

AMENIA/DOVER



From left, after the rush of this year's Easter Egg Hunt, Jeffrey Ellis, Bella Milano and Eli Milano took a moment to visit with the Easter Bunny at Beekman Park.

Easter Bunny pops by Beekman Park

AMENIA — The Amenia Recreation Commission helped local children and their families start their Easter weekend with a little excitement by inviting them to the town's annual Easter Egg Hunt at Beekman Park on Saturday, April 16.

Open to children up to 12 years old, this year's Easter Egg Hunt kicked off at 11 a.m. sharp and drew about 50 children, according to Amenia Recreation Supervisor Kelly Milano.

Scouring the fields in search of brightly-colored eggs, the children celebrated Easter with their friends and family and were treated to an early visit from the Easter Bunny.

"The weather held off and we had a great time!" Milano said in reference to the success of this year's hunt. "Each kid got a bag with some treats along with the eggs they collected."

— Kaitlin Lyle



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Dover children roll along, hunting for Easter eggs at Boyce Park



With Easter baskets in hand and bunny ears atop their heads, local children rushed the fields in search of eggs in Dover on April 16.

DOVER — Wingdale's Boyce Park was brimming with children eager to collect Easter eggs on Saturday afternoon, April 16, at the Easter Egg Hunt organized by Dover Recreation.

Pastel plastic eggs littered the fields and playgrounds for the egg hunt at 1 p.m. Children arrived with baskets at the ready, bunny ears on their heads and their family members cheering them on from the sidelines.

Children up to age 6 started their hunt at 1 p.m. in a free-for-all held in the fields.

After the younger children had their chance to fill their baskets with eggs, children ages 7 and up were invited to scour the playground for eggs.

Goodies for this year's Easter Egg Hunt were provided by M&T Bank.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Looking forward to Clean Up Day 2022

AMENIA — Volunteers from the Amenia Democratic Committee (ADC) and others interested in keeping their town beautiful rolled up their sleeves and donned their garden gloves back in 2020 in honor of Earth Day, and plan to do so again this year. It's an annual tradition the ADC organizes with the town, its Conservation Advisory Council and its Enhancement Committee to help make this corner of the world a little cleaner and greener, along with the aid of local volunteers.

Those who stepped forward to help during Amenia's Clean Up Day 2020 met in the center of Amenia at Fountain Square and in the hamlet of Wassaic with large plastic garbage bags to collect litter and debris from the roadsides.

Right, Wassaic resident Mark Doyle, a member of the Dutchess County Republican Committee, joined the Amenia Democratic Committee and others as he consolidated roadside bags and discarded a shopping cart into a utility trailer before heading to the Harlem Valley Transfer Station on Amenia's Clean Up Day 2020.


To help out with Amenia's Clean Up Day 2022, show up at Fountain Square at the intersection of routes 22, 44 and 343 or Borden Park in the center of Wassaic on Saturday, April 23, with gloves in hand. The clean up will run from 10 a.m. until noon.

— Whitney Joseph



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Request an appointment at nuvancehealth.org/heart



Sharon Hospital



Peter A. Dzenutis Sr.

CORNWALL — Peter A. Dzenutis Sr., 95, of Canton, died peacefully Saturday, April 9, 2022, at his home on Case Street, husband to Luigina Dzenutis. Peter was born in Secaucus, N.J., on December 13, 1926 to John and Mary (Bruzgis) Dzenutis, who both died at an early age and Peter was raised by his predeceased uncle and aunt, Ralph and Elizabeth Gibowich of the Bronx.

Peter served in the U.S. Army 101st during WWII as a lineman, paratrooper, and officer horse caretaker. Peter developed a love of horses while serving and enjoyed raising and racing pigeons from an early age. Upon returning Peter met and married Luigina on February 15, 1953. Peter and Luigina went on to have 12 children and lived in Amenia, N.Y., Norfolk, Ct., and Lake Wales, Fl. while raising them. Peter loved to build and repair. He was a roofer and builder and owned Royal Construction until his retirement. His

greatest joy was simple time spent with his family!

Peter is survived by his children, Mary, Peter Jr. (Melinda), Elizabeth (Christopher) Fenn, John (Sandy), Ralph (Cleide), David, Stanley (Agnes), Tom (Robyn Croke), Ann, Luigina, and Rah.

Peter is also survived by his 18 grandchildren and many great grandchildren. Peter is predeceased by son Michael, grandson Aman Sr. and siblings: John, Stanley, Michael, Millie, Helen, Annie (Gibowich), Francine (Gibowich) and Millie (Gibowich).

A memorial service will be held at the Saint Martin of Tours Church of St Mary Lakeville, Conn., on April 21 at 11 a.m. followed by the burial at the Amenia Cemetery. Calling hours are on Wednesday, April 20 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. at The Kenny Funeral Home, which has care of the arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Hartford.

John V. Jack’ Pozzi

SHARON — John V. “Jack” Pozzi, 88, of Canaan, died peacefully on Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at Sharon Healthcare Center. He was the loving husband of the late Rosaline R. Boyer.



Jack was born May 12, 1933, in North Adams. He was the son of the late Joseph J. Pozzi and Margaret C. DeSanty. Jack, a lifelong educator in New York and Connecticut, was a high school English teacher, an elementary school principal, an assistant superintendent and a college professor. He spent the last 10 years of his career as the principal at Lee Kellogg in Falls Village. More than anything else in

the world Jack loved his family. “La Famiglia” was the center of everything he did.

He is survived by his six children: Mark A. Pozzi, Lisa A. Pozzi, John B. Pozzi, Meghan L. Pozzi, MaryBeth Reid and Jennifer K. Pozzi. Jack also has 18 grandchildren and 8 great

grandchildren. All services will be private. Anyone wishing to honor our dad’s memory may donate to the Arts Fund for Region One, a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. Memorial contributions can be sent to Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 800 North Main Street, Sheffield, MA 01257 or visit www.berkshiretaconic.org/donate.

Joanne P. Wojtusiak

CORNWALL — It is with the deepest sadness her family announces the passing of Joanne P. Wojtusiak on December 13, 2021, at the age of 77. Joanne passed peacefully in her sleep from complications associated with Parkinson’s disease. She is survived by her two brothers and sisters-in-law, four nieces and nephews and numerous friends and other relations.

Joanne was born on May 29, 1944, in Queens Village, New York. Self-described as a war baby, her father was deployed in Europe on the date of her birth. She financed her own college education graduating from City College of New York in Queens, (Queens College) with a B.A. in 1965. She was married to Richard Wojtusiak in 1966, until his passing in 1970.

Joanne had a passion for knowledge; with this came a love of travel. Immediately following college, she traveled through Europe “before it was cool,” moving from Paris to Istanbul. She continued traveling the world as her career progressed as she worked in various marketing positions before starting her own company, Skylight

Communications, where she helped executives hone their communication skills.

Throughout her life she displayed an independent and courageous streak championing a wide range of causes ranging from women’s rights, individual responsibility, local environmental support and the betterment of her adopted home in Cornwall Bridge. On a personal note, she was particularly proud of her home including the garden that was featured in several local and national publications. Her furnishings included many early American pieces reflecting her love for history, the Northeast and Cornwall in particular.

Joanne was laid to rest on December 19, 2021, at Calhoun Cemetery in Cornwall Bridge. In lieu of flowers donations are being accepted for the Michael J. Fox Foundation (www.tribute.michaeljfox.org/tribute-page.php?id=2209&np=true) and/ or Tunnels to Tower (tunnel-2towers.org).

Rosemary Allen

SALISBURY — Rosemary Allen, 83, of Salisbury, died peacefully at Noble Horizons on Monday, April 11, 2022. She was the wife of the late Myron W. Allen.



She was born in Manhattan on November 22, 1938. Rosemary graduated from high school in 1956 from Villa Maria Academy in the Bronx.

In addition to her late husband, Rosemary was predeceased by her par-

ents, Lawrence and Emma Hughes, a sister Dolores Caccavo, and a son Francis Cross.

She is survived by her children, Laura Allen, David Allen, Steven Allen, Laurie Cahill, Cynthia Brown, David Cross, and many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

All services are private. The Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon has care of her arrangements.

Thomas J. Flood

MILLERTON — Thomas J. Flood, 79, a beloved husband, father, brother, brother-in-law and uncle, passed away on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.

Born December 9, 1942, in Canaan, he was the son of the late Joseph and Millicent (Brinkerhoff) Flood. Tom resided in Millerton, NY his entire life. He attended Webutuck High School and played on the soccer, basketball and baseball teams. He also played on a local softball team for many years and played on a football team in Poughkeepsie. Tom remained interested in sports during his life and was an avid New York Giants and New York Yankees fan.

In 1961, Tom joined the family business, Floods Spraying Service Inc. His father founded the business in 1928. Tom served as president and owner of the business for over 50 years and was known as a good-hearted, generous man who treated everyone — family, employees and customers — with respect and dignity.

Tom was a communicant of the Catholic Church. He met his wife, Patricia Duncan during their time at Webutuck High School and they were married on November 17, 1962, at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. Tom and Patricia enjoyed 59 years together and Tom was a devoted husband and father, always finding time for his family and they will miss him so very much. Mrs. Flood survives at home in Millerton.

Tom was a lifelong member of the Millerton Gun Club, serving as president

from October 1972 to October 1973. He was also an honorary member of the Rounders of Riga Hunting Camp. In his spare time he enjoyed spending time with his friends at the American Legion or just relaxing on his back porch, soaking up the sun.

