

The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

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Adopt-a-Family, and lend Santa a helping hand

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Holiday smiles will once again be brightening the faces of some 200 children and their families throughout the area, thanks to the 27th annual Adopt-a-Family program, once again organized by the ever-generous, always-altruistic Stacey Moore and her trusty elves.

Although continuing COVID-19 concerns and a desire to keep everyone healthy mean that the town of North East's very own North Pole will not be returning to the Library Annex this year, the creative charity group has come up with a system to ensure that families have whatever

they need in order to have a happy holiday.

After having been limited to gift card distribution only last year, Moore said this year's program will again be different. It will be something of a mixture of a choice of gift cards or a more traditional distribution of age-appropriate toys.

The gifts will again be donated by community members from around the Tri-state region. Those donors truly enjoy knowing how happy those who would otherwise go without will be finding special items under their Christmas Trees, Hanukkah Menorahs or Kwanzaa Kinaras come those special holidays.

Moore is quick to share credit

with loyal donors, who return to contribute year after year.

"The whole surrounding area is very giving no matter what," she said. "They pull it together and make it happen."

The dedicated volunteer, who is already busy from morning to night running her own business, Moore & More Printing on Dutchess Avenue in Millerton, noted that donors give in several ways, with some "adopting" entire families and fulfilling the needs of those groups, others buying individual gifts and the remainder contributing the funds that allow the organization to purchase the gift

See **ADOPT-A-FAMILY, A6**



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Thankful, always

From left, volunteers Kevin Whalen, Holley Alger and Breanna Smith chatted amicably as they put together Thanksgiving Day food boxes for local families in need at the South Amenia Presbyterian Church on Saturday, Nov. 20, thanks to the generous donations of the Tri-state community. The church has been helping the hungry for years through its pantry and growing community garden.

Candidates challenge vote counts through the courts

Absentee ballots overturn race results in multiple elections

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

HARLEM VALLEY — With the Tuesday, Nov. 2, General Elections more than two weeks in the rearview mirror, as of Friday, Nov. 19, candidate Brad Rebillard (REP, Amenia Strong-AS) has now risen from the rank of "Also Rans" and will be taking a seat on the Amenia Town Board, thanks to the recently counted and verified absentee ballots.

Candidates in the towns of Stan-

ford and Washington were meanwhile awaiting judicial results on contested ballots, which may be decided this week.

The razor-close elections and resulting changes are, according to both Dutchess County Board of Elections (BOE) Commissioners Erik Haight (R) and Hannah Black (D), are examples of "why every vote counts."

Noting 3,600 absentee votes were cast in Dutchess County this year, Haight said of potential voters who think voting doesn't matter that "they

couldn't be more wrong." That much is evident in the races that now hinge on the votes cast through the mail.

"Every single vote counts," said Haight on Nov. 19, as the results trickled in. "Especially in local years."

Black agreed with her Republican counterpart.

"It's amazing what absentee ballots bring in," she said.

Town of Amenia

In the Amenia election for the two

See **ELECTION, A6**

Millbrook Regional Volleyball Champs

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Expectations were high as the Millbrook High School Blazers Girls Volleyball team started out for the state finals at the Glens Falls Civic Center on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 20 and 21.

After all, Coach Shawn Stoliker was ecstatic on Saturday, Nov. 13, when the team became Regional Champions following a home game against Dobbs Ferry, when storm clouds gathered outside but inside all was sunny as the final scores were 25-14, 25-23 and 25-15, all in favor of Millbrook.

On Nov. 21, Stoliker, still feeling the

See **VOLLEYBALL, A6**



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Millbrook High School Blazers, here with their coach and other high school staff, won the Girls Volleyball Regional Championship on Saturday, Nov. 13, at home. They lost the state title on Sunday, Nov. 21.

Is a sewer system for Pine Plains feasible?

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The Community Room above the Pine Plains Free Library was filled on Monday, Nov. 15, as residents showed up to learn about the town's long-awaited sewer feasibility study. The finalized plan was presented after Pine Plains received a \$35,000 Municipal Innovation Grant

(MIG) from Dutchess County for a central septic feasibility study in the summer of 2019.

MIG study

The grant allowed a consultant to be hired to evaluate whether creating a central sewer system would be feasible; the Town Board hired engineering firm Tighe & Bond in spring

See **SEWER SYSTEM, A6**

Open enrollment for Medicare ends Dec. 7

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

NEW YORK STATE — Autumn has brought falling leaves, shorter days, cooler weather... and Medicare enrollment.

Friday, Oct. 15, was the opening day for those enrolling in Medicare for the first time — or for those who wish to change the plan they currently have.

Medicare enrollment in the U.S. will end before you know it; the dead-

line this year falls on Tuesday, Dec. 7, roughly two weeks from now.

According to www.medicare.gov, medicare is defined as "the federal health insurance program for people who are 65 or older; certain younger people with disabilities; and people with end-stage renal disease [permanent kidney failure requiring dialysis or a transplant, sometimes called ESRD]."

See **MEDICARE, A6**



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OPINION

Still Much For Which
To Be Thankful;
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MILLERTON

Pastor Prause's legacy in Millerton is strong, far reaching and impactful

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Even as residents were saddened to say goodbye to a treasured family member, friend and man of faith, Pastor Henry Prause's legacy will live on through his service as pastor of the North East Baptist Church in Millerton and through the memories of his congregants and loved ones. Prause passed away on Friday, Nov. 5, at the age of 86.

Born in Sharon, Conn., Prause was a graduate of both Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Conn., and Baptist Bible Seminary in Johnson City, N.Y.

As published in his obituary earlier this month in The Millerton News, he succeeded his academic career by entering the pastorate, which included a brief period spent ministering at a church in Derby Line, Vt.

With his beloved wife, Elizabeth, by his side, Prause was called as the pastor of the North East Baptist Church, located at 1 Maple Ave. in Millerton, at the corner of Main Street (Route 44, right at the intersection by the Cumberland Farms and the CVS), in January 1960.

What transpired was a remarkable 61-year span in which Prause became the church's longest serving pastor, according to North East Baptist Church Pastor Rick Totten.

A beloved member of the Millerton community and a pastor with more than six decades of service under his belt, Pastor Henry Prause from North East Baptist Church passed away on Friday, Nov. 5, at the age of 86.

"He was well-known and respected in the region for many years," Totten said when reflecting on their friendship.

Asked to describe his character, Totten immediately said Prause was "absolutely dedicated, faithful... such a good friend."

He also spoke about the number of people who commented on how close they were to Prause and the positive impact he had on their lives.

While her husband shared the Gospel and helped his congregants nurture their own personal relationships with God, the late Elizabeth Prause served as the church pianist and organist. In their 56 years of marriage, the two raised four children, had 25 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Conjuring up favorite memories of her father, Apphia Rofe, one of Prause's daughters, remembered how he would tell her and her siblings stories, sometimes reading them aloud and other times making them up.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Drawing from personal memories of his "Papa," Josh Prause said his grandfather took a trip with him and his sister Ashley to Florida.

"It was just a lot of fun and we were goofy and had a good time," remembered Josh.

Asked what he hopes people will remember about his grandfather, Josh recalled how his grandfather loved selflessly. He said he hopes people will remember "that he served God and that his desire

was for other people to have their own personal relationships with Jesus Christ."

Describing his grandfather as gracious, humble and "dedicated to sharing Christ and His gospel of salvation," Josh said Prause's legacy will live on "through all the people he was able to share the Gospel with and that he had an impact on, never for his own glory but for God's."

Prause officially retired as pastor of the North East Baptist Church this past January; Totten said Prause approached him the year before about becoming his successor.

"It was sad for everyone after all these years," Totten said of Prause's retirement. "His warm fellowship says he was so caring — he helped in every way that he could, he's just impacted so many lives."

In addition to his wife Elizabeth, Prause was predeceased by his son Jonathan.



PHOTOS BY OLIVIA VALENTINE MARKONIC

Crews have been hard at work transforming the former Eddie Collins Park on Route 22 into the newly named Millerton Community Park, which will provide a wide array of recreational resources for town and village residents for many years to come.

Park transformation

MILLERTON — Both the village of Millerton and the Millerton Community Park team have been blessed with beautiful fall weather for the past few weeks to allow construction for Phase One of the Eddie Collins Park's nearly \$8 million renovation to move forward.

As of this time, sod for the soccer pitch is now in place. Work has also been done near the iconic welcoming arch.

As Millerton Community Park team member

Jennifer Dowley explained, construction will shut down for the winter in the coming weeks and the project will resume in the springtime with the Route 22 park expected to be open for public use next July.

"We all feel so grateful to the donors and agencies that made this transformative project happen for the village and the town," Dowley said. "Much to be grateful for — it will be wonderful for everyone."

— Kaitlin Lyle



Merchants group gives update on fire, plans for the holidays

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Between the devastating house fire on Saturday, Nov. 6, and the upcoming holiday season, the Millerton Business Alliance (MBA) had plenty of local news to catch up on at its Zoom meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 10, at 5:30 p.m.

Helping fire victims

With the two-alarm fire at the forefront of the community's mind, MBA members asked what was being done to support those affected by the Route 22 Millerton fire and how they could help.

Local efforts have been made to support Golden Wok owner Amy Yang and her family, who lost not only their home but two loved ones in the deadly blaze.

Efforts are also being made to help the other neighboring families that were displaced by the fire. The MBA discussed the Go Fund Me pages and the MealTrain page that were created online to assist the fire victims and help them get back on their feet, with clothing, food and supply drives, as well as a search for housing.

MBA member Dick Hermans said Millerton Wine & Spirits owner Christopher Jeans also offered to host a wine tasting to benefit the Yang family.

Black Friday in Millerton

Assessing plans for Black Friday, Nov. 26, the day after Thanksgiving, MBA members

learned The Moviehouse will be screening the movie, "Elf," at 11 a.m., free for the community.

With the Millerton Fire Company's annual Parade of Lights scheduled for 5:30 p.m. that day, MBA members brainstormed other holiday festivities to be held in the village.

Considering children might not be vaccinated yet for COVID-19, MBA member Jeanne Vanecko, also from Townscape, said the village shouldn't hold events where children can't be kept safe.

If the village decides to do an event, she said it should be held outside, though even that could be tough. The best thing, Vanecko said, would be for all the village businesses to do something festive during the afternoon, "because when the movie gets out in the afternoon before the parade, there's a huge time lapse."

Park update

The Millerton Community Park project (formerly known as Eddie Collins Park, located on Route 22 just north of the traffic light), Vanecko said work is going really well and that they've been blessed with good weather.

Sod was put down on the soccer field a week earlier and has been watered since then, which means the park's irrigation system is up and running.

Vanecko mentioned a huge trench was also dug in the park to align with plans for installing

electric vehicle chargers.

The goal is to have the park open by the Fourth of July 2022, though Vanecko said they won't be able to confirm that date until the spring.

MBA member Jennifer Dowley, also on the Millerton Community Park project team, said the project's chair, Stephen Waite, will send a letter to everyone who made a donation to the park project to let them know what's going on in more detail and that the project is going forward because of their generosity.

Dowley mentioned the team is on the brink of planning for Phase Two of the project — which includes installing a septic system, the swimming pool, the bath house, the tennis and pickleball courts — fundraising has already begun for it.

Largely due to the Municipal Innovation Grant the village received from the county this past August, Vanecko said there was leftover money from Phase One that allowed the village to push some of the projects from Phase Two into Phase One.

Sewer update

In other village news, Vanecko said village and town of North East's committee designated to address creating a primary service area for a sewer system in Millerton is preparing to get to work.

The district will include the businesses on Main Street and properties on South Center Street.

Vanecko announced that, within the next week or so, the committee will begin to go around to households within the perimeter of the service area to gauge if they're interested in being a part of the service area.

MILLERTON IN BRIEF

Parade of Lights Nov. 26, and Santa Run

On Friday, Nov. 26, the Millerton Fire Company will hold its annual Parade of Lights to bring holiday cheer to the village of Millerton.

Townscape will light up Main Street and the village Christmas tree located at the intersection of Main Street and Route 22 will be illuminated on Friday, Nov. 26, just before the annual Parade of Lights begins at 5:30 p.m.

