseph Spagnola gave his report. He made a request of town attorney Jeff Battistoni to prepare an introduction of a local law regarding the harvesting of timber to be ready for the Jan.

12 meeting.

Spagnola also discussed the Bridge NY and culvert program, administered through the New York state Department of Transportation, to make funds available to local governments to rehabilitate and replace bridges and culverts. He cited the need to establish a schedule for consultant selection for an engineer and a grant writer, and the criteria to evaluate proposals.

A request was also made for the town board to call a special

meeting on Thursday, Dec. 22, to appoint an engineer and a grant writer for the Bridge NY and culvert program funding opportunities.

The highway report finished with a request from Spagnola to advertise for a special meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 11, to meet with Colliers Engineering to discuss the Killlearn Road findings and recommendations.

Bookkeeper Lois Petrone presented the monthly report and budget amendments. This included an amendment to record the use of Appropriated Fund Balance for the deposits on the generators and the need to cover unexpected expenses and correct the Court SS line, as well as cover unexpected overages in attorney fees. Unexpected recreation expenses included: Summer Camp PS, \$1,156; Soccer CE, \$1,015.65; Soccer Concession, \$386.27; and Lacrosse CE, \$2,557.83.

Deputy Clerk Briggs has scheduled the annual organization meeting for Thursday, Jan. 12 at 6 p.m. at Town Hall. She said tax collection will begin in January.

Briggs reported that Assessor Lisa Evangelista made a recommendation that she would like to change the limits for Local Option "Low Income Disabled Exemption" to be the same as they are for the "Seniors Exemption," \$467. Disabled current limits are \$27,000 and \$34,500. She suggests making them \$38,000 and \$35,400, and would like to schedule a public hearing for the increase on Thursday, Jan. 12.

Recreation director Danielle Szalewicz was not present, she was getting ready for the gingerbread house event on Friday, Dec. 9, but Councilman Mike Murphy said that basketball is underway, and that the Christmas event, gingerbread house meet-and-greet with Santa, looks good, with 130 gingerbread-making kits sold, 50 of which are scheduled to be built at the firehouse after meeting with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Murphy gave an update on Short Term Rental Committee, stating there had been three meetings, two with lawyers. It's indicated that a vendor should be contacted to help obtain oversight. Having someone to do inspections of sites would take some of the stress off the building department.

Murphy discussed acquiring active shooter training for all people who work in Town Hall.

Councilmember Joe Rochfort requested calling a public hearing on Thursday, Jan. 12 regarding the hospitality addendum for the comprehensive plan.

Ciferri closed the public hearing on the fire contract after receiving no public comments; he was authorized to sign the contract. Claims were accepted as presented.

The next meeting will include public hearings and is the annual reorganizational meeting, to be held on Thursday, Jan. 12, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall or via Zoom, check out website for more information, www.washingtonny.org.

North East-Webutuck School Board discusses Smart School program

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The North East Webutuck School Board met on Monday, Dec. 5 at the High School library at 7 p.m. After calling the meeting to order by Board President Judy Moran, there was a call for public comment; there was none. Lauren Marquis, Director Of Curriculum/Instruction, and Technology was then called on to give a presentation on the Smart School Bond.

The Smart School Bond program originated in 2014 with the Office of Educational Design and Technology (OEDT).

It reviews Smart Schools Investment Plans submitted by districts wishing to utilize Smart School funds for educational technology-related purchases, including infrastructure to improve high-speed broadband or wireless internet connectivity for schools and communities and learning technology equipment (such as computers, tablets, interactive

whiteboards, and 3D printers).

OEDT looks for alignment with the district's Instructional Technology Plan. Districts that include educational technology purchases as part of their Smart School Investment when reviewing requests. The Plan must have a submitted and approved Instructional Technology Plan survey on file with the New York State Education Department, and the Smart Schools Investment Plan must be consistent with their Instructional Technology Plan.

Marquis also discussed the technology mission and goals of the district, saying she wants the students to look forward, beyond today, and that blended learning utilizes traditional and digital methods. She added that altruistic learning is designed to connect what the student is taught to apply to world issues.

Phase I was completed in 2019-2020 at \$40,000. Currently in Phase II, which is about safety and security; this is for digital clocks, messaging, an updated P.A. system, and includes horns and strobes for outdoor use during lock-

downs, important for hearing impaired, at \$290,000. Phase III will be for audio visual improvements in cafeterias and libraries at \$71,000. The total of non-public funds is \$105,750, and the total amount is \$507,150.

The presentation was followed by the Business Report given by Robert Farrier, business administrator and a report from Moran.

School Superintendent Ray Castellani spoke about the Capital Project Vote on Dec. 6, which subsequently was approved by voters. Vice President of the Board Richard Keller-Coffey also made remarks about the need for the Capital Project.

Acceptance of resignations was agreed on two support staff resignations, Ana Orelana as 10 month typist, and Alisha Whitney as school monitor.

An approval of instructional staff replacement was made for Brianna Vaughn, covering for Stephanie Milot, Dec. 2 to Feb 16 at Eugene Brooks Intermediate School (EBIS). An approval was received for Laura Mason

as 12 month typist and Faith Maus, 10 month typist.

Jennie Selfridge was appointed High School Year Book Co-advisor with a stipend.

Also approved, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent was surplus and disposal of technology equipment.

The principal of the elementary school mentioned that the PTA Grades 2 and 3 will be having their Christmas Breakfast on Dec. 23. EBIS is having its Christmas Breakfast on Dec. 22, and enjoyed the PTA gift shop. The Gift Shop is open for a few days at each of the three schools, selling a variety of gifts at three dollars, including tax, allowing children to get gifts for family and friends.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 19, at 7 p.m., in Webutuck High School Library.