In addition to his wife, Tom is survived by three children, Amy M. DeCesare of Princeton, N.J., Leo M. Flood of Lakeville and Jennifer E. Flood of New York, N.Y.; one brother, Joe Flood and his wife Jean of Hillsdale; two sisters, Gloria Covert of Millerton and Doris Reeves of Florida; two brothers-in-law, Don Duncan and his wife Sharon of Millerton and Jim Duncan and his wife Annette of Ballston Spa, N.Y., and several nieces, nephews and cousins. In addition to his parents, Tom was also predeceased by his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Kenneth and Georgeanna Duncan of Millerton.

Calling hours will take place on Saturday, April 23, from 10 am to 11:30 a.m. at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton. A funeral service will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the funeral home. Rev. Zora Ficarra-Cheatham will officiate. Burial will follow at Irontdale Cemetery in Millerton. A reception will follow at the Millerton Inn.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546.

To send an online condolence to the family please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

Janet Elaine Murphy

MILLERTON — Janet Elaine Murphy, 80, a lifelong area resident, stepped into eternity on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at Sharon Hospital in Sharon.



Born on April Fools’ Day in 1942, Janet left these words by which to remember her:

“God gave me life, wonderful parents, a very good and loving husband, two children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the promise of eternal life in heaven because I believed that God sent His Son, Jesus, to die for my sins; and that’s no April Fool!”

At Janet’s request, there will be no calling hours. Her family will hold a private graveside service at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to North East Baptist Church, P.O. Box 531, Millerton, N.Y. 12546 or the Miller-

ton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, N.Y. 12546. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, N.Y. 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, please go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

OBITUARIES

Avis Elizabeth Morehouse

SHARON—Avis Elizabeth Morehouse, 86, of Jackson Road died April 10, 2022, at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan. She was the wife of James E. Morehouse.



Avis was born May 10, 1935, in Cortland, N.Y., the daughter of the late Ralph and Kathryn (Cutler) Honour. She was a graduate of the Amenia High School in Amenia. She was employed at Sharon Hospital as a switchboard operator where she met her husband of 66 years. She was an EMT with the Sharon Volunteer Ambulance for over 15 years. She was also a caregiver for several estates in the sur-

rounding area.

Besides her husband James, she is survived by her daughters Kathleen Visconti and her husband Mark, Diane James and her son William Morehouse; her grandchildren Darren, Nathan, and Bradley Visconti, Dylan, Will, Elizabeth and Lyndon Morehouse; and her great-grandchildren Scarlett and Sienna Visconti and Odin Arancibia. Avis was also predeceased by two sons Gary and Peder Morehouse.

Calling Hours will be held at the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon on Tuesday, April 19 from 4 to 6 p.m. with a service to follow in her memory at 6:00 p.m.

For more obituaries, see page A5



Worship Services

Week of April 24, 2022

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

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

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 YouTube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org
860-435-9290

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

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
No Sunday School in Summer
Pastor Sun Yong Lee
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

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

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

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
656 Smithfield Valley Rd.
Route 83, Amenia, NY
Services every Sunday 10 a.m.
www.thesmithfieldchurch.org
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860-927-3003
The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon
St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge
MASS SCHEDULE
SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget
SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart
WEEKDAY MASSES Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & First Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart

The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall
Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mmgates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service
If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.

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

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

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.trinitylinerock.org
The Rev. Heidi Truax
trinity@trinitylinerock.org
(860) 435-2627

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Join our virtual Zoom service on Sunday, May 8 at 10:30 a.m.
"A Vision of Faith Suited for Our Age"
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com
All are Welcome

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

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

UCC in CORNWALL
Congregational
Worship Sunday, 10 am
Cornwall Village Meeting House
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Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister
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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 in our fellowship hall for in-person Bible study, Thursday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church
313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT
Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
Rev. John Kreta
860-824-1340
allsaintsofamerica.us

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!


Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

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\$50 per
linear foot
(Measured on base)

Taller than 2'4"
to be quoted

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25% of proceeds donated back to
the affiliated Cemetery Association

Andrew J. House
845-705-5986



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Willow, a horse at Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue in Dover, enjoyed being serenaded to by a local resident at the rescue’s Easter on the Farm on Saturday, April 16.

Humans and horses enjoy Easter with rescue group

DOVER PLAINS — Nestled in the town of Dover, Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue (LOHR) at 2699 Route 22 celebrated the arrival of spring and the Easter weekend by hosting a special holiday event at the Farm on Saturday, April 16.

Running from 10 a.m. to noon, the LOHR team and its resident horses shared some quality time with community members young and old. They not only enjoyed plenty of candy, but did crafts, played

music and just enjoyed a peaceful morning on the farm.

Aside from visiting with the horses there were also special guests for Easter: the Cool Critters 4-H Rabbit & Cavy Club.

No matter the season or holiday, LOHR continues to ensure its mission of fostering meaningful relationships between horses and humans is carried out. Saturday’s special Easter event was one more example of how it does so.

— Kaitlin Lyle

OBITUARIES

Nancy A. (Silvernale) Merriman

FALLS VILLAGE — Nancy A. (Silvernale) Merriman, 84, of 70 Railroad St., died Wednesday night April 13, 2022, at the Sharon Hospital. She was the wife of the late Martin Merriman. Nancy was born March 30, 1938 at the former Geer Hospital in North Canaan, daughter of the late Theodore and Janet (Rogers) Silvernale.

For over 30 years Nancy faithfully delivered the Waterbury Republican American to the families of the Northwest Corner. She began her route at 3:00 a.m. every morning.

She is survived by her children: Pamela R. and her husband Claudio S. Veronesi Jr. of Canaan Valley; Randy J.

and his wife Constance J. of Falls Village; and Regina Anthony of Harwinton. Nancy is also survived by her granddaughter Sophia Barry of Harwinton.

Funeral services will be held on Friday, April 22 at 1:00 p.m. in the Hillside Cemetery on Norfolk Road in East Canaan. Calling hours will be held at the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home 118 Main St., North Canaan on Thursday, April 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Memorial donations may be sent to the Little Guild, 285 Sharon Goshen Tpke., West Cornwall, CT 06796, or to the Falls Village Fire and Ambulance Department, 188 Route 7 S, Falls Village, CT 06031.

For more obituaries, see page A4

 **The MILLERTON NEWS**
www.facebook.com/themillertonnews

Cynthia ‘Cindi’ T. Labshere

EAST CANAAN — Cynthia (“Cindi”) T. Labshere, 64, of New Marlborough, passed away on April 12, 2022, at Charlotte Hungerford Hospital in Torrington.

Services will be 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m., Friday, April 22, at the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home with a Celebration of Life at the Canaan VFW from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Cindi was born in Great Barrington to Elizabeth and William Tinker on May 26th, 1957. She graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1975. She married Layne Alan Labshere on December 3, 1977, in East Canaan at the North Canaan Congregational Church. Cindi worked as a nursing coordinator and certified Nursing Assistant at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for over forty years.

Cindi was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She had a caring, selfless nature about her, and to know her was to love her.

Cindi enjoyed life to the fullest and she knew how to have fun. During the summer months on

the beaches of New England, you could find Cindi dipping her toes in the ocean, listening to the waves crash while reading a book, and soaking it all in.

Cindi is preceded in death by her parents William Tinker and Elizabeth Tinker (Leffingwell) and her brother Kenneth Tinker.

Cindi is survived by her husband Layne Labshere, children Amy Labshere and Jesse Cooper, Jessica Laine (Labshere) and Kristopher Laine, Joshua and Julie Labshere (LaBella), brothers William Tinker, Jr., Richard Tinker and Noreen Tinker, her grandchildren Tristan Soule, Laynie Mullen, Reece Mullen, Callie Labshere, Gunnar Laine, Jasey Cooper, Cohen Labshere and many nieces and nephews. She is survived by her best friend Lynn Miller (Coons). Her dogs Jaxon and Smidgeon, her granddogs Merida Eve, Brynnleigh, Percy, Precious, Sgt. Tibbs and Lincoln.

Contributions are appreciated and may be sent to the Little Guild of Saint Frances in Cornwall.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

A meeting of the lot owners of Irondale Cemetery Inc. will be held on April 25, 2022 at 6:00 pm at North East Muffler Inc., 5654 Rt. 22 Millerton, N.Y 12546.

For the purpose of electing

trustees and for such other matters that may properly come before the meeting.

The annual meeting of the trustees will immediately follow the meeting of the lot owners.

The trustees & volunteers will do an annual clean up in Cemetery before memorial Day, any thing you wish to keep should be picked up before May 1, 2022.

Reminder no plastic plants, glass or trees will be allowed after this date. Thank you.

Cindy L. Heck
Irondale Cemetery Sexton
04-14-22
04-21-22

Legal Notice

A+M Flower Co. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/21/22 online. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 3054 Church St. Pine Plains, NY 12567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

03-24-22
03-31-22
04-07-22
04-14-22
04-21-22
04-28-22

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Northeast Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on the Budget in the High School Library at the Webutuck High School Building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, on Monday, May 9, 2022 at 7:00 P.M., for the purpose of presenting the budget document for the 2022-2023 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the budget for the 2022-2023 school year, exclusive of public

monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours, between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., prevailing time, at the Webutuck Elementary School, Eugene Brooks Intermediate School, Webutuck High School and at the District Administrative Office between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, effective May 3, 2022, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays. Copies of the Budget will also be available at the Northeast-Millerton Library and the Amenia Free Library.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election of Members of the Board of Education and Vote on the Budget of the qualified voters of the Northeast Central School District, will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 at the Webutuck High School gym, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

A. To elect two (2) members to the Board of Education, both seats commencing July 1, 2022 and expiring on June 30, 2025, to succeed John Merwin and Chris Mayville whose terms expire on June 30, 2022.

