



PINE PLAINS

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Thank you, Assemblymember Didi Barrett

North East/Millerton shared Highway Garage wins grant

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

NORTH EAST — It was good news for a change in a year that's had little positive to report when North East town Supervisor Chris Kennan announced that State Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106) helped secure a loan worth half a million dollars. The money will go toward building the new shared highway garage with the village of Millerton on Route 22, just north of the main traffic light, in the final phase of a project that has been years in the making.

'A really big deal'

"This is a really big deal," said Kennan the day after the grant was announced and a resolution passed at a Town Board meeting on Thursday evening, Dec. 10, to accept a proposal from CPL, an architecture, engineering

"We've been so challenged on the front lines these last months, so I'm delighted to be a part of something positive and upbeat for parts of the community."

Didi Barrett, State Assemblymember (D-106)

and planning firm, to provide engineering services for Phase III of the project, the final construction phase.

The first phase of the project was the construction of the storage building. That was bid out for \$429,219, although the supervisor said costs could have changed as is common with construction projects.

The second phase of the project was for the sand and salt storage building. The town accepted a bid for the construction of that structure for \$557,000; again, that was just a pre-construction estimate.

The \$500,000 grant will go a long

way toward paying for what Kennan estimates could cost upward of \$3 million, when all is said and done. The highway garage, which will be shared with the Millerton Highway Department, will include wash stalls, provide all maintenance capabilities, allow for equipment storage, include Highway Department offices for both the town and village and much more.

Barrett offers support

"This is an enormous help in bringing this to completion," said Kennan, who added the town is continuing to

See **GARAGE GRANT, A8**

Webutuck students won't step foot onto campus until 2021

By KAITLIN LYLE
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WEBUTUCK — The recent spate of COVID-19 cases was priority number one for the North East (Webutuck) Central School District Board of Education (BOE) at its meeting on Monday, Dec. 7.

The BOE gathered via videoconference due to the coronavirus pandemic; the meeting is posted on www.webutuckschools.org.

Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani was focused on COVID-19 in his report; he said the district

was, at the time, planning for a full remote learning model for the coming week. He added it had a number of COVID cases — specifically among its staff at Webutuck Elementary School (WES) — which resulted in quarantining some classes as well as a number of staff.

"That being said, we just don't have the staffing to cover as many people as are going out in regards to quarantine," Castellani said, "whether it will be quarantining from us or the Department of Health or something that was outside of the school district that people are being quarantined for."

The district's expectations for re-

opening at the time were that students in grades fifth through 12th would return to its hybrid model on Thursday, Dec. 10, while students in grades pre-k through fourth would be postponed for another week due to staffing shortages.

Castellani said they needed to have a conversation as a district, inviting the BOE to gather input whether the district should reopen or continue to teach students remotely. Acknowledging the pros and cons of each move, the superintendent said such factors include parents and students struggling with

See **WEBUTUCK, A8**



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Two red wolves are free to roam their enclosure at the Trevor Zoo. The zoo just received a matching grant that will enable it to build a new breeding habitat to help conserve and enlarge the red wolf population in the United States. Red wolves are slightly smaller and thinner than their gray cousins.

Trevor Zoo to build red wolf breeding facility

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
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MILLBROOK — The Trevor Zoo at Millbrook School has been awarded a Recovery Challenge Grant so it can build a new red wolf breeding facility. Red wolves are one of the most critically endangered species in the world. With populations once numbering in the hundreds of thousands, there are now less than 250 red wolves left, with most of them in Associations of Zoos and Aquarium

(AZA) facilities like the Trevor Zoo. Mexican wolves, and gray or timber wolves, are also endangered.

Interest at the Trevor Zoo in wolf conservation started in the late 1990s. An experiment at that time consisted of breeding wolves in the zoo, then sending them to North Carolina and Tennessee to be released in the wild. The experiment failed due to lack of cooperation among local governments and others, as most of the

See **RED WOLVES, A8**

Vaccine doses head to local nursing homes

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS
Special to The Millerton News

TRI-STATE REGION — The first doses of the much-anticipated COVID-19 vaccine available to nursing home residents and staff in the Northwest Corner will be delivered in the days leading up to Christmas.