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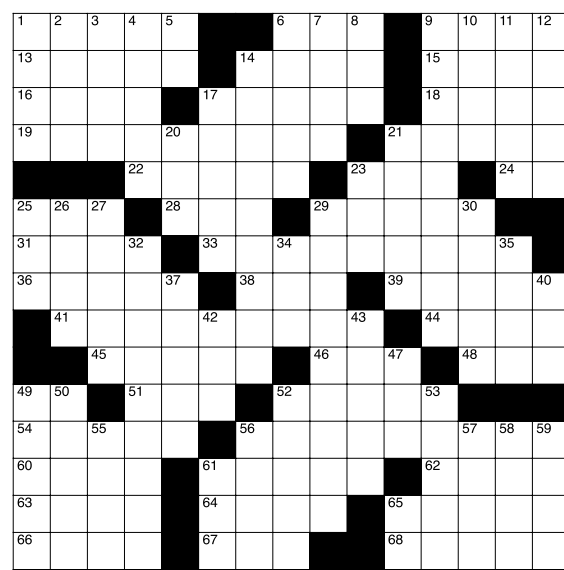
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Take weapons away from
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Most ancient Hindu scriptures
- Actress Lathan
- Baseball's strikeout king
- British codebreaker Turing
- One who lives by disreputable dealings
- Tropical American plant
- Opposite of right
- Importance
- Monetary units
- Lawmen
- Cool!
- Affirmative answer
- Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Muslim nobleman
- About aviation
- Scientific instrument
- Protests strongly
- Not polished
- Grab
- Alias
- Large wrestler
- Relative quantities
- One who is big and awkward
- Sunscreen rating
- Atomic #90
- Mock
- Whales
- Peoples
- A state of being unclothed
- Ottoman military commanders
- Gatherer of fallen leaves
- Norse personification of old age
- Muslim mystic
- German river
- Measuring instrument
- Have witnessed
- Disallow
- Proverb

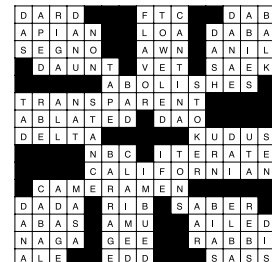
CLUES DOWN

- Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
- The back side of the neck
- A type of imine
- Black bird
- Partner to "Pa"
- Puts together in time
- Lucid

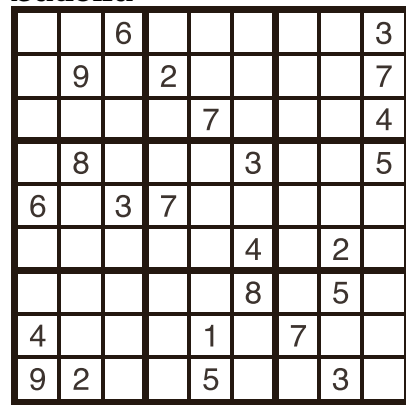


- Transmits genetic information from DNA to the cytoplasm
- Demonstrates the truth of
- Ancient Greek City
- Nishi language
- Slang for fidgety
- Southwestern farmers
- Metric weight unit
- Instant replay in soccer
- Less polished
- Popular pickup truck model
- Slang for a cigarette
- Large pile
- Solid geometric figure
- One from the Big Apple
- Male admirers
- Balsam is one
- Local area network
- Canadian law enforcers
- Koran chapters
- Cooperstown, NY museum (abbr.)
- Certificate (abbr.)
- An official who carries a mace of office
- Briefly in fashion
- Volcanic ash
- Dutch city
- Made of wood
- Legendary golfer
- Restaurant
- None
- Spanish city
- Stony waste matter
- Father
- Confederate soldier
- The ancient Egyptian sun god

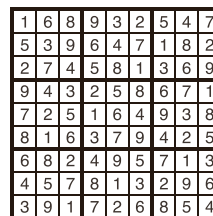
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OUR TOWNS

Gingerbread houses come together at Millbrook Firehouse

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — The Town of Washington Recreation Department, following a long-standing holiday tradition, offered gingerbread house kits for the sale for the 20th year. Kits can be picked up to be built at home, or even more fun, they can be made at the Millbrook Firehouse along with neighbors and friends.

The event was held on Friday, Dec. 9, at 8 p.m. at the Millbrook Firehouse. The Millbrook Library was a part of the celebration with library director Courtney Tshalis and children's coordinator Kate Perkins giving out books to the children.

New this year was the meet-and-greet with Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus before the house construction began. Cookies and hot chocolate were offered along with ho-ho-hos and holiday cheer.

Tony DeBonis and Alice Flynn-Cama portrayed the North Pole couple, and while purchasing a gingerbread house kit wasn't necessary to see Santa, most had, and they went on to create pretty (and delicious) houses. Santa noted



PHOTOS BY DAWN E. THOMPSON

Maggie Spafford, center, holds up a gingerbread house creation on Friday, Dec. 9, at the Millbrook Firehouse as Tony DeBonis, left, and Alice Flynn-Cama look on. Below, winning houses.

that many pieces of candy went into waiting mouths before they made it to the houses, but it was all in good fun, and another Millbrook tradition was honored and enjoyed.



Stanford Free Library December offerings

STANFORDVILLE — The Stanford Free Library at 6035 Route 82 has special plans in December, in addition to its regular events.

"Like Water for Chocolate," a part of the Foreign Film Series, will run on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 3 p.m.

A detailed listing of regular monthly activities is available on the library website. They include:

Brain Games, Thursdays 10:30 a.m. to noon; Knitting, first, third and fifth Thursday of the month from 7 to 8:30 p.m.; Mahjong for intermediate players, Fridays 10 a.m. to noon; Yoga with Mia, first Friday of the month is free, 10 a.m. via Zoom, link sent upon registration; Bridge,

Mondays 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.; Literacy Connections Classes for English Language Learners Mondays 6-8 p.m.;

Water Color Workshop, first, third and fifth Tuesday of each month 1-4 p.m.; Fiber Arts, first and third Tuesdays, 6 p.m.; Story Time, Tuesdays, preschoolers (ages 3-4) 10-10:45 a.m. and toddlers (ages 18 months - 2 years) 11-11:45 a.m.; Meditation Class, third Wednesday, 10 a.m., in-person (masks required) or via Zoom, link sent upon registration.

Registration is required for events unless noted otherwise. Please email stanfordlibrary@optonline.net or call 845-868-1341.