Lineup for the parade will start at 5 p.m. Friday at Arnoff Moving & Storage north of the traffic light on Route 22 and end at the Millerton firehouse at 24 Century Blvd. There will be no gathering at the firehouse this year afterward due to COVID-19.

On Saturday, Dec. 11, the Millerton Fire Company will

hold its second annual Santa Run for all the children in the village of Millerton and the town of North East.

For families interested in having Santa visit their homes, the fire company will have its "Letters to Santa" mailbox in front of the Millerton Fire Station until Friday, Nov. 30.

When submitting a letter, families must include the names of their children, their ages and their home address.

The fire company will then post the route and approximate times of each road or housing development it will visit on its "Millerton Fire Company" Facebook page. Make sure to visit the page to know when Santa will come.

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2022 budget adopted, and no marijuana facilities

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Starting at 7 p.m. sharp, the Amenia Town Board put its meeting time to excellent use on Thursday, Nov. 18. The board approved resolutions to help shape the town's future, including adopting its budget for the 2022 fiscal year and a resolution to have Amenia opt out of cannabis lounges and dispensaries.

Save Councilman Damian Gutierrez, Town Board members met in-person at Amenia Town Hall and live-streamed their meeting to the YouTube channel "AmeniaTV," where the meeting can now be watched at full length.

Block grant public hearing

A public hearing for the town's 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to Dutchess County opened shortly after roll call. Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti voiced her interest in working on the ideas the town already has on its plate, but asked Town Board members if they had any other suggestions

for next year's CDBG application.

Councilwoman Vicki Doyle asked whether affordable housing was still on the list of ideas, adding that she'd like to take a harder look at what opportunities might be available. Once the board determined that there was no further discussion, the hearing was closed.

Commercial cannabis

After catching up on the latest town business, committee meetings and upcoming community events, the board turned to a resolution to authorize the adoption of a local law "opting out of the licenses and establishment of cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site consumption sites within the town of Amenia."

The board has held a number of public meetings to discuss how the community feels about whether the town should permit the commercial sale of recreational marijuana as well as smoking lounges where the drug used on site.

Public opinion has been mixed on both proposals, as allowing the dispensaries and

lounges would bring in tax dollars (to be split with the state and county), but there are fears it could also increase dependency among Amenia youth and other residents, local crime as well as more drug-related traffic accidents and other unintended consequences.

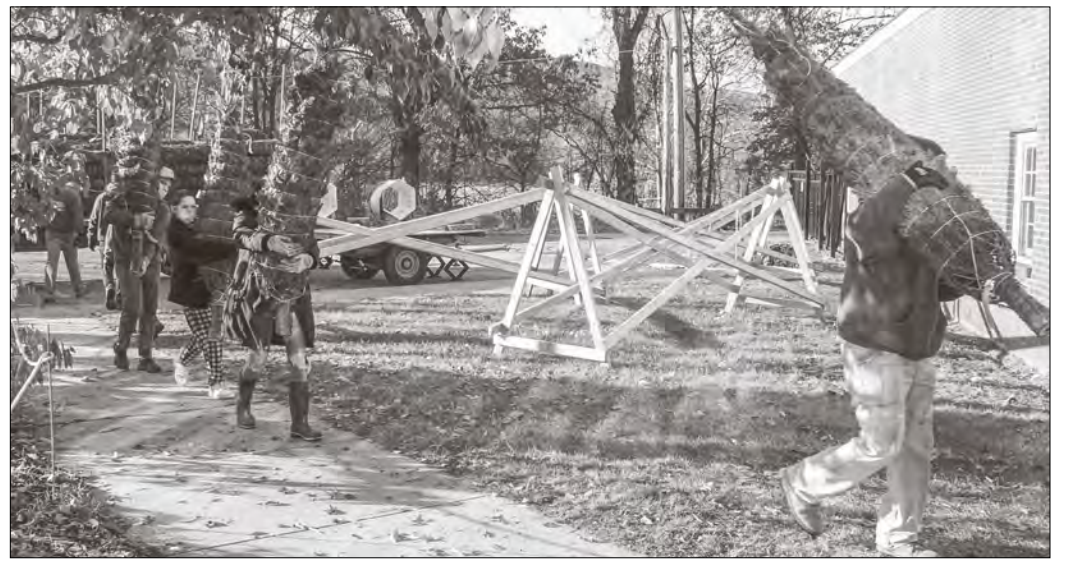
At the meeting on Nov. 18, the resolution to opt out was adopted without delay.

2022 budget adopted

Focusing on the town's budget for the 2022 fiscal year, Perotti announced that next year's budget will be under the 2% tax cap and the 2022 tax rate has been calculated at 1.9518 per \$1,000 assessed value.

Including all of the town's special districts, the total tax levy has been calculated at \$1,954,564.

Combining the town's General and Highway Funds, Amenia's 2022 budget totals \$1,890,244, and Perotti said as of Monday, Nov. 22, that this number is what the town's taxes will be based on. After the resolution was read aloud, the board unanimously voted to adopt next year's town budget.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Students and other volunteers, above and below, helped carry Christmas trees and other holiday goods to customers' cars at the FFA holiday store at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Conn., always a popular destination around the holidays.

Holiday Shop should sell out fast

By PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
patrick@lakevilljournal.com

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — On a chilly Wednesday, Nov. 17, around 8 a.m., it was all hands on deck at Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS) as students and staff helped unload 750 Christmas trees for the Housatonic FFA holiday store.

The trees were a mix of firs: Fraser, premium silver and bal-

sam. The FFA holiday store is open Nov. 27 through Dec. 23, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The store includes trees, Cabot cheese, poinsettias, trees, wreaths, roping, fresh yogurt and other local products.

Last year the trees sold out in two weeks. HVRHS agricultural education teacher Danielle Melino said she expects this year to be similar.

There are two wreath production nights scheduled: Wednesday, Dec. 1, and Thursday, Dec. 9, both from 7 to 9 p.m. Masks are required for attendees. All community members are invited to come help and to learn techniques and tricks from experienced wreath makers. No experience is necessary.

— FFA Reporter Mackenzie Casey contributed to this report.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

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.

Burglary arrest

Monday, Nov. 8, Deputies responded to 10 Folan Road in the Town of Amenia for a possible burglary in progress. The investigation revealed a male subject entered the victim's home.

Cody David Mabe, age 29, was subsequently arrested for Burglary 2nd, Criminal Mischief, Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the third degree.

Mabe was arraigned in the Town of Amenia Court and remanded to Dutchess County Jail on \$20,000 cash/\$40,000 bond/\$60,000 secure bond.

Stolen credit cards

Tuesday, Nov. 9, Deputies responded to 155 North Quaker Hill Road in the Town of Pawling for a past occurred Vehicle Break In (VBI).

Unknown subjects took personal belongings including credit cards and used them in the Danbury, Conn., area.

Erratic driving complaint

Wednesday, Nov. 10, Deputies responded to 3171 Sharon Turnpike in the Town of Washington for an erratic vehicle

complaint.

Anastasia M. Mullen, age 36, was subsequently arrested for DWAI, Drugs and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 7th degree.

Mullen was released with an appearance ticket to return to the Town of Washington Court at a later date.

Possible burglary

Wednesday, Nov. 10, Deputies responded to 7 Green Road in the Town of Amenia for a suspicious circumstances' complaint.

The investigation revealed a possible attempted burglary at a residence at that location.

Upon arrival, Deputies located a broken window and noted that the screen was taken out of the frame.

An investigation is on-going.

Broken back door

Friday, Nov. 12, Deputies responded to 8 Green Road in Amenia for a broken back door.

The incident may possibly related to the incident a couple of days earlier at 7 Green Road.

Lost hikers

Saturday, Oct. 24, Deputies responded to Stissing Mountain in Pine Plains for a report of three lost hikers. The hikers were able to contact the Dutchess County 911 Call Center, who in turn were able to capture their coordinates.

Deputies and members of Pine Plains Fire Department were able to locate the hikers and assist them off the mountain without incident.

Stolen license plates

Sunday, Oct. 25, Deputies responded to Ingersoll Auto on Route 22 in the Town of Pawling for a report of two stolen license plates.

The case is under investigation.

Burglary Investigation ongoing

Friday, Oct. 29, Deputies responded to 278 Sawchuck Road in North East for a reported past occurred burglary.

The caller reported a ladder and wheelbarrow were taken from the residence.

The investigation is ongoing.

Report crime tips

Anyone with any information relative to 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.

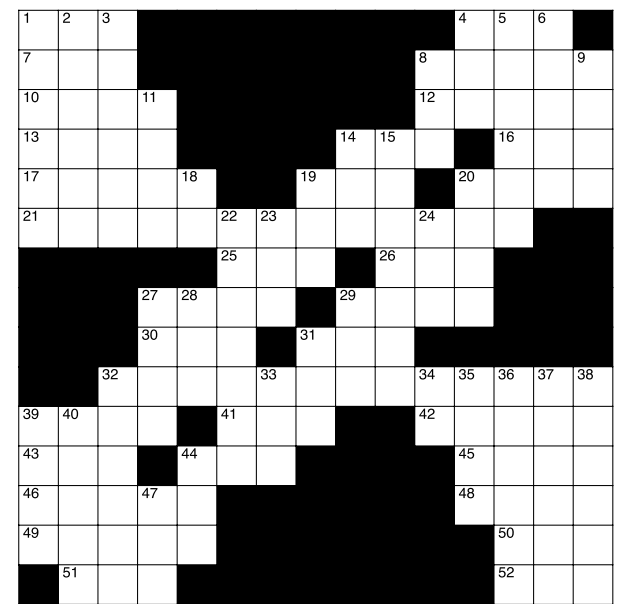
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Brain Teasers

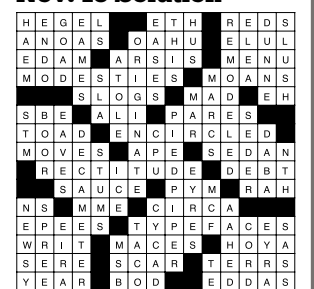
CLUES ACROSS

1. FDNY's union
4. Hideout
7. Trent Reznor's band
8. Old World tropics plants
10. Places to stay
12. Group of organisms from a common ancestor
13. TV character Goodman
14. Not around
16. Title of respect
17. Ceramic jars
19. British legal authority (abbr.)
20. A companion (archaic)
21. Where groups of people live
25. Indigenous person of NE Thailand
26. Red-brown sea bream
27. Ridge of jagged rock
29. Meat from a pig (French)
30. A way to save for the future
31. Opposite of bottom
32. A term of endearment
39. Weight used in China
41. You need it to hear
42. Frighten
43. Basics
44. Computer data collection (abbr.)
45. The best point of something
46. Jewelled headdress
48. Spoke
49. Mammary gland of female cattle
50. Midway between north and northeast
51. Defunct European economic group
52. Foul-mouthed Hollywood bear



19. Corporate PR exec (abbr.)
20. Insures bank's depositors
22. Made dim
23. Uncultured person
24. Paddle
27. Currency of Cambodia
28. Pitching stat
29. A place to put mail
31. God of battle (Scandinavian)
32. 10 years
33. Resinous substance secreted by insects
34. Losses
35. S. American plants
36. Void of thought or knowledge
37. Stout-bodied moth
38. Transferred property
39. Russian pop act
40. Accept
44. A retrospective military analysis (abbr.)
47. A type of center

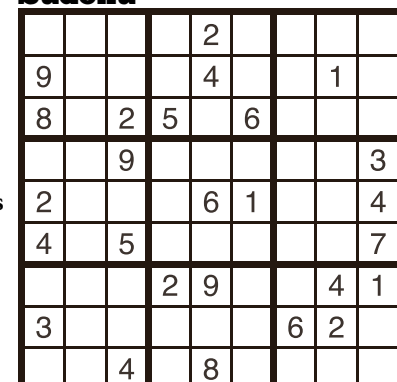
Nov. 18 Solution



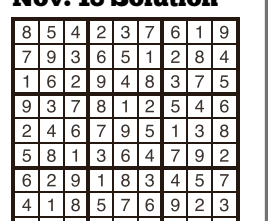
CLUES DOWN

1. In tune
2. Ending
3. Ring-shaped objects
4. Equal to 10 liters (abbr.)
5. Removes from record
6. The lowest point
8. Plant cultivated for its tubers
9. Dry or withered
11. Stony waste matter
14. Speedometer reading
15. Each of two or more forms of the same element
18. A baseball stat

Sudoku



Nov. 18 Solution



Level: Intermediate

AREA IN BRIEF

Not Ready for Winter Dance Dec. 11

DOVER PLAINS — Residents can shake their blues about the coming winter season by coming out to the Not Ready for Winter Dance hosted at the VFW Post 5444, located at 3422 Route 22 in Dover Plains, on Saturday, Dec. 11. The dance will run from 7 to 11 p.m. and feature live music by The Scarecrow Band. Along with

dancing the night away, the dance will feature raffles and other 50-50 prizes. Attendees are invited to bring their own snacks and enjoy the VFW's cash bar.