B. PROPOSITION I: 2022-2023 Northeast (Webutuck) CSD Budget

Shall the 2022-2023 Budget as adopted by the Board of Education in the amount of \$ 25,039,114, with anticipated revenue exclusive of taxes in the amount of \$ 8,065,415 and the amount to be raised through taxes of \$ 16,973,699, be approved?

C. PROPOSITION II: 2022-2023 Transportation Vehicle Purchase

SHALL the Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire two (2) transportation vehicles, one (1) wheelchair accessible mini-bus and one (1) utility vehicle at a maximum aggregate cost not to exceed \$170,000; (2) expend such sum

or so much thereof as may be necessary for such purpose; (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by

the Board of Education taking into account state aid received; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$170,000, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

D. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting pursuant to the Education Law of the State of New York.

The election and budget vote shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the poll shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 P.M. to cast their ballots.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver’s license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that absentee ballots will be available for this Election and Vote. Applications for absentee ballots for the School District Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York on school days during school hour, or on the district’s website at www.webutuckschools.org beginning March 1, 2022. The application must be returned to the District Clerk by May 10, 2022 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the

election, May 16, 2022, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the Election and Vote, May 17, 2022.

The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting by “permanently disabled” voters of the District and any questions regarding these should be directed to the District Clerk.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District at the said District Administrative Offices during regular office hours, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, including the day of the Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for “military” voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for “military ballots” in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter’s military ballot in accord with the military voter’s preferred method of transmission, or if no preferred method is identified by mail, not later than twenty-five (25) days before the vote. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter’s military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 P.M. on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Education Law § 2035, 2008, any referendum or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be

submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with and directed to the District Clerk at the District Office, on or before April 18, 2022; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District; and must state the name and residence of the candidate, and the name and residence of each signer. However, the Board of Education will not entertain or place before the voters any petition or any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of monies which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition.

Therese M. Trotter
Clerk of the Board
Northeast (Webutuck)
Central School District
194 Haight Road
P.O. Box 405
Amenia, NY 12501
04-21-22

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT ROLL

Pursuant to Section 506 of the Real Property Tax law:

Notice is hereby given that the Assessor of the Town of Amenia County of Dutchess, has completed his tentative assessment roll for the Current year, a copy of which is filed with the Town Clerk.

The Assessor and/or Designee will be in attendance with such tentative roll at:

THE AMENIA TOWN HALL - 4988 ROUTE 22-AMENIA, NY 12501

Date: Monday 5/02/2022
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9AM AND 1PM (by appointment)

DATE: Tuesday 5/10/2022
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9AM AND 1PM (by appointment)

DATE: Monday 5/14/2022
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 9AM AND 1PM (by appointment)

Date: Tuesday 5/17/2022
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 5:30PM AND 8:30PM (by appointment)

Written complaints with respect to the assessments may be filed with the Assessor any time prior to or on Grievance Day and shall be transmitted by the Assessor to the Board of Assessment Review on or

before Grievance Day.

A publication containing procedures for contesting an assessment is available at the Assessor’s Office or online at www.tax.ny.gov/pdf/publications/orpts/grievancebooklet.pdf

Donna Dipippo, Assessor
GRIEVANCE DAY

Fourth Thursday in May (508 Real Property Tax Law)

May 26, 2022
(525 Real Property Tax Law)

NOTICE is hereby given that the BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW for the Town of Amenia, County of Dutchess, shall hear and determine complaints in relation to assessments at:

The Amenia Town Hall- 4988 Route 22- Amenia, NY 12501 845-373-8860 x 104

The BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW will be in attendance on this day:

DATE Tuesday- May 26, 2022
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 3PM AND 5PM

DATE Tuesday- May 26, 2022
BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6PM AND 8PM

The BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW will then file a copy of the determination with the Town Clerk to become a matter of public record.

Steven Benardete
Board Chairman
04-21-22

NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO ALL ENROLLED DEMOCRATIC VOTERS OF THE VILLAGE OF MILLERTON THAT A MEETING OF SAID ENROLLED VOTERS WILL BE HELD ON

Tuesday, the 3rd day of May, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Village Hall, 5933 North Elm Avenue (Route 22), Millerton, New York for the purpose of selecting and nominating candidates for the following positions to be voted on at the Village Election to be held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022:

Trustee—2 year term

Trustee—2 year term and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Democratic Committee
Village of Millerton
Debra Middlebrook, Chair
04-21-22

PINE PLAINS/AREA

School community asked to take digital equity survey

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Aware of the critical role technology has played in student learning these past few years, the Pine Plains Central School District (PPCSD) has invited district families to complete the New York State Education Department’s (NYSED) digital equity survey to help better serve students, families and educators — both in the PPCSD and across the state.

Digital equity, according to Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler’s letter to district families and guardians, refers to “ensuring students have equal access to technology as well as the training needed to navigate digital tools.”

Handler’s letter also outlined the survey’s purpose, which is to understand and promote educational equity (including digital equity) for all New York students.

Issuing the survey earlier this month to all public school districts, charter schools and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES), NYSED has required that all school dis-

tricts collect accurate data on digital resource access for New York students.

Comprised of nine questions, the survey asks families to indicate what device their child uses most often to complete learning activities away from school; whether their school district issued a dedicated school- or district-owned device for their child to use during the school year; whether the primary learning device is sufficient for their child to fully participate in all learning activities away from school; and other similar questions.

In order to collect accurate data, NYSED has asked parents or guardians to complete a digital equity survey for each student in the family in grades kindergarten through 12th.

Before the survey was issued, Handler said there have been a number of surveys on technology access, including one created by the individual towns, one created by Dutchess County and one created by New York State.

What distinguishes this survey from its successors, he explained, is that “it targets barriers to students and

families that effect learning in a remote or semi-remote environment.

“This survey is valuable to the state as they decide where to place resources,” Handler said. “For us, it will tell us little that we do not already know.”

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, Handler said the PPCSD was “ahead of almost all school districts” in that every Pine Plains student in pre-k through 12th grade had a device assigned to them, though he attributed broadband access as a major issue in the district.

Families may access the survey by clicking the link posted online at www.ppcsd.org.

A survey guidance document was also created by NYSED to assist parents and guardians with their responses.

As NYSED is aiming for 100% participation from its student body, according to District Clerk Julia Tomaine, the survey will be open until the end of the 2021-22 school year or until its goal is met.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Senior students at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School formed friendly connections with local senior citizens as part of the annual Senior-to-Senior Breakfast on Wednesday morning, April 6.

Senior-to-Senior Breakfast tradition bridges the age gap

PINE PLAINS — Delicious aromas of everyone’s favorite morning treats wafted out of the Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School cafeteria as its graduating class of 2022 cooked up a hot breakfast for local senior citizens as part of the annual, inter-generational

Senior-to-Senior Breakfast on Wednesday, April 6.

Running from 8 to 9:30 a.m., members of the senior class were happy to serve members of the town’s senior population, who happily lined up for a hearty breakfast in the high school cafeteria.

Young and old alike found they had plenty to talk about over helpings of hot breakfast dishes, as senior students sparked conversation and made friendly connections with their community’s elder population.

— Kaitlin Lyle



PHOTO SUBMITTED

From left, Stissing Mountain soccer teammates and sisters Michelle and Brianna Blackburn worked together to hide eggs during Easter weekend.

Lady Bombers morph into Easter Bunny

PINE PLAINS — Taking over the Easter Bunny’s job for one last weekend, the Stissing Mountain High School girls varsity soccer team brought their “Egg My Yard!” program to an egg-cellent end as they hid eggs in the yards of local families on Saturday, April 16, and Sunday, April 17.

As part of the Easter holiday program, families living in the Pine Plains Central School District were invited to select the number of candy-filled eggs they wanted hidden in their yard and the date they

wanted to have the egg hunt at their house.

On the night before the selected date, the Lady Bombers worked together to hide eggs for excited children to uncover the following morning.

All proceeds raised through the “Egg My Yard!” program went to benefit the Stissing Mountain High School varsity girls soccer team. With the female athletes playing the role of Easter Bunny for the last three weekends, the team raised a total of \$700.

— Kaitlin Lyle

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office (DCSO). All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Domestic turns to DWI

Wednesday, March 30, Deputies responded to 31 County View Road in North East for a domestic dispute.

While investigating the matter, deputies found probable cause to believe that one of the involved parties drove their vehicle while in an intoxicated state. Deputies subsequently arrested 36-year-old Eva Jones of Massachusetts for DWI.

Jones is scheduled to appear in North East court at a later date.

Be On the Look Out arrest

Sunday, March 20, Deputies arrested of Juan Call-Chub, 25, for DWI subsequent to a Dutchess County 911 Be On the Look Out alert, for an erratic vehicle on Route 22 in the Town of Amenia.

Call-Chub was processed at the Amenia DCSO’s substation and released on Uniform Traffic Tickets returnable to the Town of Amenia Court at a later date.

Verbal domestic settled

Sunday, March 20, Deputies responded to 116 Old Post Road #4 in the Town of North East for a verbal domestic dispute.

The matter was investigated without further incident.