Storytime with Tia

COPAKE — Young patrons of the Roeliff Jansen Community Library are invited to enjoy Storytime with Tia on Saturdays, starting at 10:30 a.m.

Join Tia Maggio, the children's librarian, for stories

and activities every Saturday morning.

For more information, call 518-325-4101 or go to www.roejanlibrary.org. The Roe Jan Library is located at 9091 Route 22.

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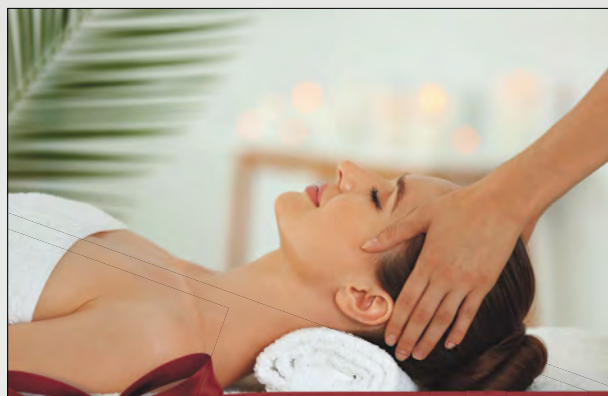
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SHARON HOSPITAL *Continued from Page A1*

from the national trend because of the hospital's labor and delivery unit.

SSH said transporting pregnant women in emergency situations to other hospitals is a poor substitute, especially given the terrain of Northwest Connecticut and Dutchess County, N.Y. and the severe winters.

SSH advocates also questioned the ability of emergency room doctors to handle difficult cases, and took issue with the hospital's claims of major financial losses.

SSH witnesses criticized hospital management on several fronts, including how the announcement of the closing was made, management/staff relations, poor or non-existent marketing, and an unwillingness on the part of hospital officials to try and find an alternative to closing.

Financial expert Victor Germack questioned the accounting behind the hospital's \$3 million annual loss figure, and Dr. Howard Mortman, an obstetrician, painted a grim picture of the future for mothers and babies if the labor and delivery unit is shuttered.

State Representative Maria Horn (D-64), Kent First Selectman Jean Speck, and Sharon First Selectman Brent Colley were witnesses for SSH.

Horn said "In order to have a thriving community we need a thriving hospital, which includes maternity."

Speck said closing the unit "will do harm to our communities" and that local emergency services are not designed for inter-hospital transfers.

Colley said he asked residents of Sharon about the matter and found a common theme: the hospital is the heart of Sharon.

"I'm worried about what else closes" if the labor and delivery unit shuts down, he said, adding that the emphasis should not be on "profit for the hospital, but on overall quality of life."

The public comment portion of the hearing started around 3:10 p.m., but a few minutes prior the hearing officer, Daniel Csuka, said that the court reporter was no longer present on the Zoom meeting and he was unsure if the hearing could proceed

without her.

He said he was trying to find another reporter and trying to get an opinion on proceeding from the attorney general's office.

After a few minutes, and assurances from attorneys Ted Tucci, the hospital's lawyer, and Paul Knag, representing SSH, that they wished to continue, the hearing resumed.

Public comment was mostly against the hospital's application.

State Senator-elect Steven Harding (R-30) expressed his "absolute opposition" to the hospital's plan, as did Cornwall First Selectman Gordon Ridgway and his counterpart in Salisbury, Curtis Rand.

Several hospital and/or Nuvance employees supported the plan in their public comments as did Kevin O'Connell, the CEO of Geer Village in North Canaan.

A running tally of the public comments, many from former or current medical professionals and elected officials as well as people with emergency services experience, showed 10 supporting the hospital's plan and 27 op-

posing.

After public comment, in answering a question from OHS about the risk of closing Sharon Hospital completely, Nuvance CEO Dr. John Murphy said the losses from the labor and delivery have caused financial stress for some time.

"I do not want to close Sharon Hospital."

He continued: "We are poor in resources at Sharon Hospital. The for-profits had Sharon Hospital and sold it for less, they ran away from it."

He said of the opponents of the hospital's plan, "I know what they're against. What are they for?"

In closing arguments, Knag warned that "people are going to die, if this is approved, who wouldn't otherwise die." He then recapped most of the SSH's arguments.

Tucci said the OHS will have to choose whether to decide the matter based on "facts, data and evidence" or "fear, anecdotes, personal attacks and speculation."

And after three more comments from the public (all against the hospital's plan), the hearing closed at 9:36 p.m.

HORSE THERAPY *Continued from Page A1*

a Tennessee Walker.

The miniatures live with her at home and the others live on a farm that she leases, all in Pleasant Valley.

Volunteering at the Fountains came about after an unexpected encounter with an old acquaintance.

Lattin at one time taught horseback riding. Out for a stroll near the Fountains with one of the big horses, a person in a passing car, whose child she had taught, recognized her. That woman had a mother who lives at the Fountains, and she had Lattin get in touch with nursing director Linda Lomangino and Lisa Rieckermann, community life director. And soon, the equine therapy program began.

It started in the summer when Lattin brought Kivi and Journey to spend some outdoor time with residents. Said Rieckermann: "These beautiful, gentle horses brought a lot of joy to our residents. They learned about the horses, were able to touch them, feel their breath, and admire their beauty."

One resident told her it was the best day of her life. From

there, Lattin began bringing the horses once a month, and they all look forward now to those visits.

"I'm a disabled veteran," said Lattin, "and when I was first taken out of the workforce. I did two different equine therapy programs. I always feel better around horses. They help us release positive endorphins; slow our heart rate; and alleviate depression, anxiety and loneliness."

When the colder weather came in, Lattin began bringing the miniature horses, Baku and Bug, because they can go indoors.

On a recent morning, Baku and Lattin spent two hours in the living room at the Inn at the Fountains with several of the residents. On his leash, Baku meandered to each of them, and he seemed to enjoy their company as much as they did his. At the end of the visit, he and Lattin took the elevator upstairs to visit one of the residents at home. Bug stayed home for that visit, but he'll be back.

Bug has a special bond with resident Gerda Bruder.