The price of admission is \$15 per person. To purchase tickets, contact the VFW at 845-877-6300.

Open call for 2022 Summer Exhibition

WASSAIC — The Wassaic Project's 2022 Summer Exhibition open call is now live and accepting applications from interested artists.

The show will feature 30 to 40 emerging artists throughout the Maxon Mills building at 37 Furnace Bank Road and will be open to the public every weekend from Saturday, May 21, to Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022.


The Wassaic Project will accept proposals for ready-to-hang work, site-specific installations, temporary installations/performance and publication-specific works to go in its companion publication.

The Wassaic Project also offers an Exhibitions Fellowship, which provides no-fee residencies in April or May to up to five artists interested in creating site-specific installations for the show.

For more information, go to www.wassaicproject.org.


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As we enter the holiday season, it is good to remember those in need. Here are two wonderful nonprofits that could use donations to help them make sure that all families have food. The first is Fishes and Loaves in North Canaan, their phone number is 860-824-7232 and their website is: www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org/p/donate-food.html. In Lakeville there is The Corner Pantry, their phone number is 860-435-9886 and website is: thecornerfoodpantry.org. Both organizations do a tremendous amount of work to support our communities year around and would appreciate our support.




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OBITUARIES

William Harlow Merriman Jr.

NORTH CANAAN — William Harlow Merriman Jr., 74, died Oct. 31, 2021, of natural causes at his home.

He was born Nov. 10, 1946, at the family home in North Canaan, son of the late William H. Merriman Sr. and Josephine C. Merriman.

William was an icon of North Canaan and many new him as “the Bee Man” or “Willie the Bee-Keeper” and owner of Union Square North, where he sold his honey in North Canaan. His honey was sold throughout the Northwest Corner.

He was also an avid hunter and fisherman.

William is survived by Leah Rezza, whom he called his daughter, and her husband, Michael Rezza, and their two children, Tristan and Morgan all of Massapequa Park, N.Y. William will always be “Grumpy” to Tristan and Morgan.

At this time there are no services planned, but a memorial will be held at a future date to be determined.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

Patricia Ann (Harrity) O'Connor

LAKEVILLE — Patricia Ann (Harrity) O'Connor, 90, passed away peacefully on Nov. 13, 2021, at her home in Lakeville, surrounded by her family. Patricia was the loving wife of the late Owen Joseph O'Connor.

Patricia was born Dec. 23, 1930, in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., daughter of the late Catherine (Craven) and Jeremiah Harrity.

After graduating from high school in Bayonne, N.J., Pat completed a dual degree in mathematics and political science from Notre Dame College, Staten Island, N.Y. She worked for the Atomic Energy Commission (the precursor to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) in New York City during college, and after graduating, began a job with New York Life Insurance, where she ran the “machine room.” The machine room consisted of ENIAC computers, the first of their kind. It was at New York Life where she met her future husband, Owen “Gene” O'Connor.

Pat and Gene were married June 25, 1955. The couple settled in Bellerose, N.Y., and started a family of nine children, later moving to Garden City, N.Y., in 1969.

Upon Gene's retirement from the NYPD in 1977, the family moved to the country in Salisbury.

When the youngest of their children were old enough, Pat went back to work as a bank teller at the National Iron Bank in Lakeville, where she enjoyed working until her retirement in 1995.

In 2000, she sold the property on Smith Hill and moved into town to enjoy retired life surrounded by her children and many grandchildren.

Pat's greatest love was her family. From making baby blankets to after-school snacks, she loved every one of her grandchildren, many of whom would walk to “Grammy's house” after school, getting help with homework in addition to snacks.

Pat created beautiful gardens wherever she lived and continued to correspond with people throughout her life the old-fashioned way, by sending thoughtful handwritten notes, often accompanied by a clipping of something she had read that she knew would be of interest.

She always welcomed reading a new book, making a new recipe, hearing about new adventures of her ever-growing family. Pat was famous in the St. Mary's coffee circle for her Irish Soda Bread recipe.

Patricia is survived by her children, Martin O'Connor of Lakeville, Michael O'Connor and his wife, Patricia, of North Berwick, Maine, Eileen McGee and her husband, Myles, of East Hartford, William O'Connor and his wife, Lisa, of Unionville, Conn., Cathleen Reid of Lakeville, Kevin O'Connor and his wife, Vanessa, of Lakeville and Rory O'Connor of Lakeville; her grandchildren, Caroline, Owen, Anna, Christopher, Abigail, Timothy, Katherine, Jack, Jessica, Amanda, Connor, Michael, Amelia, Calvin, Rory Patrick, Sean, Emily, Molly, Eion, Mackenzie, Tyler, Quincy, Maddie and Chase; and her great-grandchildren, Nora, Maggie, June, Alice, Savannah and Zoey.

She was predeceased by a son, Timothy; and a great-grandson, Otto.

A celebration of life gathering was held at the Inn at Iron Masters in Lakeville on Nov. 22. Funeral services were held at St. Mary's Catholic Church (St. Martin of Tours) in Lakeville on Nov. 23, with burial at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Salisbury.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the St. Mary's Cemetery of Salisbury, P.O. Box 897, North Canaan, CT 06018.

The Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon has care of the arrangements

Willis E. Ocain

CORNWALL — Willis E. Ocain, 96, of Cornwall passed away, surrounded by his family, at his home on Thursday evening, Nov. 18, 2021. He was the husband of the late Mary (Dunne) Ocain, who predeceased her husband in 2007.



Willis was born June 19, 1925, in Torrington, son of the late Esther (Hurlburt) and George Ocain.

Willis graduated in 1943 from Litchfield High School. In the 1950s he served as a selectman for the Town of Goshen and was a member of the First Congregational Church.

Willis owned and operated his dairy farm in Goshen for many years, until 1989 when he and his son Philip transitioned into the lumber business.

Willis held a private pilot's license and loved flying his Cessna 182. He started flying when he was 19 and continued to fly until the age of 88. He was a proud member of The International Flying Farmers, and in his 80s became a member of The United Flying Octogenarians, a group for pilots over the age of 80 who are still flying.

Never one to stop learning, Willis pursued many different interests and was active on the farm into his 90s. He served for many years on the Board of Directors for the Farm Credit Bank of Springfield, eventually becoming chairman of the Board.

Willis is survived by his two sons and their families, Gary Ocain and his wife, Kathy, of Cornwall and their two daughters, Chloe and Fiona, and Philip Ocain and his wife, Kelly, of Goshen and their son, Michael, and his wife, Zoe.

Willis was predeceased by his sister, Barbara (Ocain) Dudley.

He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Kathleen Ruzbasan of Unionville; and many nieces and nephews.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family. A celebration of Willis' life will be held at a later date.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Dr. Edward P. Dunne Scholarship Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 625, Unionville, CT 06085.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

Carl E. Stahovec

MILLERTON — Carl E. Stahovec, 67, a lifelong area resident, died peacefully on Friday, Nov. 19, 2021, at his home in Millerton, with his loving family at his side.



Mr. Stahovec retired in August 2019 as an estimator from C A Lindell & Son Inc. in North Canaan, where he had worked for more than 20 years. He also worked as a self-employed carpenter and general contractor in the building trade for many years prior.

Born Jan. 10, 1954, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Elma (Loft) and Albert Stahovec.

He was a 1972 graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School and also attended Oliver Wolcott Technical School in Torrington.

On Oct. 15, 1988, in Millerton, he married Kathleen Shafter. Mrs. Stahovec survives at home.

Mr. Stahovec served on the Town of North East Planning and Zoning Boards and also the Town Board, where he served a Deputy Town Supervisor and a Town Councilman for many years.

In his spare time, “Stovepipe,” as he was affectionately known to his close friends and family, was an avid golfer and enjoyed playing billiards and tinkering in his woodworking shop. He also had a great love of cooking, which he passed on to his daughter Kelsey.

In addition to his loving wife, Kathleen, Mr. Stahovec is survived by his daughter, Kelsey Kilmer and her husband, Joseph, of Hillsdale, N.Y.; his stepdaughter, Tisha Rothvoss of Copake Falls, N.Y.; three grandchildren, Karly Rothvoss of Ghent, N.Y., and her companion, Eric Shutts, Brody Rothvoss of Ancramdale and Emiley Najdek of Copake Falls; two great-grandchildren, Lucille and Thomas Shutts of Ghent; and three sisters, Sally Swanson of North Canaan, Leah Procopio and her husband, Vincent, of Manahawkin, N.J., and Judy Loucks and her husband, Robert, of Sharon.

In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his brother, Gene Stahovec; and his sister, Faye Stahovec.

Calling hours will be held on Saturday, Nov. 27, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. A funeral service will take place at noon at the funeral home, the Rev. William Mayhew officiating. Burial will be private.

Memorial contributions may be made to Hudson Valley Hospice, 374 Violet Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 1260.

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

Catherine Evelyn Spaulding

MILLERTON — Catherine Evelyn Spaulding passed away peacefully on Nov. 10, 2021, at Danbury Hospital surrounded by her family.

She was born May 7, 1949, at Sharon Hospital to Daisy (Davis) and Elwood Cade.

Cathy graduated high school from Webutuck Central School and remained a lifelong resident of Millerton.

After graduation Cathy got married and had two boys, Steven Michael Decker and Ronald Owen Decker. She raised her boys in Millerton while working privately in housekeeping most of her life. She also worked at Noble Horizons in the dietary department for a few years.

She loved to help others, and her family always came first. She was described as loving, selfless, caring and a pillar of hope and strength by her family and friends. Cathy was a devoted mother, sister, grandmother and friend to many. She will be deeply missed and forever loved.

In addition to her mother and father, Cathy was predeceased by her son Steven; her siblings, Barbara Rodriguez, Marie Tanner-Whyman, John Ashman, Oliver “Sonny” Cade, Marcella Wilson and Herbert Cade.

She is survived by her son, Ronald Decker and his fiancée, Tamara Cooper, of Millerton; and her granddaughter, Tiffany Brown (Decker) and her husband, Sean, along with their daughter, Elianna Catherine Decker, of Copake Falls. She is also survived by several loving nieces and nephews.

A Service of Remembrance will be held on Nov. 27 at 1 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Millerton. Interment will be in the Irondale Cemetery in Millerton.

Arrangements are with the Peck and Peck Funeral Home in Copake, N.Y.

To send an online condolence please visit www.peckandpeck.net.

Evelyn V. (Shufelt) Wheeler

NORTH CANAAN — Evelyn V. (Shufelt) Wheeler, 83, died Nov. 11, 2021, at Wolcott Hall in Torrington. She was the wife of David Wheeler Sr.

Evelyn was born Aug. 18, 1938, in Windham, N.Y., daughter of the late Clara (Delamarter) and Edgar Shufelt.

Evelyn was last employed by The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville in the housekeeping department.

An avid baseball fan, Evelyn was a diehard Yankee fan. She also loved Elvis and going to bingo.

The most important thing to Evelyn was her family: her husband, David, children and especially her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, Evelyn is survived by her children, Trudy Dennis of East Canaan, Lois Derwin of North Canaan, Muriel Cassidy of South

Carolina and David Wheeler Jr. of Patchogue, N.Y.; her two sisters, Betty Johnson of Hudson, N.Y., and Ruth Hadsell of Falls Village; 15 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren.