"The 23rd of December will start the process for us," said Bill Pond, administrator of the Noble Horizons Retirement Community in Salisbury, Conn. "After 10 months, what a his-

toric time. We're excited, and there are all kinds of emotions to go with it."

Noble Horizons has partnered with CVS for the vaccination rollout. "We anticipate about 140 staff and close to 100 residents" will roll up their sleeves for the first dose, said Pond. A booster shot will then be administered during a second clinic on Jan. 13, he said.

At Geer Village Senior Commu-

See **VACCINE, A8**

Making merry in Millbrook

From left, Town of Washington Recreation Director Chelsea Edson, Stephen Keefe, Vice President of the Millbrook Business Association (MBA) David Gruning and Mayor Mike Herzog decorated one of many trees in the village for the Christmas season in October. Thanks to their efforts, today the village is all dressed up for the holidays. The trees were purchased by the MBA, potted and distributed by the Village Highway Department and decorated by community volunteers.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

To read "New York State's county executives urge Congress to pass new federal COVID relief," go to www.tricornernews.com



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OPINION

Keep Talking, Stay Positive; Columns; Letters **B5-6**

a little extra
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MILLERTON

Vandals hit library, bank and merchants in village

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
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MILLERTON — When NorthEast-Millerton Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson drove into work early Saturday morning, Dec. 5, she was greeted by an unwelcome sight — the library's familiar sign lay broken and battered on the front lawn — the result of vandals who had partially destroyed the sign either late Friday night or in the wee hours of Saturday morning. She wasn't totally taken by surprise as she had first seen some signs of destruction along the business district when initially turning onto Main Street.

"I noticed a lot of planters were knocked down, and thought, 'That's not good.' My initial thought went to the Tiny Libraries because they're so exposed, but they were all right," she said. "Then I noticed someone had torn down our front sign."

Leo-Jameson said, "it looked like someone ran and hit it; I think someone was hanging off of it."

When she got inside, she immediately reported the vandalism to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, as the Millerton Police Department didn't have officers on duty at that hour. Deputies arrived to investigate shortly afterward.

"Every month there's a new bad thing; if this is the bad thing for December, I'll take it," said Leo-Jameson. "In terms of vandalism, I'm grateful they didn't do anything more severe. We have a lot of windows and the garden is still new. If they wanted to be more malicious, they could have been. But it was disappointing, to say the least."

The sign, which had lettering posting library events along with its hours, had its pole ripped off and the left side was cracked in half, according to the library director. "Thankfully, the better part of the sign where we put the letters in was OK," she said, adding that the library wants to move the part of the sign that's still intact onto a new backing. "Hopefully, that's the plan. We want to try to keep as much of it as we can. It's just one more thing in a year of unexpected expenses. As much as grants help to get the library up and running, we had to buy a lot of extra cleaning supplies and PPE, so to try to replace the sign [would be really expensive]."

Leo-Jameson didn't have an exact estimate for the damage, but did say it's "definitely under \$1,000 after the insurance deductible," adding that "a couple of people have graciously offered to help. We'll wait to see what the ballpark figure will be."

When asked how long it will take to get the new materials to repair the sign, she said she wasn't sure, adding



PHOTO BY RHIANNON LEO-JAMESON

Vandals damaged the NorthEast-Millerton Library's sign sometime between Friday, Dec. 4, and Saturday, Dec. 5, according to Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson, who reported the incident to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office. Property damage also occurred at the Salisbury Bank & Trust and to certain businesses along Main Street.

an optimistic, "hopefully not too long."

In addition to the property damage done at the library, signs were also damaged next door at the Salisbury Bank & Trust as well as at several businesses on Main Street.

According to Capt. John Watterson of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, a report was filed on Dec. 7 by the bank at 87 Main St. Deputies responded to a report of criminal mischief done to the bank's sign(s). "At this time, no arrests have been made and the investigation is ongoing," stated Watterson, who added that "at this time there's no evidence to suggest that the vandalism is connected to other incidents or part of any type of 'spree,' however... the investigation is continuing."

The captain added that if residents and/or business owners are having issues with repeated acts of vandalism, the Sheriff's Office would encourage them to invest in a surveillance system, "most of which are very affordable now and can be very useful in identifying those responsible and in deterring future acts." He also said "anyone with information or who observes suspicious activity should contact the Sheriff's Office at 845-486-3800."