The little horses travel with Lattin in the back seat of her pickup truck. It takes patience, but, says Lattin, "I believe strongly in volunteering my time and my horses to those who can benefit from and appreciate them."

Lattin does other volunteering but limits the efforts, because even horses, big and little, need downtime. She makes sure they're never tired or stressed, which can happen because horses are very sensitive to people's emotions and feelings. But she looks forward to her visits to the residents at the Fountains. During the winter, Bug and Baku will enjoy their trips indoors with carpeting fireplaces, but come summer, when all is green and lush around the 200 acres of the Fountains, the big horses will have their days in the sun to visit the eager residents.

SCHOOL SPENDING *Continued from Page A1*

step, requesting and vetting bids for each individual component, finding the "least expensive among the qualified," could start this summer.

These decisions are undertaken in part by Castellani together with the engineers. In the pre-referendum period, the board used BCA Architects and Engineers of Watertown, New York, which may or may not participate in the next step.

Since all the jobs are physically separated and mutually independent, they can be worked on in the same time period, most likely starting in summer 2024 with work completed by winter 2025.

The needs to be addressed are as follows:

- Roofs on all the schools have overextended their warranties and need to be replaced.
- HVAC systems need updating, both for ventilation

to improve indoor air in the age of pandemics and for air conditioning at Webutuck Elementary School. This upgrade will enable the district to offer summer school for those students who are struggling academically.

• An age-appropriate playground will be created at Eugene Brooks Intermediate School (EBIS). Currently, students in grades four through eight have no dedicated space for outdoor activity.

The schools' five tennis courts, located on the hillside facing the district office on the south side of the high-school/middle-school building, are currently used infrequently and only by the community, since the school does not have tennis instruction or a team. Two of the courts will be replaced by surfaces and equipment suitable for a variety of student sports, including a basketball court.

Concrete and pavement

work needs to be done in the high-school area, plus work on parking lots. A standby generator will be installed to protect both technology and the district's system in general.

"A power outage of two days caused the pipes in our basement to freeze, which could have been prevented if a generator had kept the water running," the superintendent explained. Thus, having a standby generator will prevent future savings over "having to make emergency repairs, whose costs can be astronomical," Castellani pointed out. He also noted that the school is a community Red Cross shelter in case of disasters; this is yet another reason for maintaining its infrastructure at the highest level of preparedness.

Last year's leak also involved roof panels that collapsed, and the need for asbestos abatement followed, so

that middle- and high-school classes had to revert to remote teaching and learning once again as the situation was brought under control.

Flooring and seating were damaged and will be replaced. That work is expected to be completed by spring 2023, well before the new capital project jobs are started.

Septic work, the scope of which will only be determined in the next few weeks based on testing of the system, is another item for which monies have been set aside.

"... We have budgeted ... for [a] worst-case scenario, which may be a full replacement," Castellani said. Pending the testing, it may be that only certain parts need to be replaced or repaired. In any case, work on the sanitary system at Webutuck Elementary School needs to go forward.

To the question of how an expenditure of \$12.5 million could be considered "budget/debt/tax neutral," the superintendent responded with an analogy of buying a car on a payment plan to explain how taxes will not be affected by the vote. It can best be thought of simply as trading one debt for another of the same amount.

As to the specifics of the

current referendum, the district incurred a debt about 20 years ago in order to complete work on EBIS. That debt has matured and will fall off the rolls, so taking on a new debt with about the same dollar-for-dollar valuation means that no new taxes will have to be assessed to pay for the upcoming work.

Keeping the district's debt status at the same level also ensures that state aid will not be reduced. In fact, aid from New York state should cover \$8.6 million of the \$12.5 million. When asked about the effects of inflation, Castellani acknowledged that "\$12.5 million doesn't buy you what it did 20 years ago."

DUTCHESS STADIUM *Continued from Page A1*

Department of Community and Family Services' Youth Administration Division; and \$150,000 to expand the Office for the Aging's community outreach.

Other increases were also made, such as \$60,000 for the Department of Public Works' Public Transit Division to construct an additional bus shelter in Pleasant Valley, with another \$60,000 to support the project; \$50,000 for the Department of Emergency Response to improve public

internet access at libraries and other civic buildings; \$50,000 for the Path to Promise grant program of the Department of Community and Family Services' Youth Services Division; \$50,000 for recruitment and equipment for the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Academy; and \$25,000 for the Dutchess County SPCA's Humane Law Enforcement Program by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.

Legislator Michael Po-

lasek, chair of the Budget, Finance, and Personnel Committee commented in a press release: "This improvement funding package will help the Dutchess Stadium to continue serving our residents well, bringing a substantial revenue stream from many different sources."

He cited sales tax income from those who do business at the stadium, and spending on hotels, restaurants, and local businesses by those using the stadium.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

10 Years of Five Points

At the end of the summer of 2012 the Arts and Culture Commission for the city of Torrington, Conn., announced that the pop-up gallery that had gone up in a vacant downtown retail building would become a permanent fixture. The success of the Art Space Torrington initiative led to rent-control support from the Torrington Downtown Partners, and after winter renovations, Five Points Gallery was unveiled in Feb. 2013. As a nonprofit gallery, the new Five Points — named after the five-way crossing near the Naugatuck River — was able to collect donations as well as gallery commissions from works sold. In 2016, The Five Points Launchpad opened its doors as a collaboration with Hartford Art School, University of Hartford, offering shared affordable studio space for recent fine arts graduates as they build their post-college careers. A second gallery space — Five Points Annex on Water Street — operates as a revolving pop-up gallery for the Launchpad artists.

In the summer of 2020, despite the pandemic, Five Points made its biggest leap yet when it acquired the former University of Connecticut, Torrington campus. With \$2.7 million in funding from the state Department of Community and Economic Development, the Five



Lights Gone Out. Drowning in America's Opioid Crisis by Susan Clinard

Points Center for the Visual Arts now includes gallery spaces, painting classrooms, and a print-making studio. Artists can schedule studio time while workshops are also made available for the public.