Evelyn was predeceased by three children, Robin Wheeler, Ann Sullivan and Amos Post; and her granddaughter, Margaret Derwin.

Funeral services will be held at the convenience of the family.

Memorial donations may be made to the Margaret Derwin Scholarship Fund in care of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 800 North Main St., Sheffield, MA 01257-9503.

Evelyn's family would like all her friends and family to know that due to the ongoing pandemic, a Celebration of Evelyn's Life will be held next spring.

Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

Email obituaries to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

Worship Services Week of November 28, 2021. Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services. Includes listings for The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C., Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon, Greenwood Community Church, St. John's Episcopal Church, North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC, The Sharon United Methodist Church, Promised Land Baptist Church, The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall, The Smithfield Presbyterian Church, SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH, Cannaan United Methodist Church, and All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church.

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PINE PLAINS/AREA

Copake Deputy Fire Chief Randi Shadic honored with lifetime award for years of service

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

COPAKE — Taking tremendous pride in the level of dedication demonstrated by its firefighters, the town of Copake congratulated Deputy Fire Chief Randi Shadic of the Copake Fire Company for being recognized by the Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters Association (CCVFA) as a recipient of the CCVFA's 2020 Firefighter Lifetime Achievement Award in July.

A lifelong resident of Copake, Shadic's background as a firefighter has always had a family focus. Both of his grandfathers, Clayton Hedges and William Shadic, were members of the Copake Fire Company. Hedges served as a charter member when the company was formed in 1925. His father, Miller Shadic, had over 50 active years of service with the company where he served as a chief, commissioner and president.

Following in his family's footsteps, Shadic said, "It was always part of my family growing up and I was always interested in the fire service end of it, and



Deputy Fire Chief Randi Shadic, center, of the Copake Fire Company, was honored by the Columbia County Volunteer Firefighters Association (CCVFA) as one of the recipients of the 2020 Firefighter Lifetime Achievement Award in July.

as soon as I could, I joined as early as I could."

In July of 1975, Shadic joined the Copake Fire Company at the age of 17, where he has been volunteering for the last 46 years — 30 of which he held the titles of fire chief and deputy fire chief on and off.

To Shadic, volunteering has

always been about providing a service that benefits people in some way in their time of need. Many times, he said it's not necessarily about fires as the company does so much more in rescue work, from rope rescue services and cold water services to responding to cardiac arrests and rescuing animals.

"It's a variety of things we respond to," Shadic said, "and we've kind of always said we often see and meet people on their worst day, and if we can bring something to make their day better, that's what the work is."

Along with his work with the Copake Fire Company, Shadic's career incorporates several roles

"Randi is probably the most dedicated guy I ever met in reference to firefighter service,"
Copake Fire Chief John DeRocha

in the fire service field.

In 1988, he took the civil service test with the New York State Department of State and began his career with the New York State Office of Fire Prevention and Control. He was later assigned to the New York State Arson Bureau where he began working as an investigator in 1990 and then as deputy chief of the bureau in 2001. His experience also includes work as a canine dealer and three years of working as a deputy fire chief for Columbia County.

An opening for fire chief became available at the Copake Fire Company in 2015, right around the time Shadic had retired from his career.

Initially taking the job until the company could find someone else, he served as fire chief for another four years. Shadic stepped down from the fire chief position this year and has since assumed the responsibilities of deputy fire chief to help current Fire Chief John DeRocha.

"Randi is an exceptional person," DeRocha said. "He's extremely dedicated, probably the most dedicated guy I ever met in reference to firefighter service... His experiences and what he brings to the fire company

are unmatched, in my opinion, to anyone who worked the fire service. I know where the Copake Fire Company is in many aspects due to Randi Shadic and his dedication."

Asked how he felt about being recognized for his service and the prestigious award, Shadic said it was truly an honor. And while the recognition wasn't something he anticipated, he was appreciative for the recognition and those who thought him worthy of it.

Considering what his 46 years with the company has taught him, Shadic said, "It's not about the individuals, it's about a team that does work together to provide success and results, and I was part of that team. Everybody has their roles and responsibilities and I always prefer seeing teams being recognized over individuals. As much as I was honored to receive the honor, I was just doing my job as part of the team."

"To engage with Assistant Fire Chief Shadic is to be immediately impressed by the expertise, professionalism and humility of this good man," said Copake town Supervisor Jeanne Mettler. "We are proud and thankful that he is one of ours."

Vaccine clinic a success at Stissing Mountain

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The county held a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School on Route 199 in Pine Plains on Thursday, Nov. 18, from 3 to 6 p.m., with great success.

About 10 volunteers managed to give nearly 250 doses to area residents ranging in ages 15 to 90, of both the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines, according to Pine Plains Pharmacy owner and pharmacist Nasir Mahmood, who helped run the clinic.

Mahmood said, "These included boosters, first and second doses," adding that "our next clinic will be pediatric, for ages 5 through 11 on Tuesday, Nov. 30, at the high school cafeteria between 3 and 6 p.m."

The longtime pharmacist, who has been working hard to ensure local residents gets vaccinated against COVID-19 since it hit the U.S. nearly two years ago, said last week's clinic was another shining example of cooperation.

"The clinic went very well and smooth, mainly due to our volunteers who never fail to show up on a single call," he said. "Our community is an excellent example of being informed, protecting themselves and the



Roughly 10 volunteers helped out at the Thursday, Nov. 18, COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School in Pine Plains.

neighbors willing to work together for a safer community. We are happy to work with the state and the county in getting most citizens vaccinated. The Pine Plains community is very pleased with these efforts."

Now that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has approved COVID vaccinations for children, Mahmood has been busy planning for local youth to get inoculated against the respiratory virus.

"We are seeing more and more parents eager to vaccinate their children," he said. "Last

week, Pine Plains Pharmacy vaccinated about 160 5- to 11-year-old children in Millbrook. We are sure this number will be exceeded at our upcoming [Pine Plains] clinic for children on Tuesday... We are also thankful to our school superintendent, Dr. Martin Handler and staff for providing the space and assistance."

For more information, call the Pine Plains Pharmacy at 518-398-5588. Stissing Mountain High School is located at 2829 Church St. (Route 199); for more details, call 518-398-7181.

Pine Plains man arrested for sex abuse

PINE PLAINS — The New York State Police out of the Rhinebeck barracks arrested 64-year-old Pine Plains resident Dennis A. Robison for sex abuse on Nov. 15, after receiving a complaint.

According to the police report, Robison was charged with Sexual Abuse in the 3rd degree, a class B misdemeanor. He was accused of allegedly having "touched the victim beneath the clothing for the purpose of sexual gratification."

Robison was arraigned before the Honorable Judge Ibis Guzman of the Town of Pine Plains Court.

After arraignment, he was released on his own recognizance and is set to reappear before the court on Dec. 1, at 4 p.m.

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.

— Whitney Joseph

PINE PLAINS IN BRIEF Town Decorating Day Nov. 27

Helping its residents embrace the holiday spirit, the town of Pine Plains will host its 36th annual Town Decorating Day on Saturday, Nov. 27.

With festivities beginning at 3 p.m., residents are invited to pick up their decorations in front of Bank of Millbrook at 2971 East Church St. (Route 199) and then find a tree to beautify with the holiday spirit. Santa will be at the gazebo at the Town Park at the main intersection for holiday wishes and residents are invited to stick around for festive holiday music and the annual lighting of the town Christmas tree. The parade of lights will begin at 5 p.m. In the event of rain, Decorating Day will be held on Sunday, Nov. 28.

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ADOPT-A-FAMILY *Continued from Page A1*

cards that make such a difference to so many. The regional equestrian community has been especially generous for many years, she noted.

Families in need of a friendly hand are encouraged to sign up by calling Moore & More at 518-789-4508 Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to register children from pre-

birth to age 13 who live in the Webutuck and Pine Plains Central School Districts.

Rather than having traditional shopping at The Annex, aka The North Pole South, Moore and her crew will use the information provided by the families that register (as well as school social workers and guidance counselors who

discreetly do so) to select appropriate toys and clothing for distribution.

The "new North Pole" will instead be run out of Moore's popular print shop at 17 Dutchess Ave., in the heart of Millerton right next to Herington's, beginning in early December.

Families will also have the option of selecting only gift cards, a procedure that Moore said "went very well" when it was used last year. In fact, more than 200 children received the cards when COVID-19 put a stop to the usual distribution

system used by the toy and clothing drive that has provided holiday gifts to area children for decades.

The cards, which Moore credits to Sunday in the Country Food Drive organizer Bill Anstett for "running all around and picking up," can be used at local businesses this year.

Those include: Tractor Supply, Dollar General, Family Dollar, Label Shopper and Freshtown (all in Amenia); and Millerton's The Dig, CVS and Oblong Books. Oblong's owner, Dick Hermans, Moore noted, has been with the program

"through it all."

Moore is once again hoping that the community, which has always responded so well, will once again bring donations either to her shop or to The Annex. Hours there have not yet been set, but donors can call Moore & More to check on those in the coming days.

Requested items

Battery-operated toys are fine, but Adopt-a-Family does not accept electronic games and the like, opting instead to supply items that encourage active thought, creativity, physical movement and involvement

with others. Sporting equipment is always appreciated as are games, puzzles, dolls, books, Legos and other building and art supplies.

Diapers, blankets, hats, mittens and gloves are needed. Clothing should be pre-matched to required sizes. All clothing items should be new.

Monetary support is always appreciated and needed more than ever. Tax-deductible checks may be made out to the nonprofit Adopt-a-Family, and dropped off at Moore & More or mailed to P.O. Box 880, Millerton, NY 12546.

ELECTION *Continued from Page A1*

four-year term seats on the Town Board, Rebillard, who originally tallied 345 votes after the unofficial results were released by the BOE the evening of Nov. 2, ended up with 386 votes after the absentees were counted. He now joins Leo Blackman (DEM), who won the top spot with a vote count of 565, up from the election night count of 515.

Incumbent Councilman James Morris (REP), who was hoping to serve a second term come 2022, had appeared to take that second seat with 348 votes, three more than Rebillard. But the BOE now says Morris was 377 short after the absentee votes were counted, take the third spot.

The unofficial votes had Katherine Lee (DEM) with 319 votes. Lee filed a lawsuit after those numbers came out, which she explained on social media amounted to requesting an unbiased lawyer be present for the absentee count. The final results came back with Lee in fourth place with 345 votes.

James Vitiello (CON, AS) went from 268 votes to 304, and former Democrat Stacy Mantel (WOR), saw a small spike from 76 to 87 with a "small number" of yet uncounted write-in votes also recorded in the hotly-contested election where 1,043 citizens spoke their minds.

In addition to the race for the

two Town Board seats, incumbent town Supervisor Victoria Perotti (REP, CON) won her fifth term, running against newcomer Julie Doran (AS) (who lost to Perotti in the Republican Primary).

Town of Stanford

In the town of Stanford, 12 challenged ballots were still to be adjudicated after Judge Ed McLaughlin adjourned the case on Nov. 18.

As of press time, counts showed Town Board candidates Anne Arent (DEM) earned 670 votes after an initial vote of 630; Nathan Lavertue (DEM) was up to 677 votes from 640; Dennis Buchal (REP, CON) was up to 667 votes from 648; and candidate Hans Tabor (REP, CON) went from 542 votes to 560.

Town of Washington

In the Town of Washington, incumbent Councilman Michael Murphy won one of two seats on the Town Board; the second slot awaited a court decision from Judge Christi Acker on 17 ballots as Stephen Turletes (REP) and Leslie Heaney (My Millbrook-MM) were locked in a dead heat at 627 each, up from 613 and 596 votes, respectively.

Incumbent Councilman Joe Rochfort, meanwhile, won the unexpired Town Board seat left vacant by the death of the late Councilman Al de Bonis, which Rochfort will serve for one year.

of 2020. This past July, the Town Board held a stakeholders meeting to address any concerns of those who might be impacted by the project.

On the evening of Nov. 15, outgoing Town Board member Rory Chase spoke about the study and why it's so important.