North East dispute settled

Wednesday, March 23, Deputies responded to 406 Sharon Station Road in the Town of North East for a boyfriend/girlfriend verbal domestic.

The matter was investigated without further incident.

Dover domestic settled

Thursday, March 24, Deputies responded to 16 Lilac Drive in the Town of Dover for a domestic dispute.

The matter was investigated without further incident.

Sexual abuse charge

The DCSO arrested 64-year-old Herald J. Bodensiek of Edison, N.J., on Tuesday, March 8, in connection with a month-long investigation into the sexual abuse of a child.

As of the time of his arrest, Bodensiek was accused of having sexual contact with a child, and was charged with sexual abuse in the 1st degree (a felony).

After being processed, Bodensiek was arraigned before the Town of Union Vale Court, just outside of Millbrook, and was remanded to the Dutchess County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 cash bail or \$100,000 bond.

No further details will be released about the case in order to protect the victim’s privacy. At this time, the DCSO doesn’t believe there is a danger to the community as a whole.

If anyone has information about this case or similar cases involving the defendant, contact Detective Sistarenik at 845-486-3833.bsistarenik@dutchessny.gov.

Report crime tips

Anyone with any informa-

tion on the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity, should contact the DCSO tip line at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

The Millerton News will publish the outcome of police charges. Contact us by mail at P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546, Attn: Police Blotter or send an email, with “police blotter” in the subject line, to editor@millertonnews.com.

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2 DAY SPRING POWER-UP

Silver pheasant befriends Ancram resident

ANCRAM — Of all the ways Ancram resident Francesco Grisanzio expected to spend his day on Tuesday, April 5, chances are he didn't expect to pass his time befriending the impressively feathered fowl that surprised him and his family when it wandered into their yard.

Grisanzio, who lives on Cottontail Road, between Hall Hill and Poole Hill roads, described the black-and-white bird native to the forested mountains in Southeast Asia and eastern and southern China, as "healthy and calm," with "an agreeable personality." Male silver pheasants are black-and-white while females of that breed are typically brown.

While pointing out he "was no expert" on the species, Grisanzio said he knows some people raise pheas-

ants for eggs while others hunt them.

On that Tuesday, the silver pheasant that wandered into Grisanzio's yard appeared content to simply be.

"He hung around in our yard," said Grisanzio. "He was a pleasant little guy. He didn't make a fuss. We gave him some water, apples and bird feed; he followed us around. He was curious about us, and curious about our chickens — we keep chickens. We just peacefully hung out all day."

Grisanzio said he "made contact with the likely owner of the bird, but by the time he arrived, he didn't have the bird anymore; the pheasant had taken off when it got dark Tuesday night."

Grisanzio was clearly disappointed he couldn't reunite the animal with its owner.

"We lost track of the pheasant on the day of him hanging around," he said, adding he hasn't heard of any new sightings since.

He did say the man he believes owns the silver pheasant has "some other interesting ducks or geese I see when passing by his home. I believe a tree had fallen on [the pheasant's] enclosure and he had gotten out."

Silver pheasants typically forage during the morning and evening and aren't known to fly except when fleeing from danger.

When interviewed, Grisanzio said he was just hoping owner and pheasant could be reunited.

"It's a beautiful bird," he said in a wistful tone, possibly hoping for a reunion with the animal himself one day in the not-too-distant-future.

— Whitney Joseph



PHOTO BY FRANCESCO GRISANZIO

Ancram resident Francesco Grisanzio was surprised to discover a silver pheasant in his yard on Tuesday, April 5, and sent out an email through the town's Ancramemail seeking its owner. Before being able to reunite bird and owner, though, the feathered fowl flew (or most likely sauntered) off.



Spring Cleanup

Spring has arrived and that means it's time to tackle some of many projects we've added to our lists throughout the winter. Whether you need landscaping, gardening, remodeling, building, general spring cleanup or ongoing maintenance, you can count on each of the businesses on this page to assist from start to finish. And when you call, let them know you saw their ad in *your* community weekly newspapers, The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.

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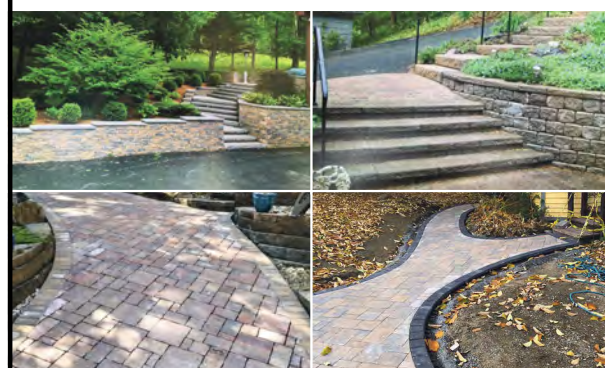


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BRUSH FIRE Continued from Page A1

15. It was issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

“The state started the burn ban about six or seven years ago because there were so many fires during those times when people are clearing their land,” said Rochfort. “Even when there is a lot of rain, one windy day can dry the top layers off, the brush and leaves, making it easier to catch fire. By May the danger is a lot less, be-

cause the grass is greener and much less apt to catch fire.”

In addition to the local companies that assisted at the Shunpike brush fire, the Millbrook fire department also thanked the New York State Forest Rangers for their assistance at the scene in extinguishing the flames.

Rochfort asked the public to remember the fire ban remains in effect through mid-May for good reason and that all residents must adhere to the law.

LIFE SAVED Continued from Page A1

scene, members of the Millerton Fire Company and Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP) arrived “and joined in the continued efforts to resuscitate the individual,” according to the fire company.

“Due to the great teamwork and quick response, the male was transported to the hospital with a pulse,” added the release.

Veeder confirmed the man was transported to Sharon Hospital in Sharon, Conn.

“It was a great collabora-

tion by the MPD, the NDP, everyone on scene,” Veeder said about the emergency agencies’ teamwork. “It was a team effort just to bring this guy back to life.”

No word on what triggered the cardiac arrest, nor has the resident’s identity been disclosed due to confidentiality reasons.

Local residents lauded the life-saving efforts of emergency workers over social media — particularly those conducted by the MPD — in

saving the Millerton resident’s life.

Among the words of appreciation posted on the “Millerton Amenia Community Forum” Facebook page, local residents urged one another to show their support for the MPD by attending a public hearing this Wednesday, April 20.

The focus will be the Millerton Village Board’s proposed local law to abolish the MPD; the 6 p.m. hearing will be held at the NorthEast-

Millerton Library Annex at 28 Century Blvd.

It will be the community’s last opportunity to speak formally before the board about whether it wants the village to keep its part-time police force or dissolve it before the mayor and trustees vote on the proposed law. If the MPD is abolished, Millerton will contract with the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office for police coverage inside the village. For more on this issue, go to www.tricornernews.com.

UKRAINE Continued from Page A1

Millerton for the past decade, splitting its time between the Dutchess County village and NYC.

Local efforts

Since the war began, the husband and wife duo has been working feverishly to help those suffering at the hands of Putin and the Russian troops.

They organized a highly successful fundraiser, which took place during two consecutive weeks due to a snowstorm that led to poor attendance at its first venue at the Re Institute in Millerton on March 12. A second event was then held at Troutbeck in Amenia on March 20.

That fundraiser, which included a silent auction and an art auction with artists from around the region donating their work, also had chefs, musicians and many other local businesses contributing to the cause.

As of Sunday, April 17, the fundraiser had surpassed over \$300,000, “and we will not stop here,” said Wlodar.

Meeting of the minds

Now Wlodar is collaborating with Millerton businessman and professional photographer Svend Lindbaek, owner of the former Gilmor Glass building at 2 Main St. That’s where the main traffic light is, at the intersection of routes 44 and Route 22.

The building has been renamed Garage Galleri with an “i,” which is how gallery is spelled in Danish, Lindbaek explained.

New entry to Millerton

It’s the perfect name for his future business, which will be a combination of a gallery space and tap room called Millerton Social. Lindbaek said “it’s not really intended as a bar, it’s more intended as a gallery space for people.”

It will change the whole look of that corner when people enter the village.

Before the COVID pandemic, Lindbaek had initially applied to the Millerton Planning Board to turn the space into a brewery; he planned to call it Svendale Brewing Co.

Septic is fine

There had been reports, including in this newspaper, that those plans were stymied due to septic problems. Those reports were incorrect.

“I don’t believe that’s accurate,” said Lindbaek. “I was never aware of such issues. The previous owner had a SPDES permit, and that was transferred into my name. I purchased the building in November of 2019.”

A SPDES permit is a State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit, issued by the New York State (NYS) Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

According to NYS law, it’s required for pipes that discharge wastewater into surface or ground waters, like septic systems.

With the septic in good shape and the building structurally sound, Lindbaek has been working with Millerton architect Ray Nelson to bring his vision of Garage Galleri to fruition. While he has the

village Planning Board’s approval in hand for his amended project, there are still some final details to be worked out.

Open to ideas

Thinking there might be a better use for the space rather than just using it as a temporary gallery for his photos in the meantime, Lindbaek decided to hang a sign in the window and advertise it to anyone with a good proposal.

“My purpose was to create a dialogue with people and see if anybody had the desire to do something with the space that was a better idea than I had or to compliment the idea that I had,” he said, noting he spoke to about five people from the area; the sign was up for roughly one month. “I would say people generally were interested in having gallery space here.”

Then he spoke with Wlodar and his wife.