In only a decade Five Points has transformed from an experiment in a vacant building to a key component in both the revitalization of Torrington's downtown area and as a necessary resource for emerging talent in a city not previously known for robust — or any — arts funding. For young residents of Litchfield County, pockets of affordable rental properties in Torrington make the city a livable alternative compared to the inflated real estate market of the more

expensive, rural towns. The galleries and the newly renovated Five Points Center provide resources for working artists, but they also act as cultural institutions, reshaping what is possible in a small urban area without an established contemporary art museum. While the majority of the art world caters to the rich who are able to buy art as investment, small galleries — especially those outside the blue chip level of profit — can act as spaces for public viewing and engagement with contemporary works.

Walking through the original Five Points Gallery, one of its most notable features is the large windows, where

the flurry of activity on the sidewalks, the multi-lane traffic, and the noise of the city seep

into the space. It's not the still, sensory-calming retreat one might expect from a gallery — but the glass has two sides. Out on the street, Five Points

illuminates its darkened downtown corner, the large-scale abstract pieces are highly visible, and the art becomes a texture of the neighborhood.



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Girl with a Star by Harriet Caldwell



Languid Air did Swoon by Kim Sobel

The Five Points 10th Anniversary Exhibition, featuring a group show of 32 contributing artists who have been previously shown in the gallery's past decade, is now on view through Jan. 21 at Five Points Gallery in Torrington, Conn.

Looking for a spiritual home this Christmas?

Come join us at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Amenia Union, a community of Radical Hospitality!



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December 15 • 5:00 pm

Lessons & Carols
December 18 • 10:30 am

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December 24 • 5:00 pm

Christmas Morning Service
December 25 • 10:30 am

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With support from CT Humanities (CTH), with funding by the Connecticut State Department of Economic and Community Development/Connecticut Office of the Arts (COA) from the Connecticut State Legislature.



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Detail from *Web of Life* by Sarah Davis

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Taking Art Education Beyond the Classroom

The youngest gallery in the Connecticut countryside is Ellie Wolgemuth, a sophomore at Housatonic Valley Regional High School who is heading the public school's library art installation as lead intern. Having already conquered hanging and curating the school's annual Blue and Gold student exhibition, Wolgemuth, who is taking on a position typically held by a senior, has spent the fall preparing her first show of work by a professional artist. Through the efforts of Wolgemuth's team of interns and art teacher Warren Prindle, HVRHS will showcase a series of watercolors, pastels and digital prints by Brooklyn, N.Y., and Lakeville, Conn., based artist Sarah Davis. "We had a lot of work to choose from, and we

scaled it down and chose these pieces because we really liked the color and detail in them," Wolgemuth told me as she walked me through this exhibit featured in the Kearcher-Monsell Gallery in the school's library. Moving from dawn into dusk, spring into winter, Davis' pastels and watercolor landscapes smoothly transition through passing time along the front wall of the gallery. The work will be on view to the public at the opening, while also providing the students with a view of contemporary art by a working, local painter. Securing the vacant role of lead intern early, Wolgemuth told me she plans to continue working on the school's gallery shows through her senior year, with responsibilities that include helping to select

the art with her team, wiring frames, arranging and hanging the show, planning the opening event, managing sale inquiries — and yes, acting as media liaison.

"I'm interested in being an artist myself, and this project has helped me really understand what goes into putting on and hanging a show, so I've learned a lot through this process," Wolgemuth told me. "I think the action of coming to a gallery and seeing art in person is really important."

Sarah Davis' work at Housatonic Valley Regional High School's Kearcher-Monsell Gallery will open for the public on Dec. 15 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. with a portion of the sales donated to the school's Fine Arts Department.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Hiroya Tsuamoto at The Stissing Center

The fingerpicking technique in jazz, that unique sound that vibrates from ditching the pick in favor of bare skin thumbs or even fingernails on the taut strings, has been used by plenty of legendary jazz guitarists — just look to Joe Pass's rendition of "Ain't Misbehavin'," the 1929 early swing song that originated in Har-

lem. Pass was an Italian Jersey boy, but a frequent collaborator of Harlem ballroom mainstay Ella Fitzgerald.

International jazz guitarist Hiroya Tsuamoto from Kyoto, Japan will lead a fingerpicking workshop at the Stissing Center in Pine Plains, N.Y., on Saturday, Dec. 17, followed by a performance at 7 p.m.

Jason Moran

'Black Stars: Writing in the Dark'

For 75 cents in depression-era New York City, Harlem residents could escape to life on the mahogany dance floor of the Savoy Ballroom, which stretched across a city block between 140th Street and 141st Street. As dance researcher Barbara Engelbrecht wrote, "The Savoy was a building, a geographic place, a ballroom, and the "soul" of the neighborhood. It personified a community and an era, and became a monument to the music and dance of 'swing.'" Ella Fitzgerald, Dizzy Gillespie, Chick Webb, Thelonious Monk and Charlie Parker graced the Savoy's bandstand, a distinctive metal clamshell, originally striped and later in the 1940s, elaborately wallpapered. Jazz composer and musician Jason Moran has ventured into works on paper and



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND LUHRING AUGUSTINE, NEW YORK

STAGED: Savoy Ballroom 1 by Jason Moran

sculpture, bringing his grand ode to Harlem's big band and swing dance glory, "STAGED: Savoy Ballroom 1" to The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art. Previously seen at The Whitney, Moran's golden clamshell stage reinvigorates the gray-scale



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

photography of Harlem's past with commanding physicality.

Jason Moran "Black Stars: Writing in the Dark" opens on Dec. 17 at Mass MoCA in North Adams, Mass.

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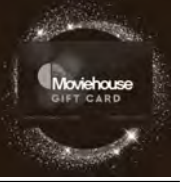
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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

The Dover Plains Dragons scrimmaged with the Mountaineers from Housatonic Valley Regional High School on Wednesday, Dec. 7, in five periods of play.

Dragons face Mountaineers for a preseason scrimmage

By RILEY KLEIN

FALLS VILLAGE — Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Connecticut hosted the Dover Plains, New York for a boys basketball scrimmage on Wednesday, Dec. 7.

The scrimmage consisted of five periods of play and gave the two sides an opportunity to work out any lineup

kinks as they prepare the upcoming season.