Tighe & Bond Senior Project Manager Erin Moore answered some questions and also bulleted the study's importance. Moore highlighted the following: maintaining a healthy, vibrant community; improving quality of life; attracting new businesses and residents to town; and allowing businesses to operate at full capacity.

However, she told the public Pine Plains isn't in a unique situation, as there are other small communities facing the same challenge, such as Amenia, Millerton and Copake.

In terms of why Pine Plains is scrambling to solve its wastewater problem now, Moore said there is no time like the present to approach the project. In terms of economics, there's currently funding available for wastewater projects and municipalities

should take advantage of it before it disappears.

Sewer in business district
Moore's colleague, Kyle Kortright, said Tighe & Bond sent out a survey to determine who would benefit the most from the sewer district. The response showed the business district would.

Detailing the proposed sewer district delineation, Kortright said they therefore focused on the smallest parcels that could have issues with expanding their septic systems. He proposed delineating the sewer district around that hamlet and expanding to other parcels that have experienced septic issues and want to connect to the central sewer system.

Using water meter data to get the most accurate estimate for water flow, Kortright said they calculated 13,500 gallons per day for the proposed sewer district for an average day. Additionally, he said they considered future flow estimates, and in determining how much extra flow they need to prepare for, he said they calculated 20,000 gallons per day.

Town wants church land

For the septic system, Kortright proposed a septic tank effluent system that would be located on the 21-acre parcel in town owned by the Catholic Archdiocese and St. Anthony's Catholic Church.

Town Supervisor Darrah Cloud reported on a later date the town is currently in negotiations with the Catholic Archdiocese. Essentially, Kortright

said the system involves a series of partially-buried tanks where wastewater percolates over the media filter; once the wastewater is treated by the system, it goes to a subsurface disposal system.

Among the system's advantages, he said it has low visual impact and is simple in terms of operation and maintenance.

Advantages of the proposed site include its proximity to the hamlet center, its fast percolation rate and its allowance for a gravity collection system, while its drawbacks included the site's high seasonal groundwater and that the town has to negotiate with the church to buy the land.

Moore emphasized this was "a continuous communication process [since] nothing's locked in at this stage."

Costs, affordability

Outlining the project costs, the debt service costs and the costs of operation and maintenance, Moore said the project is still not affordable for the town. To make it affordable, she highlighted a few funding strategies, adding that "this report is one of the tools we use to start funding."

Another way of reducing project costs would be to recruit additional wastewater system customers, since more users would mean more people would help pay for the project.

Moore said getting in line for

federal infrastructure funding would also help cut costs. She also said while there are several caveats to keep the project moving forward, she said the town is not obligated to continue pursuing it if it can't afford it.

Enthusiasm, questions

Looking ahead, Moore said the next step really depends on the enthusiasm of the people in the hamlet who want to see the project realized.

Amid the audience's questions, there were inquiries if Tighe & Bond looked at other parcels for installing the septic system; collection tanks; potential visual impacts and odor issues; cost concerns; and if the church is interested in selling the property.

Moore said the church expressed interest in the project, but she emphasized that the next step entails developing a plan that works in all parties' best interests. If the church does not want to sell its land, Moore said they have a backup plan, though the church property is the most desirable. Chase clarified the sewer district would pay for the property, not the town.

Video, more info

A video of the presentation can now be viewed in full on YouTube on the "Town of Pine Plains" channel. Look for more information on the cost breakdown of the proposed project in future issues of this newspaper.

MEDICARE *Continued from Page A1*

Enrolling for Medicare can be confusing and difficult with so many options to choose from, especially because if one makes a wrong choice, it can mean a full year of being unhappy with that choice.

Fortunately, there are many ways to find help out there, and people who have expertise in the field of senior health willing to share their knowledge.

Some changes that can be made during the open enrollment period include switching from Medicare Advantage back to original Medicare; to disenroll from original Medicare to enroll in Medicare Advantage or change from one Medicare Advantage plan to another.

Other possibilities including signing up for a Part D prescription drug plan, or canceling one's prescription drug coverage.

Changes one can make during the Medicare annual enrollment period will take effect on Jan. 1 of the following year.

According to Director of the

Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) Todd Tancredi, the dates are firm. The plan one is enrolled in on Dec. 7 is set in stone for the entire next year. However, if a person moves, or retires after that date, it can change.

"The OFA does offer assistance with this process," said Tancredi. "We are doing most of our insurance counseling over the phone this year due to the COVID pandemic, so it is not necessary for someone to come into our office in Poughkeepsie. All one needs to do is to call our office and speak with a community service worker."

"We will take their personal information, including a list of their current medications, dosages, etc., and schedule a date and time for them to speak with a health insurance counselor."

Then, at that appointment, explained Tancredi, the senior caller will simply review insurance plans, drug plans, costs, etc., with the OFA representative to determine which plan best meets

their needs.

The Dutchess County Office for the Aging in Poughkeepsie is easy to reach. Simply call 845-486-2555 or call toll free at 866-486-2555. One can also email the OFA at ofa@dutchessny.gov.

Other resources are available to help understand Medicare insurance, including New York State's Health Information Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP), which provides free information, counseling and assistance with Medicare and private health insurances providers working directly with Medicare beneficiaries to educate them about the Medicare, Medigap and Medicaid, Medicare Advantage and long-term care insurance. They can also help with Low-Income Subsidy Programs, employer-sponsored insurance and other health insurance programs that are available in New York State.

The toll-free hotline is 1-800-701-0501. For more information, call 845-486-2555.

VOLLEYBALL *Continued from Page A1*

glow of the regional win, spoke proudly of that game.

"We were led by an amazing offensive effort led by our setter Marisa Markou, who finished with 31 assists. Hitters Julia Stolikier had 15 kills, Bella Darnell, 12 kills and Natalie Fox, with six kills, led the way offensively. We are now 15-1 overall and ranked second in the state for Class C. Next [week] we play in the state semi-finals."

There were more than enough fans to cheer them on at the regional match; the school parking lot was full, and the

cheers were loud and long.

The state finals were played at the Glens Falls Civic Center in Glens Falls.

The team played in the pool play on Saturday, Nov. 20, where they played in a round robin style tournament playing all three competing teams. They played each team in two individual games. The two teams with the best record of the day then moved on to play Sunday at 2 p.m. for the state championship title. Unfortunately, the Blazers lost to Portville with a score of 3-1. The loss was heartbreak-

ing, but everyone in the community is very proud of what the Millbrook players have accomplished. Overall it has been an exciting season for the team and for Stoliker.

The state finals in Glens Falls were the final step to the State Championship. They might not have won, but they came very close, and they didn't lose to just anyone. The Portsmouth team has won the State title five times over the past 10 years.

As the saying goes, "Better luck next year," but this year, the Blazers were certainly amazing.

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.

Support Local Journalism In Your Community

Dear reader,

When this newspaper made a plea to our readers for support in 2019, The Lakeville Journal Company, publishers of The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and www.tricornernews.com, was at a crossroads. Then, we were looking at drastically cutting costs in order to survive.

Two years later, after two highly successful appeals to our readership for contributions that saved your local community newspapers, this small media company is in a very different place. Your generosity kept us alive, even during a worldwide pandemic, and we were able to apply for and receive tax-exempt status from the IRS as a public charity. Your contributions to The Lakeville Journal Foundation are now tax deductible to the extent permitted under the law. Now it is time to regroup again and make a new plan to take this media company into a successful future.

During COVID-19 shutdowns and restrictions, this company was able to obtain two PPP grants from the U.S. government, which, combined with our readers' generous support, helped us remain in place to report the news of your communities. Your wish for local news is what drives our mission, which publishes in the newspapers every week:

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

We sincerely ask you to be a Community Contributor, donating whatever you can to support local news, to The Lakeville Journal Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization. Unlike the last two years, your donations are now tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Thank you for keeping track of your local news in our publications, and profound gratitude for your support that kept The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and www.tricornernews.com here for your communities.

Noreen Doyle

Noreen Doyle, Chair

Janet Manko

Janet Manko, CEO, executive director

The Lakeville Journal Foundation, Inc.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment



PHOTOS BY GEORGE MURDOCK

The creche on Bethlehem's town Green is the centerpiece of the town's two-day Christmas Town Festival, which will take place this year on Friday evening, Dec. 3, and Saturday, Dec. 4. A highlight of the festival is the lighting of the 85-foot holiday tree on Friday night.

DAYTRIPS: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

All Roads Lead to Bethlehem: 'Connecticut's Christmas Town'

Named after the birthplace of Jesus, Litchfield County's little town of Bethlehem lives up to its reputation as "Connecticut's Christmas Town." Each year, from Thanksgiving to Christmas, thousands of visitors from near and far converge on this quaint, rural community of about 3,500 residents to partake in beloved holiday traditions.

Bethlehem's Christmas Town Festival came about in 1980: The community pulled together to raise money to replace the Memorial Hall, which had been destroyed by fire.

The festival is run en-

tirely by volunteers, with the goal of raising money to support the town's treasured community center.

THE BENEDICTINE ABBEY

Bethlehem's history is, fittingly, steeped in religion. The first theological seminary in the country was established there, as was the 400-acre Abbey of Regina Laudis on Flanders Road, founded in 1947 as one of the first houses of Benedictine nuns living in contemplative silence in the United States.

The Abbey is home to a rare, 18th-century gem: a Neapolitan creche. The recently restored nativity scene, comprising hand-carved figures of wood, terra cotta, jute and porcelain, has been viewed by people from all over the world. It was gifted to the Abbey by artist and philanthropist Loretta Hines Howard, who also donated a similar creche to New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Unfortunately, the creche, which has been a big draw to Bethlehem during the holiday season, will be closed to the public this year, as it was in 2020,

due to COVID-19.

A spokesperson at the Abbey said tentative plans are to reopen the grounds — including the Monastic Art Shop, the Neapolitan creche and a second, charming rustic nativity scene created by Connecticut artist Lauren Ford — to the public in spring of 2022.

Visitors to Bethlehem this holiday season will still have plenty of activities to make a daytrip worth the effort.

CHRISTMAS TOWN FESTIVAL DEC. 3 AND 4

Among the planned attractions are the 40th annual Christmas Town Festival, slated for the first weekend in December; the unveiling of the 2021 limited-edition pewter Christmas ornament and visits to the Bethlehem Post Office, where generations of families have hand-stamped their holiday cards and packages with one of 83 uniquely designed rubber stamps, known as a cachet.

The festival is at the heart of the holiday festivities and is one of New England's favorite

celebrations. The two-day event around the town Green opens on Friday, Dec. 3, 5 to 9:30 p.m., and continues on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The opening ceremony and tree lighting is at 6 p.m. on Friday with Irene O'Connor, honorary emcee and WFSB Channel 3 TV personality.

There will be music, bell choir concerts, lighting of the 85-foot town Christmas tree, photos with Santa, hayrides, a book and cookie sale, craft and food vendors and craft workshops for children and their parents.

The young and young-at-heart are invited to take a roaming train ride, visit Santa's workshop or go on a scavenger hunt.

To counterbalance all the holiday fun foods, there will be a 5K "Santa Made Me Do It" road race on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 10 a.m.

Festival Committee Chairman George Murdock said as long as the weather cooperates, he expects a robust turnout, especially since the event was put on hold last year for the first time in four decades due to COVID-19. "We could see up to 3,500 people — which equals the population of Bethlehem," noted Murdock.

COVETED ORNAMENTS AND THE POSTAL CACHET

The tradition of the Bethlehem Post Office's cachet harkens back to 1938 when the late Earl Johnson, the postmaster at that time, designed a rubber stamp with the message "From the Little Town of Bethlehem, Christmas Greetings."

Since then, new designs have been created by town residents, artists and children.

Bethlehem town officials estimate that hundreds of thousands

Hip Hop Into The Holidays With En Vogue

Just because it's Thanksgiving, that doesn't mean everything you do has to have a holiday theme. For something completely different, think about going to the En Vogue concert in Kingston, N.Y., on Saturday, Dec. 4, at 8 p.m. hosted by the Bardavon at the UPAC.