Oblong Books & Music co-owner Dick Hermans said some miniature exterior decorations he's had for years and years were destroyed, but that fortunately, his store was "not affected too much."

Hermans heard about the damage done to other mer-

chants on Main Street and the damage to the bank's signs, but said that he hasn't heard of the Millerton Business Alliance (MBA) organizing to protect the retail district.

"Everyone's too busy this time of year," said Hermans, adding he hasn't noticed any discussion among the merchants by email. "If nothing got broken and there was no damage to our buildings, then we're probably going to move on and get through the holidays. We just hope it doesn't happen again. It would be nice if they were able to figure who did it, but it might not be possible."

Mayor Debbie Middlebrook commented on the run of property damage, noting it was negative behavior at a time when people should be trying to support each other.

"In response to the recent vandalism, I am disappointed that during this very difficult time when we should all be working together there are those that feel the need to wreak havoc on our community and damage someone else's property — adding to that property owner's stress," she said. "Shame on them."

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

Check them out inside.

• CVS



PHOTO BY OLIVIA VALENTINE

The nonprofit Townscape decorated Millerton's Main Street and beyond for the winter holidays this November, as it has for many years, thanks to community donations.

Townscape lights up Main Street for the holidays

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Whether bringing light to the darkest days or giving residents an opportunity to enjoy the colors of nature during warmer months, Townscape is up to the job — especially with help from those who care enough about beautifying the village to support the nonprofit's efforts.

According to Townscape President Jeanne Vanecko, a shimmering string of lights is now laced through Millerton's Main Street as Townscape once again decorated the village for the holidays. The seasonal display is in full force following the three and a half day installation process, which started Monday, Nov. 9, despite the problems imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The show must go on," said Vanecko. "It was very important this year to get the lights up — and actually we extended up Main Street. I just thought more would be better this year."

White light tree decorations have been augmented by lighted garlands strung across the Millerton Antiques Center (where there are no sidewalk trees), as has the large pine tree at the intersection of Route 22 and Main Street and another tree at Rail Road Plaza. The latter's lighting was delayed as electricity was brought in following work on the Rail Trail.

Early on in the days of Townscape, much of the work was managed by volunteers, but when that became difficult to sustain, professionals took over most of the projects, which accounts for the current fundraising appeal the group has undertaken.

Townscape Co-founder Cathy Fenn explained that a

number of patrons had pledged contributions for five years but since that time is up, the grassroots community betterment group that volunteers to decorate the village for the holidays and plant flowers at Veterans Park throughout the year and fill the planters on the bridge over the Webatuck Creek annually, as well as maintain the new composting toilets on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail for all to use, is hoping to get renewals of that support as well as any other possible donations from those who appreciate its efforts.

The light project alone cost \$14,000 for installation and removal with additional amounts needed for the electricity bills. Even though most of the work is done by professionals, Fenn gives Vanecko credit for her hands-on approach, including checking and preparing thousands of lights used throughout the village each year.

The final touch of three small lit trees — two with bows — was also completed on Thursday, Dec. 3, in Veterans Park by Vanecko, in the large tubs that usually contain plantings provided by Townscape. Volunteers from the group tend to the

plantings during the spring and summer.

Vanecko noted that as she completed the decorating, she noticed residents sitting and working at some of the tables that the organization recently provided in the park, across Main Street from Irving Farm coffeehouse — an addition she feels is most helpful as people find ways to stay safe during the pandemic.

The group also funded benches around town and picked up costs not covered by a grant the town received for the aforementioned composting toilets at the Rail Trail.

Two major projects that Townscape is supporting are now underway that focus on the renovation of Eddie Collins Memorial Field. They focus on important efforts to make all parts of the park Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, including the proposed swimming pool. Townscape also plans to work with local merchants to help make their businesses wheelchair accessible.

Send contributions to support these and other efforts to Townscape, P.O. Box 835, Millerton, NY 12546.

MILLERTON IN BRIEF

Irondale Schoolhouse to celebrate on Dec. 19

The one-room Irondale Schoolhouse at the head of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail entrance on Main Street will celebrate its seventh anniversary on Saturday, Dec. 19, at noon with the ringing of the school bell. The public is invited to attend the historic celebration; social distancing and face masks are required due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Because of COVID-19, the schoolhouse has not been open to the public all year. If it is deemed safe on Saturday, the schoolhouse may open to let visitors through one at a time to view the restored 1858 building that was moved from the Irondale section of town to the historic district of Millerton seven years ago on Dec. 19 in an historic collaborative effort.