Fundraising headquarters

“They called and asked me if the space was available,” said Lindbaek. “Initially they had in mind having a fundraiser here; I think we’re using the space as a semi-headquarters for fundraising. I intend to be here on weekends, if anybody wants to stop by... we actually have a QR code and you can make a donation to Sunflower of Peace right away if it’s easier, or write a check to Sunflower of Peace, or we collect cash.”

The Wlodars’ fundraising efforts are tied directly to the 501(c)3 nonprofit Sunflower of Peace based out of Boston, an “organization committed to helping Ukrainians affected by the Russian military invasion,” according to www.sunflowerofpeace.com. The sunflower is the national flower of Ukraine.

How to help

To raise funds for Ukraine, the Wlodars and Lindbaek will be at the Garage Galleri during the weekends from noon to 6 p.m. and by appointment, selling items with the Ukrainian flag and colors, including T-shirts, for a minimum \$25 donation; lawn signs with posts, for a minimum \$30 donation; totes, for a minimum \$20 donation; stickers, for a minimum \$10 donation.

Community events

A community coffee is planned at the gallery on Wednesday, April 20, from 8 to 10 a.m.

“That’s Svend’s idea to talk a little about our effort and Ukraine; we want to engage the community and people,” said Wlodar. “We are getting more calls from people and we want people to volunteer, we want this gallery to be open on weekends at least, and we need to staff it. I volunteer, but we need other people to donate their time, and I think bringing people together will be good.”

“Kim and André are so wonderful to work with; I hope this is sort of an ongoing work relationship,” said Lindbaek. “Now that I’m involved with this, it’s not something you just can discard. They can keep having their presence here, even if becomes less of



PHOTO BY ANDREW WLODAR

These T-shirts are among the numerous items being sold at 2 Main St. in Millerton on weekends to fundraise for the United with Ukraine effort to help war victims in that country. Profits raised are going to the 501(c) nonprofit Sunflower of Peace.

a presence... once their presence is established, you may not need to be as loud about it. Once established, you can’t really take it away. It’s not going away, it’s here. They may need our help forever.”

Boots on the ground

Wlodar is also working with the Wayair Foundation to hire get psycho-trauma specialists in Poland to help Ukrainian orphans there suffering from PTSD.

He said they know “how to spot different symptoms and how to deal with different phases, which can turn into aggression, depression; different kids can act different ways. Many are missing their fathers, it’s horrible. So we are trying to monitor that and do whatever we can to help... the need is enormous. We will continue to fundraise. Our mission is really to help the young, the displaced, the mothers.”

One thing Wlodar said he is trying to do is find tablets for the orphans and refugees — with more than 2.6 million refugees in Poland, more than 1 million of whom are young children — so they can continue to go to school. Some teachers who remained in Ukraine are trying to teach via a TV channel Wlodar said some of his friends started for that purpose.

“They’re amazing; it’s an educational channel for Ukrainian kids,” he said. “We love that. People are being very creative.”

People are affected

Lindbaek said watching how resilient the Ukrainians are has been incredible. On the other hand, watching how brutal the Russians have been has been extremely difficult.

“I’m from Denmark, so it does hit home a little bit. I read this morning that Finland and Sweden are considering being a part of NATO... that’s another form of support,” he said. “I would say, to be honest, I’m not an overly political person, so I don’t do this from a political perspective... They say often something good comes out of something bad.”

Others have likewise been impacted by the violence they’ve seen and are doing what they can to help, including Millerton acupuncturist Lisa Wood. She proposed the

Walk for Ukraine walkathon for Saturday, May 14, at the Harlem Valley Rail Trail in Millerton. More details will be announced once they become available.

“We hope, I don’t know, let’s be optimistic, for a couple thousand people,” said Wlodar. “I think it’s a fantastic idea.”

Art auction & more

Wlodar and his wife are also working on a second art auction, which will feature Millerton artist Murray Zimiles’ painting, “Ukraine,” highlighted on the front page of the March 24 issue of The Millerton News.

Zimiles planned to sell the 60” x 40” oil and mixed

media on canvas for \$20,000 and then donate 100% of the proceeds to nonprofits aiding war victims in Ukraine.

As the painting has not yet sold, Wlodar intends to include it in the next auction.

Additionally, he said on April 17, “We are getting more art shipped in some cases all the way from Lvivi and Cracow to benefit our efforts.”

Wlodar is also in “the final stages of arranging a very special concert of The Ukrainian Chorus Dumka of New York.” The choir performed at the cold open of Saturday Night Live on Feb. 27; watch them at www.youtube.com/watch?v=ljE4_h0t7qI.

A June fundraiser is being planned by a local couple that reached out to Wlodar for his advice and assistance.

“Mark Lagus and Leevi Ernits from Stanfordville are organizing a rather special fundraiser and concert for Ukraine,” said Wlodar, excited local efforts to aid Ukraine are ongoing. “We are awaiting a formal confirmation of a fabulous folk singing group called Ukrainian Village Voices.”

He’s hopeful people will “keep our momentum going — please bring to us fresh ideas,” adding he’s also “actively looking for more art” for the hoped-for auction.

To contact Wlodar for details or an appointment to stop by 2 Main St., call 786-282-24953.


To contact Lindbaek for details or an appointment to stop by 2 Main St., call 917-292-7750.



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A PHOTO FROM 52 YEARS AGO




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By Ruth SoRelle

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

RELIGION: LEILA HAWKEN

Who Wrote the Bible and Why the Answer Matters

As a general rule, if you want to know who wrote a book, you can refer to the spine with more detail found just inside the cover.

Not so with the Bible, and yet it endures as one of the most widely read, consulted and even memorized resources there has ever been. Even Siri, the virtual wiz, says that the Bible was written by “Various.” While that is technically correct, it seems vague.

The Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn., tackled the question by offering a program titled, “Who Wrote the Bible and Why the Answer Matters,” on Sunday, April 10, led by local favorite Franny Tali-ferro, retired from the faculty at New York City’s Brearley School, and her former 12th-grade student, Martien Halvorson-Taylor.

Both are part-time Cornwall residents.

Their conversation whisked their Zoom audience through millennia of history and scholarly inquiry. The program attracted 164, including a number of area theologians who kept the chat box flowing with off-stage debate.

Ancient storytellers numbering probably in the millions over generations and their honed stories continue to communicate profoundly with individual modern



A lively talk by a Biblical scholar on Zoom last week explored the many facets and the complex origins of the Bible.

readers to lessen fears, shape lives and kindle hope, Halvorson-Taylor said.

Her talk focused mainly on what Christians call the Old Testament, although Ameniam, N.Y., Rabbi Jon Heddon’s entry into the chat box noted that the Jews do not call it the Old Testament nor do they call G-d by name.

The structure of the Bible has intrigued scholars over the ages, Halvorson-Taylor said. A case in point is Genesis, the story of the Creation in two chapters with differing approaches telling the same story, but likely to have been written in different times. A 19th-century scholar, Julius Wellhau-

sen, put forth the argument that the Bible was written over the course of centuries.

The dual narrative approach, she explained, is different from a linear narrative. Ancient storytelling (before writing was thought of) was circular, often repetitive. Those ancient storytellers were pre-literate, with each community of people modifying the stories at will.

“The old stories of the oral tradition were malleable, unrigid, fluid,” Halvorson-Taylor said.

But, along came a new technology, the written word, viewed by many with suspicion about the change it would bring to the world.

Halvorson-Taylor likened the advent of writing to a technology in the way that the modern age viewed computers with alarm at first for the harm they might do

to society.

As scribes began to write these stories down on newly developed scrolls, these newly written words were memorialized for future generations, but they were also fixed and frozen in place, Halvorson-Taylor said.

The scribes had no sense of personal ownership of the product; they were merely conduits for the past to be preserved for the future, she added.

“We hear their voices because scribes fed from the old traditions, editing and reframing, trying to make them relevant to their day,” Halvorson-Taylor said.

Offering an analogy, Halvorson-Taylor brought to mind the Zoom listeners’ old family stories that have passed through generations, amusing or instructing younger generations and often repeated to define the experiences of lifetimes. Such family stories give a sense of origins and memories that we claim as our own to form an eternal past.

“We all make choices about which stories we want to retain and carry on, or forget,” she said. “The Bible is a collection of such family stories.”

The question of how those texts became sacred was posed by Tali-ferro. “Rabbis actively debated that question well into the Common Era and beyond,” Halvorson-Taylor replied.

To contact Halvorson-Taylor directly and to learn more about her Audible course on the subject, go to www.WritingTheBible.org. The link also leads to her website.



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

This year, Lime Rock Park will host several signature nonprofit events of the Northwest Corner, including Trade Secrets and the Scottish Round Hill Games, photo, above, with caper tosses, haggis and more.

NONPROFITS:
CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Trade Secrets (and Tartans) This Year at Lime Rock Park

Although it has new owners now, the race track at Lime Rock Park in Salisbury, Conn., will continue and even expand its tradition of offering use of the track facilities for nonprofit fundraisers and other interesting activities.

TRADE SECRETS
This year for the first time, the Trade Secrets Rare Plant and Garden Antiques Sale will be held at the track, on Saturday, May 14.

Trade Secrets is the wildly popular annual fundraising event for Women’s Support Services.

Based in Lakeville, Conn., the agency supports victims of domestic violence throughout the region.

Founded by famed interior designer Bunny Williams of New York City and Falls Village, Conn., Trade Secrets comprises the plant and design sale on Saturday and tours of six significant gardens on Sunday.