If you were a disco biscuit back in the 1980s and 1990s, En Vogue needs no introduction. You remember jumping onto the dance floor as soon as you heard the opening notes of "Never Gonna Get It," one of the most infectious tunes of the disco era (I think they're actually what's considered Hip Hop — or as Wikipedia describes it: "R&B soul funk new jack swing pop hip hop dance"). However you de-

scribe it, En Vogue's music gets you up on your feet and feeling frisky.

Tickets start at \$49. The Bardavon and UPAC box offices are open Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at (Bardavon) 845-473-5288 or (UPAC) 845-339-6088; or email at boxoffice@bardavon.org. To purchase tickets online 24 hours a day go to www.ticketmaster.com (fees will apply).

Due to the delta variant and the recent increase in new COVID cases, audiences (with some exceptions) at Bardavon and UPAC events must be fully vaccinated and wear masks at all times. Ticket holders must show proof of vaccination and government issued ID on show days. — *Cynthia Hochswender*

TRADITIONAL AND HISTORICAL HOLIDAY MUSIC

The Salisbury Association will offer a free concert of traditional Christmas music and carols on Saturday, Dec. 4, from 5 to 6 p.m. at the Congregational Church in Salisbury, Conn.

The Salisbury Four have created a special one-hour program of music that spans periods from the Medieval to the Baroque and includes more modern eras and beloved carols as well.

The members of the Salisbury Four include Zahra Brown, soprano, Judith Dansker, recorder, Christopher Morrongiello,

lute, and Marcia Young, soprano and Renaissance harp. For more about the musicians, go to www.salisburyassociation.org.

Seating will be limited, to allow for social distancing. Face masks and proof of vaccination will be required. Doors will open at 4:30 p.m. To reserve seats, email info@salisburyassociation.org or call 860-435-0566 and leave your name, number in your party and contact information by noon, Saturday, Dec. 4. Walk-ins will be permitted until the seating limit is reached.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Send items to calendar@lakevillejournal.com. All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar.

MISC.

WSWA Ski Swap Sale. Lakeville Hose Company, 4 Brook St., Lakeville, Conn. www.salisburyisjumping.com
Dropoff Dec. 3, 4 to 7 p.m. Sale is Dec. 4, 8 to 11 a.m., pick up money, unsold equipment from 11 to noon. No dropoffs Dec. 4.

Housatonic Valley FFA Holiday Store. 246 Warren Tpke., Falls Village, CT www.ffa.hvrs.org
Trees, wreaths, roping, poinsettias and more; Nov. 27-Dec. 23, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Hometown Holidays. Lakeville Firehouse, 4 Brook St., Lakeville, Conn.
Dec. 4: 11-4 Vendor Fair; 3-5 Photos with Santa; 5:30 Tree Lighting

BOOKS

Oblong Books & Music. 26 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.oblongbooks.com
In-Person Book Signing: Annie Leibovitz, Wonderland, Dec. 5, 10 a.m.

KIDS

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon. 10 Upper Main

St., Sharon, Conn. www.hotchkisslibrary.org
Family Movie Night!- Clifford The Big Red Dog (2021), Nov. 26.

MOVIES

The Moviehouse. 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.themoviehouse.net
Now playing: Belfast, Encanto, House of Gucci, Ghostbusters: Afterlife.

MUSIC

The Egremont Barn. 17 Main St., South Egremont, Mass. www.theegremontbarn.com
Karaoke! After Thanksgiving and Before Christmas!, Nov. 28, 7 to 10 p.m.

TALKS

The Clark Art Museum. 225 South St., Williamstown, Mass. www.clarkart.edu
NEW PARENTS GALLERY TALK, Dec. 3, 10:15-11:15

THEATER

Ancram Opera House. 1330 County Route 7, Ancram, N.Y. www.ancramoperahouse.org
Real People Real Stories: Taconic Hills, Nov. 30, 3 p.m.

At The Movies

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Friday, Nov 26 @ 11 AM
Doors open 10:30 AM
No ticket required.

BOOK A PRIVATE SCREENING OR HOLIDAY PARTY IN OUR SCREENING LOUNGE...

info@themoviehouse.net

48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

It's never good to change up a holiday menu —but there are many reasons to make cauliflower a new holiday tradition.

**THANKSGIVING:
CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER**

Don't Panic But ... Maybe Cauliflower For Thanksgiving?

There are two things we know for certain about Thanksgiving dinner.

One is that there is usually a lot of food, and aids to digestion can be helpful.

The other is that it's important not to tinker (too much) with the traditional menu. You have roughly 360 other days of the year when you can experiment with new flavors and combinations; you should avoid doing so on Thanksgiving and other important annual holidays (Christmas, Hanukkah, birthdays).

And so I present this menu alternative with some trepidation. In my opinion, if you want to try something new this Thanksgiving and wouldn't it be great if it were an easily digestible food, then cauliflower is the answer.

There are many things to love about cauliflower for this most food-centric holiday meal. First, it's one of the most readily available starch/vegetables, sold in every grocery store in America.

And because it's not an obvious choice, you can probably buy one at the last minute.

Unlike potatoes, cauliflower is easy to cook and it mashes and purees beautifully. They are a very worthy substitute for mashed potatoes (I personally never mash my own potatoes any more, I buy Simple Potatoes, which are fantastic and actually better than homemade, IMO).

This is a vegetable that not only can be cooked the day before Thanksgiving, it absolutely should be cooked a day early. Like many members of the brassica family, it has a strong odor when it's being cooked. If you make it ahead of time, you won't have the scent hanging over your gathering.

It's extremely easy to cook a cauliflower. And if you are having a small group for dinner, cauliflower florets are excellent in a crudité plate; cook half but serve the other half raw with dip.

To cook your cauliflower, preheat the oven to 325

degrees. Put some parchment paper or foil on a cookie sheet. Cut the stem out of the bottom of the head of cauliflower; don't worry if some of the florets break up while you're doing this — in fact, if you plan to make puree, you can just break the cauliflower head into florets.

But the whole head looks very impressive when you roast it whole.

And here's another factor in favor of cauliflower: You can cook and serve it in many ways. It's like a little black dress; you start off with roasted florets or a roasted whole head and adapt them in different ways depending on your mood and energy level.

As noted, you can serve it raw with dip. You can add small florets to a crunchy salad.

You can roast the whole head for about 25 minutes, until the top is brown and you can easily insert a knife into the florets.

Before you roast, you can top the cauliflower with some olive oil and coarse salt and pepper, and a sprinkling of your favorite spice (curry is good!).

Third, you can puree your roasted florets with some cream and butter.

Fourth, you can slice your roasted cauliflower and serve it in a stir fry with bread crumbs, dried currants, slivered almonds, maybe some chopped fresh parsley left over from making stuffing.

Fifth, you can make a creamy bisque with cauliflower, roasted fennel, roasted leek and sautéed pears. This might be a good way to use any leftover cauliflower on the day after Thanksgiving because, really, no one needs soup when there's a turkey and 10 side dishes on the table. If you serve bread with your dinner, and make soup the next day, use some slices for croutons.

And as noted, cauliflower is known as a digestive aid, which is always welcome when you're eating a large meal and then sitting around watching football and old movies after (and perhaps before) dinner.

MESSIAH: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

'Hallelujah,' It's Time Once Again for 'The Messiah'

You don't have to love choral music or even classical music — or even Christmas — to love G.F. Handel's "Messiah." I would count myself as fairly uneducated when it comes to the glories of great music but even for me, "The Messiah" is a delight to listen to. Although much of the storyline (the life and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ) is not happy, it is in fact a joyful and uplifting musical experience, especially the famous "Hallelujah" chorus.

I begin singing "The Messiah" right after Thanksgiving — and I'm not the only person who loves to sing along (poorly) to the very complicated oratorio. I don't know why but there are "Messiah" sing-alongs all over the world.

Traditionally, Berkshire Bach hosts a Messiah sing in Great Barrington, Mass., but COVID-19 seems to have canceled it.

In Kent, Conn., St. Andrew's Music in the Nave will present "The Messiah" with James Sinclair conducting the Sherman Chamber Ensemble on Friday, Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. at St. Andrew's Parish at 1 North Main.

Audience members can sing the choral parts. Bring

... daytrips

Continued from previous page

of holiday greetings are stamped and mailed each season from the small East Street Post Office by people from all over the world. The Post Office will have extended hours during the days of the festival, according to Murdock. It will remain open until 8 p.m. on Friday, and until 3 p.m. on Saturday.

The 2021 Christmas Town Festival Ornament, "Nativity on the Green," sells for \$10 and is available at Town Hall. Murdock said the limited edition, pewter ornaments are sought-after collectibles.

"They are stamped with a sequential number, and only 1,150 are made. When they're done, they're done."

PARKING AND SHUTTLE DETAILS

Admission to the festival and parking at the fairground are free. The town Green is at the junction of Routes 61 and 132. Shuttle bus service will run continuously between the fairground and the Green.

Parking in town during the festival is by permit only and is limited to cars with a handicapped tag, vendors and volunteers participating in the festival. Murdock suggested that anyone looking to park in the permitted spaces at Town Hall enter town from the south, as roads will be closed around the Green. For more information go to www.christmastownfestival.com, or call 203-266-7510, ext. 400.



IMAGE COURTESY OF BRITANICA

"The Messiah," by George Frideric Handel (shown in this 1736 painting by Thomas Hudson), has become a highlight of the holiday season.

your own score, or borrow one. Admission is \$20; book your ticket at <https://bit.ly/messiah10> and at the door. Student admission is free.

For more information,

call 860-927-3486, email st.andrew.kent@snet.net, or go to www.standrews-kentct.org/mitn.html.

In Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y., about a 40-minute drive from Salisbury,

Conn., Leon Bottstein will lead a non-sing-along "Messiah" performed by The Orchestra Now, soloists from the Bard Conservatory Graduate Vocal Arts Program, the Bard Festival Chorale and the Bard College Chamber Singers.

That concert will be on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 12, at 2 p.m. You can attend in person (and not sing) or take part virtually (in which case, go ahead and sing along!).

Performances are in the Fisher Center's Sossnoff Theater on the Bard College campus. Tickets start at \$30 for in-person; it is "pay what you wish" for the virtual livestream. To purchase or reserve tickets, go to www.fisher-center.bard.edu, call 845-758-7900 (Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.), or email boxoffice@bard.edu.



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The Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Matt Finley



The Smithfield Church
656 Smithfield Valley Rd., Amenia, NY

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4:00

...The Chamber Orchestra returns, playing Christmas songs and classics!

TheSmithfieldChurch.org/concert
for program details...

This event is part of
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The public is invited
No entrance admission...
A plate will be passed during the performance for those who wish to make donations to the church. Contributions will be gratefully accepted.

Attendees are asked to wear a mask in the church, and those wishing to stay after the concert for tea are required to show proof of immunization. Thank you for your cooperation.

MILLBROOK

Can Elm Drive Gazebo be saved? FRIENDS group believes it can

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Most everyone loves the quaintness and beauty of villages like Millbrook. Certainly visitors and residents in the Harlem Valley appreciate the charming community's local history, quaint shopping district and continuity.

The popular garden gazebo located on Elm Drive is one of the structures that people who visit the tennis court often look for; tourists also enjoy it when they drive along Elm Drive viewing village sights. Many residents say they, too, enjoy the gazebo's history, although the structure is presently too damaged to be used.

For a long period, its ownership was in question. Residents wondered if it belonged to the Village of Millbrook or the Millbrook Central School District (MCSD).

A surveyor confirmed that it does belong to the MCSD, and its fate now rests in the district's hands. While the MCSD seems to understand how important it is to the community, it's also noted how costly the repairs will be.

A FRIENDS of the Gazebo group has been hard at work, headed by resident Ashley Lempka. On Tuesday, Oct. 19, some members of the group attended the MCSD Board of Education (BOE) meeting. They informed the BOE the group was formed to preserve and restore the gazebo. Since forming, the FRIENDS have been working to figure out how to best accomplish that.

At that meeting, the FRIENDS discovered the BOE had sent out around 7,000 post cards with a link to a survey on the school district's website. About 188 replies were returned. The answers showed that 36% of the respondents would like to see the gazebo repaired or renovated, while 8% would prefer it to be demolished.

The BOE appointed two of its members to work with the FRIENDS group. Lempka, following the meeting, said she felt encouraged.