The varsity players from each side competed in three of the matches, the JV players faced off in one, and in the final period, members from both squads were on the court.

The Dragons' squad looked to be in good form but struggled to find their rhythm offensively. In the end, two of the matches were a draw and

the remaining three were won by HVRHS.

The most decisive performance came from the JV Mountaineers as they muscled their way to an 18-8 final score and racked up 12 fouls within the 8-minute match.

The Dragons varsity squad will look to improve as league play picks up. Their home opener is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 16, against Webutuck at 6 p.m.

Tangled Lines reveals what anglers want for Xmas

Shopping for the angler is not easy, even for other anglers. The sport involves a lot of technical stuff, which combined with personal preference and a hearty dose of completely irrational prejudice, makes it easy for the unwary to drop the proverbial brick.

Example: Buying a Euro-nymphing rod for someone who believes that anything other than a dry fly presentation equals the End of Western Civilization.

Or buying a Tenkara rod for someone who thinks the fixed-line method equals the End of Western Civilization.

If you think I am exaggerating, just lurk on fly fishing forums for a while. One of them had an argument about expensive nippers that raged for years.

So here are some highly idiosyncratic suggestions:

Cabelas CGR fiberglass rods, at about \$70, are not budget busters. They come in weights 2 through 5 and there is a 7 and/or 8 weight for the bass people.

The one I like, and use more often than any other for small stream trout fishing, is the 6 1/2 foot 4 weight. Paired with a double taper line, it is about as versatile a stick as anyone could want, with enough oomph to turn over a weighted nymph or small streamer.

Lamson Liquid reels come in a set with the reel and two extra spools starting at about \$220. They used to be about 60 bucks cheaper but hey, that's so 2021.

These reels are sturdy, easy to clean, easy to switch retrieve direction, and with the extra spools you can get your main trout lines (in weights 4, 5, and 6 for example) in one handy

TANGLED LINES

Patrick L. Sullivan

carrying case. Less stuff rattling around in the car is always better.

Kold Cutters: These are studs designed for racing motorcycles on ice. They also work very well when screwed into wading boots. I use the 3/8 inch version, which are long enough to grab and not long enough to penetrate into the foot-type area, thus causing dismay and concern. And unlike official fly-fishing wading boot studs, around \$28 gets you a bag of 250, rather than a set of 24.

Bat Belt: Say goodbye to flimsy wading belt misery forever with the Blackhawk Black Web Duty Belt (around \$27). Designed for sport shooters, this thing has a Velcro adjuster, and is so stiff it can handle

your wading stick, water bottle and net, thus getting all that weight off the shoulders. Pair it with a Koobak wading staff holster or two, for said staff and for a water bottle (the insulated Yeti Rambler 18 ounce bottle fits snugly).

You can find a lot of this stuff on Amazon, and if that annoys you, buy direct from some of the companies (Cabelas), fly shops (UpCountry in New Hartford), or a hardware store that sells Yeti products.

And then there is the safe choice: the gift certificate. Orvis will provide, as will most fly shops. This is foolproof; the only disadvantage is cosmetic, as a wrapped box generates far more Christmas cheer than an envelope or an emailed QR code.

Feel free to email me with questions: patricks@lakevillejournal.com. Put "FISHING GEAR QUESTION" in the subject line so I don't think you're some kind of weirdo. (I get a lot of peculiar emails.)

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Ad

Notice of formation of The Matthews Group Real Estate, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with SSNY on 9/20/2022.

Location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The Matthews Group Real Estate, LLC, 220 Painter Hill Road, Roxbury, CT 06783.

Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

- 12-08-22
- 12-15-22
- 12-22-22
- 12-29-22
- 01-05-22
- 01-12-22

WHEREAS, the proposed sale contract will contain certain covenants and restrictions and a reversionary clause, in relevant part, guaranteeing that the property will be utilized in the future solely for the purpose of construction and sale and/or lease of an affordable housing unit in accordance with the requirements of Habitat for Humanity; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney to the Town has advised the Board that the sales price for the property may be less than the fair market value of the property if sold upon the open market, but the Office of the Attorney General of the State of New York has issued several

Legal Notice

Please take notice that the organizational meeting for the Pine Plains Fire District of the Town of Pine Plains, County of Dutchess, New York, will be held on the 3rd day of January, 2023, at 7 o'clock P.M. on that day at the firehouse, 7 Lake Road, Pine Plains, NY.

By order of the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Pine Plains Fire District.

12-15-22

TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TOWN SUPERVISOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR THE SALE OF A .64 ACRE PARCEL HAVING TAX GRID NUMBER 133889-7271-00-600612-0000 TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF DUTCHESS COUNTY SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the following Resolution was passed by the North East Town Board at a regular meeting of the Town Board on December 8, 2022. This Resolution is subject to a permissive referendum.

WHEREAS, the Town of North East is the owner of a .64 acre parcel of land located at Rudd Pond Road, having tax id number 133889-7271-00-600612-0000; and

WHEREAS, Habitat for Humanity of Dutchess County has proposed to purchase the said property from the Town for \$25,000; and

RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to enter into the proposed Contract for the subject property on the conditions of the Contract provided to the Town and to execute such other and further documents that may be necessary to consummate the said sale; and be it further RESOLVED, that this Resolution is subject to a permissive referendum as required by Town Law §64(2). Dated: December 8, 2022

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD Elizabeth Strauss Town Clerk

Town of North East 12-15-22

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

Notices can be emailed to legal@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Go to www.tricornernews.com/legalnotices to view current and past legal notices.

Books on sale at Pine Plains Library

Books to brighten the holiday season are on sale at the Pine Plains Library at 7775 S. Main St. during regular operating hours through Christmas.

Sponsored by the Friends of the library, hardcover books sell for \$1. Paperbacks, CDs, DVDs and audio books are 50 cents each.

Donated items in good condition are again being accepted at the circulation desk. Call 518-398-1927 or see info@

pineplainslibrary.org for a listing of regular programs and information on how to apply to become a trustee.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Every so often, this newspaper will run guest editorials from readers in our communities. Here is one, submitted by Lloyd Baroody of Lakeville.