This year, for the first time, the Saturday sale (and book signing by local authors including another famed

Continued on next page

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar.

ART

The Clark Art Museum. 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. www.clarkart.edu
ARTIST TALK AND BOOK LAUNCH, April 27, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

BOOKS

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon. 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. www.hotchkisslibrary.org
Poetry Reading Day, April 28.

The Salisbury Forum. Salisbury, Conn. www.salisburyforum.org
THOMAS SHAPIRO, “Toxic Inequality,” April 29, 7:30 p.m.

KIDS

Kent Memorial Library. 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. www.kentmemoriallibrary.org
Earth Day Activity, April 22, 11 a.m.

NorthEast-Millerton Library. 75 Main St., Millerton N.Y. www.nemillertonlibrary.org
Pollinator Garden Clean Up and Planting, April 23, 1 to 2 p.m.

MOVIES

The Moviehouse. 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.themoviehouse.net
March of the Penguins, April 23, 11:30 a.m.; In Balanchine’s Classroom, April 24, 1 p.m.

MUSIC

The Egremont Barn. 17 Main St., South Egremont, Mass. www.theegremontbarn.com
Dead Man’s Waltz, April 22, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Norfolk Library. 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. www.norfolklibrary.org
Performance: Ed Thorney Band, April 30, 6 to 7 p.m.

THEATER

The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck. 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. www.centerforperformingarts.org
Shakespeare in Love, April 22 to May 8.

Warner Theatre. 68 Main St., Torrington, Conn. www.warnertheatre.org
Bug, April 9 to 24.

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PHOTOS BY REBECCA BLOOMFIELD

Photographer Rebecca Bloomfield has collected stories and photos around the world (including from Stefano in Italy above, and the staff and volunteers at a shelter in Torrington, Conn., below) for her collection, “So, Are We Gonna Talk About It?” Bloomfield herself is gonna talk about it in Falls Village, Conn., on April 24.



Pandemic Tales, in Words and Photos

The pandemic isn’t really over yet, and so photographer Rebecca Bloomfield’s study of pandemic tales (in words and photos) is ongoing. But the Northwest Corner resident will give a showing of where the work is at, on Sunday, April 24, 3 p.m. at the D. M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn. Bloomfield’s project is called “So, Are We Gonna Talk About It?” and it is supported by a grant from the Connecticut Office of the Arts. Bloomfield will talk about the project, which has so far taken her to Italy and Ohio, as well as Connecticut, to conduct interviews.

After her talk, the audience will be invited to break into pairs or small groups to share their own pandemic tales. “There is value in looking back,” Bloomfield believes. “Not to wallow or prevent us from moving forward, but for our collective processing and healing of this era.” The project so far can be seen online at www.soarewegonnataleaboutit.com. Learn more about Bloomfield and her work at www.rebeccabloomfield.com. For more information about the library, go to www.HuntLibrary.org or call 860-824-7424. The library is at 63 Main St. in Falls Village. — Cynthia Hochswender



PHOTO BY MARION ETTLINGER

Singer-songwriter Natalie Merchant opens the Kaatsbaan season with a concert June 3.

NATALIE MERCHANT CONCERT ON JUNE 3

Hudson Valley, N.Y., resident and Bard College alumna Natalie Merchant will return to Tivoli, N.Y., for the opening soiree for the 2022 season at Kaatsbaan Cultural Park. Merchant, who was the singer of the popular band 10,000 Maniacs, will perform at the concert and dinner on June 3 at 6 p.m., which will also feature author/caterer Mary Giuliani. Kaatsbaan’s summer festival begins the following day, June 4 and continues to June 19 with music, dance and poetry. The June 3 dinner and concert is limited to 100 guests; tickets range from \$500 to \$1,500 per person. For more on the summer festival and the June 3 event with Natalie Merchant, go to <https://kaatsbaan.org/festivals>.

...Lime Rock Park events *Continued from previous page*

interior designer, Matthew Patrick Smyth, of New York and Salisbury, Conn.) will be held at the track. Historically, it has always been a bit of a challenge to park and the vendors have always been a little bit squeezed together. In a COVID world, the track offers the event (which attracts patrons from literally all across America) a way to spread out a little. For details and ticket information (and to volunteer to help out during the two-day event) go to www.tradesecretsct.com or call 860-364-1080. Volunteers work for a scant few hours and get free admission to the sale and the garden tours. **THE GREAT COUNTRY MUTT SHOW** Trade Secrets is truly glamorous. The Great Country Mutt Show to benefit the Little Guild animal shelter in Cornwall, Conn., is the variation on glamour known as “camp.” This year’s Big Day for Dogs will also be held at Lime Rock Park, on Sunday, June 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Beloved pooches (and many of the contestants



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

A highlight of the annual Highland Games at Lime Rock Park is the kilted pipers. This year Lime Rock also hosts Trade Secrets in May.

will be former residents of the Little Guild) compete in categories such as Cutest Carry-On, Sweetest Pair of Dogs, Best Ears, Waggiest Tail, Best Paw Shake, Best Trick, Most Unidentifiable Mix, Dog That Looks Most Like It’s Owner, Best Senior and Best Lap Dog Over 40 Pounds. Adding to the kitschy fun this year will be a fashion show judged by Michael Musto, whose name will be familiar to anyone who lived and loved the nightlife in New York City in the 1980s. His co-judge will

be Mickey Boardman, a writer and now fashion designer who is known by the sobriquet “Mr. Mickey.” To register and for more information, go to www.littleguild.org. **THE HIGHLAND GAMES** A third event, and my particular favorite, is an event that is less glamorous and more earnest — and a boatload of fun. The Scottish Round Hill Games will return to Lime Rock Park on Sunday, June 26. Competitions start at 8:30 a.m. in categories

that are best described as “throwing very large rocks,” “throwing heavy weights attached to heavy chains” and “throwing large pieces of wood that look like telephone poles.” Not all the competitors are Scottish; these events are unexpectedly diverse. But everyone wears a kilt. Silly events include a kilted run around the race track; the clog race; the Rolling Pin Toss for Ladies; and the Haggis Toss. If you don’t know what haggis is (yet), then you should definitely go to the games, which have been held for 99 years and have been at Lime Rock for about a decade. There are many vendor booths, including food trucks that sell haggis and other, edible food. Musicians play throughout the day and there are demonstrations of Highland dancing. Most moving are the eerie and beautiful pipe band competitions that are held throughout the day, with the final contest at 3:30 p.m. Learn more at www.rhhg.org and on Facebook at Round Hill Highland Games. And of course the auto

VIEWS OF BLUES IN TREMAINE GALLERY SHOW

The Tremaine Art Gallery at The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Conn., presents a group exhibit of 17 artists that will be on view from Sunday, May 15, through Friday, June 17. A reception, free and open to the public, is scheduled for May 15 from 2 to 4 p.m. Visitors must wear masks and bring proof of vaccination. The exhibit highlights participating artists’ diverse responses to the color blue and borrows its title from Robert Frost’s poem “Fragmentary Blue.” Exhibiting artists include Cynthia Alberto, Mandy Cano Villalobos, Rosa Chang, Nancy Cohen, Ann Conrad-Stewart, Joy Curtis, Beth Dary, Grace DeGennaro, Valerie Hammond, Tate Klacsmann, Jordana Munk Martin, Caitlin Parker, Sarah Pettitt, Beau Bree Rhee, Dora Somosi, Alyce Santoro and Janis Stemmerman. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. but visitors should call ahead to confirm opening hours. For more information about the exhibit, call 860-435-3663 or go to www.hotchkiss.org/arts.

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MILLBROOK

FRIENDS of Gazebo plan winery fundraiser, seek more ideas

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The FRIENDS of the Millbrook Gazebo group is continuing its fundraising efforts following a Feb. 7 brainstorming session at the Millbrook Library to figure out how to finance the Elm Drive structure's restoration. About 25 participants attended the winter meeting, and the group has been trying to attract more members since to save the what is considered by many a Millbrook landmark.

The gazebo has fallen into disrepair over time and ongoing discussions have been taking place about if the structure should it be demolished, replaced or repaired.

Resident Ashley Lempke founded the FRIENDS of the Gazebo group in the fall of 2020, and its attracted a bit of a following ever since.

The Gazebo is owned by the Millbrook Central School District. Lempke is hoping the quaint gazebo may have a second chance at life.

Ideas at the library brainstorming session were plentiful, including a holding an outdoor cocktail fundraiser, possibly at Orvis Sandanona or the Millbrook Winery, which is now in the works. Incentives were proposed for different levels of donors, possibly with a plaque naming the top donors affixed to the gazebo once it is restored.

It was also suggested that the FRIENDS apply for grants to restore the gazebo, possibly with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, Stewart's Shops; one person even asked if there is a James Ware Society?

James E. Ware was the New York Gilded Age architect who built Halycon Hall, originally as a hotel, which eventually became Bennett

College at the entrance to Millbrook.

Another suggestion was having a booth at the Millbrook Farmers Market to raise awareness and money, either with raffle tickets or a 50/50 sale.

Someone suggested doing mailers, perhaps included in village water bills, which may or may not be feasible, and doing e-mail blasts along with postal mailers. Also suggested was posting a sign at the village tennis court.

A publicity campaign with articles in local newspapers, such as The Millerton News, which has been covering the issue since the start, was also discussed.

The FRIENDS discussed approaching other civic and community groups like the Millbrook Garden Club, the Millbrook Central School District and the Millbrook Arts Group to help promote its cause.