"They seemed very willing to work with the group and help us reach our goal," she said.

She and a few FRIENDS members attended another BOE meeting on Oct. 25 with the two BOE liaisons via Zoom, and again on Nov. 2. Questions abounded on both sides, concerning the school board sharing information with the FRIENDS about a quote they obtained to do the repairs.

Some questions included if the FRIENDS can get their own quote for the repair work (since the district has to pay for it); if they have any money for the project; if they are willing to let the MCSD maintain control over the project; and if the MCSD's insurance would cover the FRIENDS group if it initiated the repair project?

It was also asked if Village Building Inspector Ken McLaughlin would inspect the gazebo? The BOE asked MCSD Director of Technology and Data Services Elliott Garcia to get in touch with McLaughlin.

The FRIENDS also asked if the MCSD be willing to donate any money raised toward the possible demolition of the gazebo, which was \$7,800 at the time of the meeting, or toward re-



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

The gazebo shown above is owned by the Millbrook Central School District, and is in dire need of repairs. The district is currently deciding whether to repair it or demolish it. One group, the FRIENDS of the Gazebo, is fighting to save the historical structure on Elm Drive.

The district said it would.

The BOE discussed if it would be able to offer tax deductible write-offs to those who donate to the repair fund?

Other questions that were raised included asking about what might be involved in subdividing the property the gazebo is on? There has been some talk of the gazebo property being subdivided and going into village hands. The land is actually on the site of Elm Drive Elementary School.

The BOE was asked if it might consider approaching either the Dyson Foundation and/or the Tribute Garden for financial assistance. It was suggested that the FRIENDS could also apply to the Millbrook Educational Foundation for funds.

The BOE asked if the FRIENDS could secure the structure for winter, and were told that Michael Shultz has offered to crib the structure for

winter.

On Nov. 9 the FRIENDS met at the Millbrook Library. They discussed possibly purchasing the gazebo and the immediate grounds on which it stands, or to lease it from the MCSD for 99 years. It also discussed becoming a formal 501(C)3 nonprofit.

The FRIENDS said time is of the essence, but acknowledged the wheels of progress often turn slowly. It has ideas to keep the ball rolling, one of which is to distribute flyers and let residents know about the group and its goals.

There is talk of having a Gazebo Float in the Parade of Lights in Millbrook on Friday, Dec. 3. Lempka would also like to fill a few positions in the FRIENDS group: treasurer, secretary and co-secretary.

To learn more about the FRIENDS and how to join the group, go to www.millbrook-gazebo.com.



PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

The Cary Institute spoke about trees and the impact of climate change in a recent talk.

'Demand transparency'

Cary Institute talks about carbon credits

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Charles Canham, Ph.D. and recently retired from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, is well versed in the dynamics of forests, their ecosystems and the impact humans have on them. His research in the field, and the use of computer-generated models and statistics, allows him to address how forests respond to human impact, as well as to fire, insects and overall climate change.

He shared his 35-plus years of experience with the Cary Institute audience as he spoke about trees and forests and carbon credits on Thursday, Nov. 11.

Canham has become an expert at studying and explaining Forest Carbon Offsets, which offer a tradable certificate or permit that allows a company, country or other entity to emit or spend a given amount of carbon dioxide or an equivalent greenhouse gas. A single carbon credit equals 1 ton of either carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gas emission.

While this practice began in an attempt to lower global emissions and to promote clean energy, many are uncertain if it will work. Some see serious problems with the plan.

It basically began with the Kyoto Protocol, an international treaty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GGE). It applies to six greenhouse gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydro fluorocarbons, per fluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride. It is an extension to the 1992 UNFCCC treaty.

When companies buy and sell carbon credits, the money goes to fund carbon offset projects, meant to eliminate the amount of carbon dioxide equal to the amount emitted.

The premise sounds good, said Canham. The country or company receives a set of quota of credits, depending on the size of the company or properties or what their function is.

The amount of credits can vary each year and can be used throughout the year. If the entity goes over the allotted credits, there are severe penalties.

Each country or company gets a set of number of credits. The amount depends on their size and what they do.

Every year they get a new set of credits, which can be used throughout that year.

It is worth noting there has been very little change in carbon reduction practices since the Kyoto Protocol began.

Canham used an example of the Nature Conservancy, which is currently conducting a self-

examination of its carbon offset portfolio. A nonprofit, it is developing over 20 carbon offsets of forest areas, mainly in the United States, with companies such as JP Morgan Chase & Co., BlackRock Inc., and Walt Disney Co. The companies use the credits to claim reductions in their own projects and expended emissions.

The Nature Conservancy is concerned that it could be helping to sell useless carbon credits to its corporate clients. Last year it was discovered that the largest environmental group, active worldwide, was claiming credits for forested areas that were not in danger of being destroyed. In other words, getting credit for doing absolutely nothing.

Canham and Cary Institute President Joshua Ginsberg discussed at the Nov. 11 presentation the fact that there are pros and cons to obtaining carbon offsets. As with any credit system, it can be abused. It also may promise more than it can deliver.

So how much carbon do U.S. forests store each year? How does that number change when one includes urban trees, furniture and harvested wood products? Well, in 2018, the 691 million acres of U.S. forestland sequestered 564.5 millions tons of CO2.

This means the net sequestration across all five categories offsets 11% of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions annually.

Canham showed an image that showed that all not all of this country's forestland is a carbon sink. The Eastern U.S. is a sink equaling 85% of total forestation sequestration; the Rocky Mountains is a source due to the effects of fire and insects; the Pacific Coast is a sink, with a high biomass and sequestration rates but is also threatened by fire.

Natural climate solutions can put unrealistic demands on the forests yet there is a possibility of climate mitigation potential by 2025 by raising the price of carbon credits from \$10 to \$50 per ton, suggested Canham, by halting all harvests on private non-plantation forestland across the U.S., and by making up the lost harvest through reforestation and thinning fire-prone forests in the West.

What can we do to reduce carbon dioxide emissions? Corporations and businesses "can purchase legitimate carbon credits," said Canham. "Forest owners can evaluate whether joining the forest carbon market is of benefit to attaining global carbon reduction. And for everyone else, use your voices: Demand transparency in net zero goals and in the methods used for valuing carbon credit projects."

DEC FOREST RANGER REPORT

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Forest Rangers respond to search and rescue incidents statewide. Working with other state agencies, local emergency response organizations, and volunteer search and rescue groups. Forest Rangers locate and extract lost, injured or distressed people from across New York State.

Camper steps on machete
In Pleasant Valley, Dutchess County, a Wilderness Rescue was required. On Nov. 10, at 7:30 a.m., Central Dispatch received a call from Dutchess County 911 regarding an injured hiker in his 50s at the Taconic Hereford Multiple Use Area.

Ranger Sweeney determined the hiker from Hyde Park had stepped on a machete while getting out of his hammock the night before and as a result had lost a significant amount of blood.

Responders included Rangers Sweeney and Cowart, Pleasant Valley Fire and EMS, Unionvale Fire and EMS, and New York State Police. Rescuers transported the hiker out of the woods via UTV to a Mobile Life Support ambu-

lance. Resources were clear at 10:15 a.m.

Where to get help
If a person needs a Forest Ranger, whether it's for a search and rescue, to report a wildfire or to report illegal activity on state lands and easements, they should call 833-NYS-RANGERS.

If a person needs urgent assistance, they can call 911. To contact a Forest Ranger for information about a specific location, the DEC website has phone numbers for every Ranger listed by region; go to www.dec.ny.gov/about/667.



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EDITORIAL

Still much for which to be thankful

In a year marked by so much trauma and tragedy, it may seem like it's asking a lot of our Harlem Valley readers to sit down at their Thanksgiving tables this year ready to share what it is that they have to be thankful for with each other. Yet we do feel gratitude, in spite of all of the additional hardships that have come into our lives since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, which now stretches back to March 11, 2020, when the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. (According to www.medscape.com, COVID-19 was first identified amid an outbreak of respiratory illness cases in Wuhan City, China, and then reported to the WHO on Dec. 31, 2019.)

In those nearly two years since, according to WHO, the mortality rate has been in the millions. It stated online, "Globally, as of... Nov. 18, there have been 254,847,065 confirmed cases of COVID-19, including 5,120,712 deaths, reported to WHO."

The good news is that WHO also reported as of Nov. 18 that "a total of 7,370,902,499 vaccine doses have been administered."

That could be topic number one that we express gratitude for around the Thanksgiving table this year.

Another something for which we can all be thankful? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) most current online data, new hospital admissions in the U.S. between Oct. 27 and Nov. 2 have decreased 6.7%. The seven-day average was 5,075, versus 5,441 from the previous week.

Additionally, the current seven-day moving average of new deaths, which the CDC registered at 1,110, has decreased 8.8%. That's compared to the previous seven-day moving average of 1,217.

Considering that as of Nov. 3 of this year, a total of 747,970 people in the U.S. have died from the coronavirus, any lessening of the death toll — even a slight decrease — we consider good news.

There have been other challenges our close-knit Harlem Valley community has had to deal with besides the coronavirus pandemic as of late. The most recent calamity was the tragic house fire in Millerton that ravished the home of local businesswoman and mother of four Amy Yang, and took the lives of two of her family members.

Yet as the early morning inferno engulfed the Yang home on South Elm Avenue on Nov. 6 and spread its devastation to neighboring residences along Route 22 that Saturday, the entire community of Millerton rallied together. We consider so many heroes that day: from the neighbors and firefighters who dealt with the dangerous flames to help save those trapped inside the burning building to the business people and volunteers who showed up with food and drinks to keep everyone going for hours on end at the scene to the North East Fire District, the Millerton Fire Company and the many other fire departments and rescue squads that responded to the scene and waited in the wings to ensure the blaze was fully extinguished and all were safe.

Now, with wounds still fresh, the community continues to rally as individual residents, business people and local organizations set up GoFundMe pages; MealTrain sites; and clothing, food and home good collections for the Yang family as well as the neighboring families that were also displaced when their homes were damaged by the second-alarm fire.

It was the "worst fire" the district had seen in many years, according to Fire Commissioner Joshua Schultz.

And according to Stephen Valyou, chairman of the Fire Commission, it was the first time the district had to grapple with a fire in the village that involved any fatalities.

To help the community deal with its grief, the Millerton Fire Company held a debriefing at its Fire Annex on Wednesday evening, Nov. 10, to give people a venue in which they could talk about their feelings regarding the fire's impact.

We are just so thankful to live in a place where people can lean on one another in times of crisis. If these past couple of years have proven anything, it's that the Harlem Valley is strong. Its residents, its business community, its social service organizations — they all pull together when it's needed most, and without those in need ever having to ask for help. That's the kind of mentality, the kind of spirit, the kind of community few in this lifetime ever get to experience. When you do, just be grateful. We surely are.

Thank you, everyone, for sharing your goodwill with your friends, families and neighbors. Please continue to do so as we walk toward a brighter, and hopefully very soon, healthier, future.

In spite of the challenges and difficulties everyone is dealing with at present, and has for the past two years, we would like to wish all of our readers a safe and Happy Thanksgiving!



Safety tips for seniors

Before long, snow will fall here in Dutchess County and may make travel difficult, especially for seniors. Before that happens, check up on the absolute safety basics that no home should be without, especially as more seniors stay home during the winter:

- Smoke/carbon monoxide (CO) detectors. These can be purchased together or as separate units. An older unit may no longer get the job done. Even a hardwired detector loses effectiveness over time.

New York State law now requires all new or replacement smoke alarms be powered by a 10-year, sealed, non-removable battery or be hardwired to the home.

Rebuilding Together Dutchess County (RTDC) offers a Home Safety and Fire Prevention program that includes free installation of smoke and CO detectors for eligible homeowners. The program also includes other items as needed: fire extinguishers, reflective house numbers, fire preparedness education, and more. Contact RTDC at www.rebuildingtogetherdutchess.org or 845-454-7310 for eligibility information.

- A fire extinguisher. Adults over age 65 suffer twice as many fire deaths as the general population, and people over 85 are four times as likely to die in a fire, with the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimating that 83% of deaths resulting from sleepwear fires involve people over 65. Modern fire extinguishers are designed to be easily operated, and some are specific to rooms like kitchens, where most home fires originate.