Save Sharon Hospital efforts and slogan may be counterproductive

Rural hospitals have closed all over the country because many were no longer economically viable. We are fortunate and should be grateful to have such a fine health care facility as Sharon Hospital in our midst. I'm afraid that if we insist on the hospital maintaining the clearly underutilized Labor & Delivery (L&D) unit, it might contribute to the eventual demise of the hospital sooner rather than later.

We need to accept that the demographics have significantly changed in the Northwest Corner. The population has shifted more to older folks like myself who need very different services than L&D. Today is not the same as the 1950s and 1960s when I grew up here and there were many young families having lots of children. And it is unlikely that the demographics will revert to the old days due to huge deficit of affordable housing required by younger, less affluent families, who are the folks having children and most likely to use an L&D unit. Accordingly, I totally get why the Sharon Hospital made the decision to modify the mix of services they offer. It is common sense.

"Save Sharon Hospital" as a slogan was an unfortunate choice and reflects unnecessary hyperbole similar to the exaggerated political ads one sees on television. As far as I know, the hospital doesn't need to be saved; it's not about to go out of service. Rather, the community at large needs to be saved from being deprived of a hospital that could one day go away if folks insisting on the maintenance of economically unviable services have their way — which could end up being a Pyrrhic victory.

I was treated at Sharon Hospital recently and asked three staff members in the room what they thought of the Save Sharon Hospital slogan. They were not happy, saying that it is making it more difficult for the hospital to recruit staff. Potential candidates have wondered whether they should even apply for a job at the hospital because Save Sharon Hospital sounds like the place might go under. The slogan is misguided, misleading, and has had unintended consequences.

It would be nice if all of the efforts of the Save Sharon Hospital folks could be redirected to getting more affordable housing in the area. If they were successful at that, then Sharon Hospital would have sufficient need for an L&D unit, and it could become feasible once again.

Since 1960, Lloyd Baroody has been a resident of Lakeville, where he grew up, and has had the benefit of over six decades using our local hospital that he doesn't want to see pushed into economic unviability.

Disinformation online persists

Dear EarthTalk: Is Google doing anything to prevent the propagation of climate disinformation on the Internet?

— P. Hanson, Washington, D.C.

The advent of the internet and smartphone innovations have brought information to our fingertips. As the number of users skyrockets, advertisers have identified lucrative opportunities to meet people where they are. Google is a household name, holding 87 percent of the market share and hosting billions of users. Polls of Google users show that they trust that it produces credible search results. Seventy-three percent of users believe that most or all of the information they find in a search is accurate and trustworthy; however, 68% of users were unable to identify the difference between an ad and an organic search result. This gives a leg up to potentially nefarious advertisers spreading climate disinformation.

Google addressed the problem of pervasive climate disinformation prior to the United Nations (UN) Conference of the Parties (COP) 26th annual meeting in 2021; the internet giant pledged to halt the display of ads that

EARTHTALK

Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss

promoted climate disinformation. This commitment came in tandem with other advertisers pressuring Google not to display their products alongside climate disinformation.

These ads were targeted to key-word searches including: greenhouse gases, renewable energy and information about "eco-friendly" companies. Additionally, since their pledge, Google has accepted \$421,000 for ads from climate denial groups with taglines like "climate campaigners hype the risks of global warming," and "fossil fuels make the planet safer".

CCDH has outlined steps that Google needs to take to actualize the claims they've made on their stance on climate disinformation. Step one would be to halt climate denial ads and ads promoting greenwashing.

These recommendations are a good starting point, but there is no guarantee that Google will follow them. That being said, users should be armed with skills to identify



Winter-proofing your home is worth it

You can do simple things around the interior of your home to lower your risk of falls. First, do basic decluttering as noted in our previous column on this topic. Then, move on to specific room-by-room issues, as suggested by the National Institute on Aging. First, your floors, stairs, and hallways:

Ensure there are handrails on both sides of any stairs, and make sure they are secure. Hold the handrails when you use stairs, even when you are carrying something. Don't let anything you're carrying block your view of the steps. Get help if you need it

Ensure there is good lighting with light switches at the top and bottom of stairs and on each end of a long hall. Consider using motion-activated lights that plug into electrical outlets and automatically turn on when you walk by them to help illuminate stairwells and pathways.

Keep areas where you walk tidy. Don't leave books, papers, clothes, or shoes on the floor or stairs.

Check that all carpets are fixed firmly to the floor, so they won't slip. Put no-slip strips, which you can buy at any hardware store, on tile and wooden floors. Don't use throw rugs or small area rugs. Don't walk on slippery,

climate disinformation. Common tactics that proponents of climate disinformation utilize are: false expertise, logical fallacies, impossible expectations, conspiracy theories and cherry-picked data. The best way to combat these tactics is to be a cautious consumer of online information. Be prepared to vet the source of the information that you find, and get in the habit of developing a mixed-news diet.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at www.emagazine.com. Send questions to: questions@earthtalk.org.

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newly washed floors.

Next, the bathroom:

Mount grab bars near toilets and on both the inside and outside of your tub and shower. Place nonskid mats, strips, or carpet on all surfaces that may get wet. Remember to leave a light on in the bathroom at night or use a night light that turns on automatically in the dark.

In your bedroom: Put night lights and light switches close to your bed when possible. Keep a flashlight by your bed in case the power goes out and you need to get up. Place a landline or well-charged phone near your bed.

In the kitchen:

Keep frequently used pots, pans, and kitchen utensils in a place where they are easy to reach. Clean up spills immediately, especially if oily or greasy. Prepare food while seated, when possible, to prevent fatigue or loss of balance.

And when you venture outside your home: If you have steps leading to your front door, make sure they are not broken or uneven. Add non-slip material to outdoor stairways. Keep the lawn, deck, or porch areas clear of debris, such as fallen branches. Consider installing a grab bar near the front door to provide balance while you are locking or unlocking the door. Turn on your porch light if you plan on leaving home before dawn, or returning home after dark. In the winter, treat outdoor walkways with an ice melt product or sand to make them less slippery. Have some on hand before a snowstorm appears in your weather forecast.