Other ideas included local stores conducting an art competition for their window displays and the Millbrook Library hosting a kid's "make your own gazebo craft event" competition to be displayed on the library lawn.

The FRIENDS group is continuing to seek ideas as well as members, and several leadership positions are open in the group.

The FRIENDS, along with the Millbrook Historical Society, will hold a cocktail party fundraiser on Thursday, May 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Millbrook Winery. There will be hors d'oeuvres, music and a live auction.

To get tickets for the Help Save the Elm Drive Gazebo, which are \$50 each, RSVP to www.friendsofthegazebo.com/donate.

For more information, go to www.millbrookgazebo.com or e-mail friendsoft-hegazebo@gmail.com.



PHOTO BY KAREN CANTON
Allison Canton spent Saturday, April 16, with her 2-year-old son Bodhi and the Easter Bunny at the Town of Washington Park to hunt for Easter eggs.

Easter Bunny hops to it at TOW park

WASHINGTON — It was a little cold, a little windy and a little wet, but according to Town of Washington Recreation Director Chelsea Edson, there were 3,000 candy-filled eggs on the athletic field that disappeared within the first 10 minutes. Perhaps that's no surprise, as when it comes to the hunt for Easter candy and young children, the combination usually leads to a mass of little legs frantically scrambling over green grass in search of plastic eggs with pails and bags in tow with fevered concentration.

There was no official count of how many children attended the event, as no registration was required, but Edson said the eggs the town provided were all gone by hunt's end. It looked as if all of the children's pails and baskets were filled. The hunt was declared a success, proven by the happy smiles on the faces of children, parents and grandparents.

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held at the Town of Washington Park in Mabettsville.

— Judith O'Hara Balfe

Virtual 9th Annual Hudson Data Jam

Students get creative while sharing science stories of the Hudson Valley

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The ninth annual Data Jam contest sponsored by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook brought out the best in middle and high school science this spring as students from around the region and beyond presented projects about the Hudson River.

Students competed from schools as far away as Brooklyn, Manhattan and Albany; the 18 schools that participated were represented by 308 students who submitted 135 projects. Some of the local schools that did so included Dutchess Day School in Millbrook; Arlington High School in Poughkeepsie; and LaGrange Middle School.

A final virtual presentation was made via Zoom on Thursday, March 31.

Data Jam challenges students to use creativity to tell the story of the Hudson River watershed from a different perspective, and to offer a fresh look at a topic that has been studied by many experts, many times.

A number of projects focused on river "enemies," such as the zebra mussel and topics such as the importance of oxygen to life and breath.

This year the Cary continued the traditional Data Jam contest for middle and high school students and added a Junior Data Jam for elementary school students.

Webinars provided support to both students and teachers along the way, as did a Facebook group for all participants — students and instructors alike — to connect and share strategies for remote "Data Jamming."

The project was meant to teach students how to understand, interpret and present complex data.

"These skills are essential in a world where our ability to collect data outpaces our ability to make it understandable for a public audience," explained the Cary Institute.

Students used data sets already collected by scientists, including some Cary ecologists. They also created their own data sets, all having to do with the Hudson River and the wildlife that calls the river home. Students also studied other topics related to the river, including pollution and disease.

They could present their findings through any creative means, including poetry, music, various mediums of art, games, drama or written as a children's book.

Cash prizes were awarded to the three top projects at the awards ceremony.

The winners (the schools requested only the first names of students be printed for security reasons) in the Honorable Mentions category went to Dutchess Day School students Atticus, Ivan, Natalie and Thomas for their project, The Lyme Disease Chain, at the elementary level and to Eloise, Jeremy, Riley and Allison for the Salt Levels in the Hudson River project.

At the middle school level, LaGrange Middle School student Zinnia won the \$400 Grand Prize with The Life of an Eel.

Two Arlington High School groups won awards. For Level 3, the \$200 prize went to The Importance of Oxygen project done by Azalea. The runner up was for the project, I



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The grand prize of the 2022 Data Jam contest went to a student from LaGrange Middle School, with the winning project, Life of an Eel, by Zinnia. The prize was \$400.

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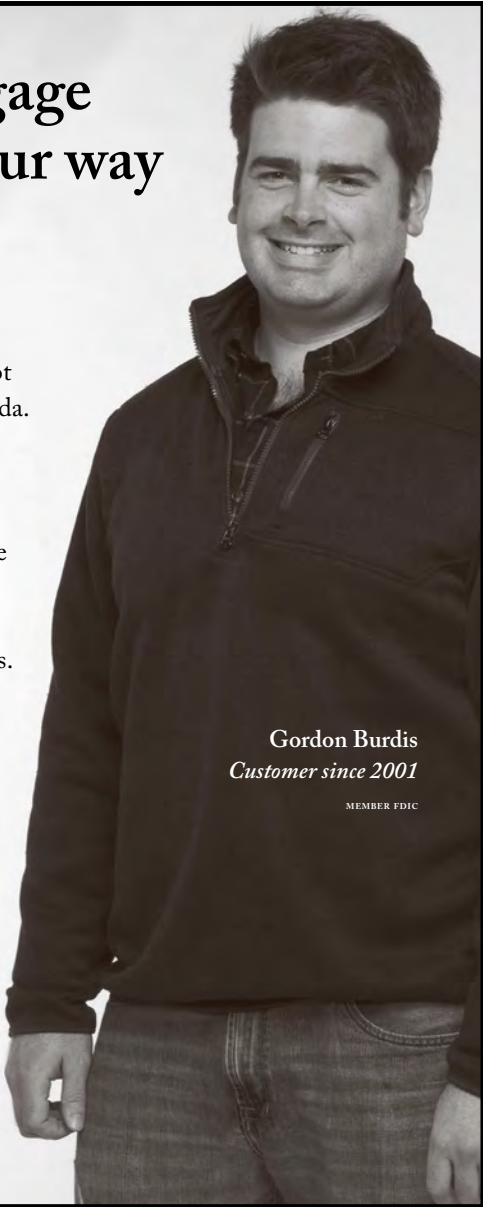
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EDITORIAL

Earth Day 2022, a bright spot this spring

We all know the adage, in order to preserve what you have, you have to protect it. That can easily be applied to why a junior U.S. senator from Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson, created Earth Day in 1970. He was concerned about how rapidly the environment was breaking down and wanted to raise public awareness about water and air pollution. In a brilliant show of strategic planning, Nelson figured he would capitalize on the student anti-war movement of the late 1960s. He managed to convince the conservative Republican Congressman Pete McCloskey to serve as his co-chair. They brought in activist Denis Hayes to help organize campus teach-ins. April 22, a weekday between spring break and final exams, was selected as the official holiday to maximize student participation and national media attention.

Soon they realized their efforts could attract the attention and concern of young and old alike. Hayes and his staff of 85 worked on the campaign, holding events at organizations and faith groups across the nation. April 22 was dubbed “Earth Day.” The catchy name caught on quickly, inspiring 20 million Americans — 10% of the total U.S. population back then — to demonstrate against how a century-and-a-half of industrial development had damaged the environment. According to www.earthday.org, “By the end of 1970, the first Earth Day led to the creation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] and the passage of other first of their kind environmental laws, including the National Environmental Education Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the Clean Air Act.” In another two years, Congress approved the Clean Water Act. One year later, it passed the Endangered Species Act; then the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Ground-breaking for their time, those laws and the many passed since have helped to protect millions of people from harm along with hundreds of species from extinction, according to earthday.org.

Towns and villages here in the Harlem Valley continue to honor the Earth Day tradition with local celebrations, including in Millerton and Dover, on Friday, April 22, and Saturday, April 23, respectively. The North East Millerton Climate Smart Community is presenting the Millerton Earth Day 2022 Invest In Our Planet Festival on the Great Lawn of The Millerton Inn on the 23rd, from noon to 5 p.m.

Earlier that day there will be a clean-up at the North East Community Center (NECC) on 51 South Center St., from 9 a.m. until noon, followed by a free screening of “The March of the Penguins,” at The Moviehouse at 48 Main St. Doors will open at 11 a.m. and the film will start at 11:30 a.m. The main event will take place on the Great Lawn of the Inn, located at 53 Main St., from noon to 5 p.m.. That will be followed by Earth Day After Hours from 5 p.m. to beyond at 52 Main and The Millerton Inn, with selected Earth Day fare and cocktails.

This year, Christopher Virtuoso organized Millerton’s event for the Climate Smart group. For more on the activities throughout the day, read Page A2 or go to www.climatesmartmillerton.org/earthday2022.

For the first time since 2019, the town of Dover will also be seeing the return of Earth Day. Held at Dover Middle School this year, an excited Stancy DuHamel, a member of that town’s Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), is helping to promote the event.

While Dover’s Earth Day is not open to the public and is strictly for students in the Dover Union Free School District, we are so happy to see its return. “I’m thrilled to tell you that Dover Earth Day is back on,” said DuHamel. “Now that the two-year COVID lockdown is over, the school has resumed celebrating Earth Day.”