It's important to become familiar with proper extinguisher use before there's a fire, lest having one around lead to a false sense of security, improper extinguisher use, or delays in reporting a fire. Most extinguishers contain between 30 and 60 seconds of firefighting material, according to the New York State Office of General Services.

- A first-aid kit that goes above and beyond. For seniors, a typical off-the-shelf first-aid kit may not be sufficient, due to typically more delicate skin and brittle bones. To augment your first-aid kit, look to add items specific to the added risks of life as a senior: ice packs to help reduce swelling; Ace-type and nonstick gauze bandages to support injured limbs; appropriate over-the-counter pain relievers for help with bruising.

The file of life

The Office for the Aging has a limited number of "File of Life" packets available. The File of Life is designed to help first responders quickly obtain correct medical and contact information during emergencies, when you may be unable to communicate.

The File of Life includes a refrigerator magnet that

GOLDEN LIVING

Todd N. Tancredi

holds a card on which vital information can be recorded. When recording this information, use a pencil so that it's easy to update medical conditions and medications as needed.

Contact OFA if you or a Dutchess County senior you know needs a File of Life. While we cannot mail the File of Life, they can be picked up at OFA offices in Poughkeepsie. We can also arrange for a File of Life to be available for you to pick up at an OFA Senior Friendship Center near you.

Golden Living is prepared by Dutchess County OFA Director Todd N. Tancredi, who can be reached at 845-486-2555, ofa@dutchessny.gov or via the OFA website at www.dutchessny.gov/aging.

How to best wash dishes?

Dear EarthTalk: My husband thinks it's better for the planet to hand-wash dishes in the sink, but it seems to me using the dishwasher is more eco-friendly. Can you settle this debate for us?

—Chris B., Bowie, MD

Hands-down, the dishwasher is the way to go, not only from the standpoint of water waste and energy use but also to preserve your own sanity. Who needs to be scrubbing, rinsing and drying dishes all day when an efficient machine can do the work?

Modern dishwashers use much less water and energy than their forebears, so you can clean up after your meals and snacks quickly and without guilt just by filling up the dishwasher and hitting the "start" button.

It's not surprising that many of us still think hand-washing is better, given that the dishwashers of yesteryear used 10-15 gallons of water per cycle. But dishwashers sold today in the United States can only use a maximum of five gallons per cycle per the mandate of the U.S. Department of Energy. And to qualify for one of the federal government's EnergySTAR labels identifying especially efficient appliances, dishwashers must max out their water use at 3.5 gallons per cycle.

Meanwhile, handwashing the same number of dishes, pots and pans as you can fit in the dishwasher typically "consumes" some 27 gallons of water, according to a study by researchers at Germany's University of Bonn. (They also found that some people can handwash a load of dishes with as little as 8.7 gallons of water while others use as many as 116 gallons!)

And if you're going to use the dishwasher anyway, save yourself even more hot water by skipping the sink pre-rinse and

When someone passes: grief and tradition

What do you say, to friends, family and even yourself when someone precious to you passes away? Can you find the words, can you put together a telling phrase or anything poignant enough to pay tribute and, at the same time, express your grief?

Expressing your grief is, many times, a way of telling those around you how wonderful the person was. Crying out loud at a funeral, sobbing, bawling, even being overcome and almost fainting — these are true signs of grief, but they are also a demonstration to all around you that the deceased was important, not just to you, but simply important, cherished, worthy.

In the Jewish faith you sit Shiva, mourners are literally supposed to sit on low stools in the home of the deceased, for periods during seven days of mourning. That collective gathering provides spiritual and emotional healing when all are joined together — but it is also a case of see-and-been — proof you care enough about the deceased and those grieving to show up and find fellowship in communal remembrance.

In the Muslim faith, mourning calls for prayers and readings from the Qur'an sing out and, while the closest family and friends can cry and allow their loss to show, mostly this is a dignified period of mourning for 40 days, with people bringing food and flowers to the family and friends — showing their support but never showing more grief or emotion than necessary so as not to detract from the dignified true suffering of family members.

Christianity takes the position that while grieving is not wrong, it is neither a celebration of the loved one's passing into Heaven. "...blessed are those who mourn, for they will

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

be comforted..." (Bible, Matthew). The principle is that to be so blessed with remembrance is to experience a deep sense of peace and joy — especially when surrounded by family and friends all mourning the deceased's passing. But grief is often a deeply personal emotion especially in Protestant Christianity, often not shared openly.

Buddhists mourn for 49 days with a service every seven days.

The Orthodox Church mourns for 40 days, whereas the Coptic Church usually breaks that period after three days if the priest agrees.

Interestingly, the Shinto faith observes mourning for 49 days as well.

All around the world, these past two years have resulted in many millions of unexpected deaths causing billions of people to think, worry and deal with the passing of someone they knew, liked, worked with or loved. And in that observance of grief, memories of past mourning periods have rekindled themselves in hearts and many have found the flood of grief overwhelming.

When you see friends, family, neighbors or even strangers in these weeks and months as we come to the holiday seasons, remember that everyone, yes even you, will have sorrow for those who are no longer with us, and that grief will be there, always. Have patience, sympathy, empathy and show kindness; for there, but perhaps for a little more fortitude, go you and us all.

Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, now resides in New Mexico.

EARTHTALK

From the Editors of E, The Environmental Magazine

just loading those dirty dishes right into the bottom rack.

In fact, unnecessary pre-rinsing can waste about 6,000 gallons of water per household per year.

These efficiency gains only apply to running your dish-

washer when it's full. Rather than running the dishwasher with a half-load, wait until it fills up before hitting start. Of course, some items—cutting boards, silver flatware, cast iron cookware, non-stick pans—will still require handwashing, but you can always try to minimize your use of them accordingly.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at https://emagazine.com. To donate, visit https://earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org

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PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Strong and silent

The NYC Marathon: One woman's journey

By CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER
cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

CORNWALL, Conn. — It's always fascinating to know what happens behind the scenes at a major sporting event, especially one that involves amateur athletes — The New York City Marathon, for example, which was held this year on Nov. 7.

Elizabeth England, a resident of Cornwall, Conn., and Manhattan, took part in the marathon, but at a walking pace, slow enough for her to take photos, meet people and (unlike a runner trying to speed to the finish) to actually be able to absorb some of what was happening around her.

England is a native of the Berkshires, a college consultant, a mother of children in their 20s, something of a jock but certainly not an endurance athlete. She works out. She jogs. She walks, a few miles at a time.

She'd never competed in a serious race before, and she certainly didn't dedicate years or even months of her life to training for one of the elite sport events in the world.

It wasn't until this year in September that taking part in the marathon became even the possibility of an idea.

England had been out walking and ended up at the tennis courts at Cream Hill, where she ran into her friend Alice Gottesman.

"You have to help me get in shape," Gottesman said. "I'm walking in the New York City Marathon."

Casual observers of the marathon are mostly aware of the runners who cross the finish line in Central Park in under two hours. But there are hundreds of other participants in the marathon who do not "qualify" for the race, but who



PHOTOS COURTESY ELIZABETH ENGLAND

Elizabeth England (of Cornwall, Conn., and Manhattan) walked the New York City Marathon as a member of a team raising funds for Brotherhood Sister Sol in New York City. At the halfway mark, she stopped for a selfie with the organization's development director, John Anthony Dumey.

secure a spot as part of a fundraising event for a nonprofit.

Gottesman was walking with a team representing The Brotherhood Sister Sol in New York City that supports Black and Latinx youth (it's also known as Brosis). The group's goals aligned with other volunteer and community-supportive work that England does; she offers her college consultancy services at no cost through the Baton Rouge Youth Coalition in Louisiana, for example.

Not only did England agree to help get Gottesman ready for the 26.2-mile race course that she'd be tackling in under two months; she decided to sign up and walk, too. There were 20 spots on the Brosis team, with 17 runners and three walkers (including England and Gottesman). Each team member had to pledge a donation of \$2,500. England knew from the start

that, even though she hadn't started training until September, she would probably be the only one of the three walkers to endure the entire multi-borough walk.

To prepare herself, she did some distance walks in the city — and in the process discovered an extra incentive to complete the Marathon. England's father had died over the summer. He had essentially raised her as a single parent, in Lenox, Mass., and they had been very close. He'd always been a cheerleader for her to take on apparently impossible tasks. For England, the walk was a chance to honor his memory — and to hear his voice as she struggled through some of the hardest sections of the walk.

Calories are fuel

There were other voices in her head as well as she prepared for race day. One friend, a seri-



A few scant weeks before it began, Elizabeth England was recruited to walk the New York City Marathon with friends Alice Gottesman, at left in photo, and Marti Meyerson, at right.

ous competitive athlete, advised her not to do anything on race day that she's never done before. England knew she'd need some calories and nutrition that she could carry with her on the walk; she began eating RX bars as part of her training.

"I like them because they're very 'clean,'" England said. "I don't really like supplements but I like these bars. They're small, they taste good, they're

fabulous."

England's husband, Tony Scott, is a serious amateur cyclist.

"He looked at my RX bars, which each have 200 calories, and said, 'You're going to need two of these'" to have enough fuel to make it through the day.

Read more about Elizabeth England's New York City Marathon in our issue of Dec. 5.

Bombers varsity football loses to Ellenville

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Despite its best efforts on the playing field, the Pine Plains-Rhinebeck varsity football team found itself overwhelmed by Ellenville during a recent home game on Friday, Nov. 5.

Starting at 7 p.m., the game was held on the football field behind Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School.

The Bombers blended team was led on the field by Sid Stracher with 163 yards rushing and two touchdowns. Sid was also credited for starting at quarterback for his injured teammate, Richie Lamping, and for throwing 138 yards. Andrew Speedling also scored two touchdowns for Pine Plains-Rhinebeck; added 72 yards rushing and 78 yards receiving; and led Pine Plains-Rhinebeck defensively with eight tackles.

Gio Ramirez scored on a 50-yard punt return and made an interception for Pine Plains-Rhinebeck, while Jake Wolfman and Liam Bower made six tackles each.

Ellenville ultimately left the field as the game's victor with a final score of 48-36.

LEGAL NOTICES

ANNUAL ELECTION OF AMENIA FIRE DISTRICT #1 DECEMBER, 2021

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Annual Election of the Amenia Fire District #1 will take place on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the firehouse located at 36 Mechanic Street, Amenia, New York for the purpose of electing (1) Commissioner to serve a five (5) year term commencing on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2026.

Candidates for District

Office of Commissioner shall file their names and the position they are seeking in writing to the District Secretary, Dawn Marie Klingner, PO Box 214, Amenia, New York 12501 no later than December 2, 2021. Only residents of the Fire District duly registered with the Dutchess County Board of Elections as of November 22, 2020 shall be eligible to vote. 11/18/21.

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TAG SALES

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THANKSGIVING WEEKEND INDOOR TAG SALE! Toymakers Cafe memorabilia, one-of-a-kind hand painted children's toys and antique furniture; housewares; textiles; crystal pieces; lighting; restaurant equipment, and more. Friday November 26, Saturday November 27, and Sunday November 28, from 9 am to 3 pm each day. 85 Main Street, Falls Village, CT in the former Toymakers Cafe.

HELP WANTED

EXTRAS AFTERSCHOOL/SUMMER PROGRAM: located in Salisbury CT is hiring staff members to work with our school-age children from 3-5:30 pm daily. Additional hours are available. Sign-on bonus given after 6 months. Contact us at 860-435-9926 for more information. To apply send a resume to extrasprogram@gmail.com.

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OPEN POSITIONS TOWN OF AMENIA: The Town of Amenia is seeking applications for the paid positions of Assessor's Clerk (Municipal experience preferred, not required) and for Maintenance Mechanic. Letter of Interest and Resume may be submitted via email to dmkingner@ameniany.gov or via mail to Town Clerk, Dawn Marie Klingner, 4988 Route 22 Amenia NY 12501. Application Deadline: Noon, December 15, 2021.

To view all the news and Classifieds, go to our website at www.tricornernews.com

HELP WANTED

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