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie, New York 12601, telephone 845-486-2555, email: ofa@dutchessny.gov website: www.dutchessny.gov/aging

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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. Please include a phone number for confirmation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sharon Hospital is open to all now

I am writing today as the medical director of the emergency department and the chief of staff for Sharon Hospital to clarify misinformation and reassure the community that Sharon Hospital is open and ready to care for you and your family. I want to assure my community that Sharon Hospital has a vibrant future in our region and that our team will continue providing the high-quality care our community needs most, right here in Sharon.

Our doors are open, and we are here to serve all your inpatient, outpatient, and emergency needs. Since Sharon Hospital's founding in 1909, our Emergency Department has been here to help

patients in our region with everything from broken bones to heart attacks and strokes. We remain committed to fulfilling the legacy that began more than 100 years ago, while staying up-to-date with modern and advanced standards of care to ensure we can continue providing highly skilled care right here for our community.

On behalf of the entire ED team, I would like to thank our patients and neighbors for their support. We feel incredibly lucky to have the privilege to care for such a wonderful community. Come see us whenever you need. We are here for you.

Ron M. Santos, DO, JD
Sharon

Growth opportunities in the Sharon Hospital transformation plan

I am the medical director of psychiatry at Sharon Hospital. I have been at the hospital for more than 12 years, and I know how valuable this hospital is to our community. That is why I am writing in support of Sharon Hospital's transformation plan. My work with the inpatient behavioral health unit gives me an especially clear picture of Sharon Hospital's impact on our 65+ population, a demographic expected to continue growing in the coming years.

Outside of behavioral healthcare, these patients rely on the hospital for emergency care, surgery, and specialty services such as palliative care.

They need Sharon Hospital to be here in the long term, and this requires us to adapt by making difficult but necessary choices.

I am excited about the growth opportunities presented by the transformation plan, particularly as they relate to behavioral health. By investing resources in behavioral health, a service line in demand within our region, we can expand care

not only in our community — but also become a destination for those outside our region looking to receive compassionate, advanced behavioral health services. By doing so, we can be leaders in breaking down stigma and addressing the behavioral health crisis in our community and beyond.

Behavioral health is just one example of the many services that would have the opportunity to expand if Sharon Hospital is permitted to reallocate its resources to invest in areas our community needs most. But none of this will be possible without making the tough decisions needed to preserve Sharon Hospital.

I believe that Sharon Hospital and Nuvance Health are acting responsibly in proposing to close the under-used Labor & Delivery unit, so we can continue meeting the wide array of needs shown by patients in our region. I support Sharon Hospital's work to survive the challenges facing hospitals across the country and enhance the services we provide.

Saboo Mubbashar, MD
Sharon

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

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OUR TOWNS

Tony Hiss at Cary, on 'Rescuing the Planet'

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK—The Cary Institute of Ecological Studies once again brought a riveting conversation to a large and diversified Zoom audience when it presented award-winning author Tony Hiss on Thursday, Dec. 1.

Hiss' new book "Rescuing the Planet" shows readers how to look at and understand what the Earth is as well as the plants and animals it encompasses and the things that threaten them. It also describes what can be done to alleviate those threats, and that involves the Half-Earth concept.

Cary President Josh Ginsberg and Sarah Charlop-Powers, director of the

Natural Areas Conservancy, a nonprofit dedicated to restoring and conserving New York City's 20,000 acres of forests and wetlands, also spoke. With a background in land-use planning, Charlop-Powers has worked at Scenic Hudson, Mohonk Preserve, and New York City's Department of Transportation.

Hiss talked about O.E. Wilson, the biologist, author and Pulitzer Prize winner who authored "Half-Earth: Our Planet's Fight for Life" in 2016. He believed that by reserving half of the planet for nonhuman species, we might be able to mitigate the badly suffering biodiversity. Hiss is credited with coining the term "Half-Earth" when he wrote about it in a Smithsonian Magazine article.

Hiss also discussed the

recently identified North American coastal hot spots from New Haven to Tampa-Hillsborough, and Chicago, Austin and Houston. A hot spot is identified by having more than 1,500 vascular plants, and having lost 70% of its habitat.

Hiss pointed out the need to know more about other species, their needs and their habits. He discussed Pluie, a 5-year-old gray wolf fitted with a satellite tracking collar that could follow her no matter how far or where she went. She was tracked at over 100,000 miles from the Yukon to Yellowstone, and was the inspiration to protect the large areas needed for survival by bigger carnivores. He talked about the global animal tracking project ICARUS helping to research

these areas, showing how modern technology can help us to learn more about other species.

When we think of conservation, usually we picture large, forested areas, or mountains, or even large bodies of water. We seldom think of New York City and conservation, but 11% of the city is natural habitat. It needs help, and a canopy of trees is being created because the temperature is 5% cooler under trees. Most of the areas being used for this, however, are 100 years old or more. When first settled by the Dutch and later during the Revolutionary War the British chopped down trees. Later, when the city was divided into grids, little space was kept for greenery. Most trees that were cut down

were thrown into water areas, creating kills.

Hiss also discussed M.C. Davis and the Piney Woods Project in Florida. Davis, once very poor but later a billionaire businessman, spent \$90 million claiming properties for conservation. He saved thousands of acres of forests and swamps across the South, planting 8 million longleaf pine seedlings, and preserving several species of animals.

As with most Cary Conversations, the audience asked questions, mainly involving what they can do and what needs to be done. Hiss and Charlop-Powers said many groups are already involved in this fight, but individuals can donate money and time, and volunteering in various ways. They can learn, research, talk about the problems and en-

lighten people.

Read his book, Hiss said: It talks about the people who are already involved, such as the Indigenous Leadership Initiative and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative, a Canadian-U.S. initiative connecting and protecting habitat so people and nature can thrive. It also documents the engineers, biologists, botanists and geologists who are working to save the planet.

When at one point Ginsberg stated, "Our planet is very fragile," Hiss agreed. But he also said, because he is optimistic, "This is an exciting time to be alive—there's so much we can do."

For more information on Cary events or to register for an event, go to www.caryinstitute.org.

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