DuHamel will be on hand to represent the CAC and to talk about what it takes for towns like Dover to be designated as a Climate Smart Community. She added, “I think our students will be psyched to learn about our new Electric Vehicle [EV] charging stations.” Those EV stations are at the Dover Library in Wingdale at the intersection of Route 22 and Pleasant Ridge Road (County Route 21). We think they’ll be thrilled as well, also to see local presenters like those from the Friends of the Great Swamp (FrOGS), which stretches from Brewster all the way up to Dover; and from Mid-Hudson Trout Unlimited, who will show and discuss various insects and other stream life in the Ten Mile River; and Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies Education Program Leader Ashley Alred, who will talk about the Millbrook science institute’s work in the region; along with many others. We are so pleased to see Earth Day return to Dover. The students love it, the staff and administrators love it, the CAC loves it and we love it — all for good reason. Kudos to the Dover CAC for prioritizing schools in its outreach efforts and for sharing the important message behind Earth Day with students. They’re still at that age where such messaging can make a meaningful and lasting impact. We hope Earth Day celebrations everywhere can do the same — on people of all ages — as we continue to work together to try to save our precious planet.



Clean up with Amenia

In celebration of Earth Day, Amenia’s Enhancement and Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) are hosting Amenia’s Spring Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 23, from 10 a.m. to noon. Volunteers meet at either Fountain Square, 4958 Route 22 (across from Four Brothers Restaurant) in Amenia or Borden Park, 37 Furnace Bank Road in Wassaic (across from Maxon Mills). After signing in, volunteers pick up trash on the roadways and trails in the neighborhood they choose. Filled bags of litter can be picked up at specific locations by calling or texting me at 845-489-7826 before noon that day. As part of Amenia’s CAC

Climate Smart Task Force Community Campaign, there will be an opportunity to learn about Community Solar. This free program provides reduced electric rates and clean energy without having to install or own a solar array. It allows people to save money on their electric bill and support renewable energy. There are no fees for the subscription and it can be canceled at any time. Savings are typically 10% a month. Thanks in advance to Clean Up Day volunteers, and civic groups that pick up litter in Amenia year-round. Vicki Doyle Amenia Town Councilwoman Wassaic

Saltwater miracles solving world issues

If you were treated for COVID with Remdesivir or have had AIDs medication or know anyone whose life was saved by these miracle drugs — you should become a fierce, grateful, protector of the oceans.

Why? Because a deep-sea sponge is the source of that medication, made in nature, extracted, then patented (as if they invented it, which is nonsense), and sold for millions of dollars. Now, ask yourself, this: What else is under the water that will change lives? What else is there that can change survival and quality of life? Whatever is there — and we mostly have no idea — belongs to who, exactly? An astounding 70% of our planet is covered with oceans. Only 3% of that vast space on the seabed has been properly explored and most commercial fishing is contained within 10% of the surface near shores.

And what’s more, only 1% of that entire water surface is protected, whilst the rest can be overfished, polluted, and generally, in our ignorance of what’s there, considered free property for anyone who wants to try and go there to use it. Why else would we simply go offshore, outside of continental national boundaries, and dump everything from toxic waste sewage to garbage to radioactive material? The oceans encompass 90% of the available living space on the planet for all creatures. The beaches, mountains, plains are all two-dimensional living areas. The ocean has many layers, all habitable. The biocapability of the oceans is nine times larger than all the living space on dry land. And yet, that space is unregulated, a free-for-all, and, what’s

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

worse, we still have little idea of the impact our misuse of that bio habitat will have for all life on earth now and into the future. Scientists have measured that 60% of the world’s oceans are being adversely affected by our pollution, plastic dumping and general disregard for what lives there. It’s like taking all the garbage from Manhattan, dumping it in Central Park, and assuming the trees and plants will continue to thrive. Remember the little sponge that saved all those lives, millions of humans across the planet? How many other ocean miracles are waiting to be discovered and their secrets shared? There is a place underwater called “The Lost City,” where astrobiologists believe life on this planet likely developed. It’s a place of towering carbonite mounds. It is truly a miracle site and yet it is currently threatened by industrialists who want to pillage it for minerals — before we truly know how life on earth began or have a chance to learn more. Earmarked for Heritage status by the U.N., big bucks are trying to prevent its protection. So, if you just focus on one issue here, remember that a single sponge gave up its secrets and saved millions of people. What else is there underwater now, what else needs our protection now before it is lost, and its benefits are lost, forever? Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, now resides in New Mexico.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Medicaid unwinding put off in NY and Connecticut

In March 2020, Congress passed President Biden’s coronavirus bill prohibiting state Medicaid agencies from disenrolling beneficiaries until a month after the end of the public health emergency (PHE).

The relief bill rightly required Medicaid departments to discontinue Medicaid redeterminations of eligibility, allowing Medicaid enrollees relief from paying for COVID vaccines, testing and treatment.

The PHE has driven Medicaid enrollment to a record 85 million, an increase of 19%. New York and Connecticut have extended the PHE April 15 deadline to June 2022, with a 90-day extension.

One in four Americans is enrolled in Medicaid (4 million of New York City’s 8.8 million citizens!) — 22% of Connecticut’s legal residents are enrolled in Medicaid or Husky (children’s health care under Medicaid) and 33% of New York’s legal residents are enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP. These are our poorest citizens and our most vulnerable Americans: children, the disabled, the aged and pregnant women.

That one in four Americans need Medicaid should be a wake-up call. It shows how many Americans are without health care insurance even with the expansions of the ACA. And it bears considering mental health care services as well as physical health care.

Let’s look at our nation’s health care provision and its poverty policy — still based upon President Johnson’s 1965 Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Medicaid as well as its special programs for children and pregnant women are entirely means-tested with state-based groupings and eligibil-

ity. There is no one size fits all (as there is with Medicare). “Generosity” in some states is matched by mean-spiritedness or just silliness in others. Based on the annual national standard of Federal Poverty Rate (FPR), states are allowed to set a ceiling for Medicaid eligibility above or below that FPR. In 2021, the New York and Connecticut Medicaid eligibility rate for a single adult was about 138% of the FPR of \$12,880 (@\$18,000). In Alabama, eligibility was 8% of the FPR or anyone earning more than \$1,030 per year! In Texas, single adults without children didn’t qualify. Texas parents were only eligible if their annual income was approximately 17% of the FPR, or \$3,626 for a family of three. (“Ceilings” are clearly “floors”).

The Urban Institute estimates that states will process 77 million eligibility applications for Medicaid once the PHE officially ends. This is going to be severely difficult for individual and family enrollees.

Enrollee eligibility is reliant upon their provision of documents (like Social Security, tax returns, VA benefits, letters from employers, etc.).

A Kaiser Family Foundation Survey shows that only about half of states’ (27) social service departments have a plan for the tsunami of eligibility and renewal actions. And from that survey they found that 41 states plan to take nine to 12 months; four states plan to take six to nine months; and three states plan to take three to six months for renewal. (www.kff.org, Policy Watch, March 2).

Nancy F. McKenzie Retired Professor, CUNY School of Public Health Amenia

Letters to the editor are due by 10 a.m. Monday mornings to be published in that week’s issue. There is a 500-word limit for letters, which must be signed by the letter-writer with their full name and hometown. Please also include a phone number as all letters must be verbally confirmed before publication. We also remind readers that the views expressed on this opinion page are not those of The Millerton News and The News does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

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SPORTS

Webutuck Little League to ‘play ball,’ with opening day on April 23

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — With spring now underway and baseball season on the horizon, the Amenia Town Board approved a service agreement with Webutuck Little League on Thursday, April 7, in order for the Webutuck Little League to provide baseball programs for the community’s children this season.

Prior to the agreement’s approval, Amenia’s baseball program was composed of players from the town of Amenia, while in the village of Millerton just 14 miles north, the Millerton Youth Baseball program was composed of players from the

village of Millerton and the town of North East in which the village lies.

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, Amiee Duncan, treasurer of the Amenia Baseball program, said it was anticipated that due to low enrollment, the Amenia baseball program would have to have to merge with another program to keep going.

This past February, Duncan said representatives from Millerton Youth Baseball approached the Amenia Recreation Department to discuss combining the Amenia and Millerton programs into one, calling it the Webutuck Little League.

Around the beginning of

March, the Webutuck Little League became a sanctioned Little League program.

Available to any child in the North East (Webutuck) Central School District who would like to play baseball, Duncan said Webutuck Little League has been working on player tryout assessments; it had 71 children sign up at last count.

The Webutuck Little League was on the Amenia Town Board’s agenda at its April 7 board meeting. Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti said she, in consultation with Amenia Recreation Supervisor Kelly Milano, negotiated the terms of a proposed service agreement with the Webutuck Little League that

evening.

The town agreed to pay \$3,500 to the Webutuck Little League to provide baseball programs for local children for this season.

Answering Councilman Brad Rebillard’s question about the concession stand at Beekman Park in Amenia, Perotti confirmed that Webutuck Little League will be responsible for the stand’s maintenance and cleanliness.

Without any further questions, the board unanimously voted in favor of allowing the Little League team to play ball.

It will do so on Opening Day, this Saturday, April 23 at 11:30 a.m. at Beekman Park, located at 5270 Route 44.



With a ball in hand, a group of rising basketball players took to the court inside the Dover Middle/High School gymnasium to test their skills.

Hitting the hoops

While some students were relaxing during their spring vacation, a number of student athletes grabbed their sneakers and their sweatbands to play some hoops at a basketball clinic organized by Dover Recreation. The clinic was held at the Dover Middle/High School gymnasium from Monday, April 11, to Thursday, April 14.

Open to boys and girls of all skill levels in fifth grade and above, it taught basic fundamental and advance skills to keep players engaged in scrimmages and learn tips from their coaches.

Dover Recreation will have two more basketball clinics, one in June and another in August. For more information, go to www.doverny.myrec.com.

Kaitlin Lyle

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