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MEMBER FDIC

Benzer Pharmacy extends services during COVID-19 pandemic

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

AMENIA — At a time when many businesses are struggling to maintain a sense of normalcy, the recently minted Benzer Pharmacy in Amenia's Freshtown Plaza is taking the opportunity to reinvent itself in the form of an old-fashioned neighborhood store.

According to both pharmacist Chris Fama and store manager Kelly Rowe, their goal is to listen to their customers and provide whatever services and merchandise they want.

Only a matter of months before the COVID-19 pandemic threw the globe into a tail spin, Benzer Pharmacy of Tampa, Fla., a small national chain of approximately 100-plus stores, began a move into the New England area and purchased what for many years had been Drug World at 5094 Route 22 — soon to be known as Amenia Pharmacy, after the state approves the change.

Taking advantage of Benzer's policy to allow far-flung locations to determine what would best suit their customers, Fama said, "We're not Los Angeles... We are trying to do whatever we need to do to become the community pharmacy with some sort of ties to the community."

A man who says he likes people and "loves to talk," Fama takes advantage of that quality to establish the tone of the store. In a job where he is dealing with so many personalities, he is particularly pleased when he gets to know the person behind the orders, but with social distancing and face time restrictions, that can be difficult. Still, he hopes the store will evolve into "an old-time pharmacy," an image he values from his "early days" in the 1980s.

"It hasn't been easy to try to pick up some of the foot traf-



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, Benzer Pharmacy store manager Kelly Rowe and Pharmacy Technicians Jennifer Beland and Vijay Patel greeted incoming customers from behind the counter.

fic," said Fama, who has been working hard to stay within the time and distance requirements. But as the times are what they are, the start of flu season has brought in a number of customers for inoculations, which are up five times from the number last year. "It gives me a chance to talk to people. I don't just say 'Which arm? Roll up your sleeve. Thank you.' I try to communicate to them that we're here for them for more than a flu shot."

He explained the pharmacy provides mail order prescriptions as well as home delivery for those who aren't feeling well and "need their scrips."

The pharmacy has also recently become a part of Healthwell Foundation and Pan Foundation, each "help provide payment for very expensive meds that many patients don't have the money to pay for — some costing \$1,000 per tablet. It's a tool — I can't promise somebody — but it's a tool that could possibly help."

The pharmacy has also im-

plemented a program to help find the lowest possible drug costs and is partnering with physician groups to make prescriptions more affordable.

Fama did recognize that after Benzer took over the business, suppliers' contracts were not in force and as a result the store was not as well supplied as Drug World was, but added the store is now figuring out exactly what items customers miss most and restocking them. That includes the very popular Yankee Candles, which the company was not shipping, so Benzer representatives drove directly to the factory to obtain a supply.

"We want customers, so we want to get what they want," said Fama.

Store manager Rowe agreed that it is sometimes discouraging for customers to come in and see empty shelves due to supply problems caused by the pandemic, but she said things are improving, especially in terms of toys, jewelry, makeup and other Christmas items.

She said customers looking for specific items can call and arrange for curbside pickup if they prefer not to enter the store, adding that Benzer always welcomes it when customers make suggestions for their inventory.

As an alternate to online shopping, which so many have turned to during the pandemic, it's important to remember that "local" is a critical word, as in the local economy, which aids local families, helped by local customers shopping at local businesses that help employ local workers. That local network of pharmacies in the Harlem Valley includes McCarthy's Pharmacy in Stanfordsville, Pine Plains Pharmacy and CVS pharmacies in Millerton and Dover Plains. Check with them all to see what goods and services they, like Benzer Pharmacy in Amenia, offer this holiday season and throughout the year.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Set up across the street from the Freshtown Plaza at 5094 Route 22, this year's Amenia Lions Club Memory Tree has been dedicated to first responders, front line and essential workers.

Lions Club tree helps preserve fond holiday memories

AMENIA — As one of the town's most heartfelt holiday traditions, the Amenia Lions Memory Tree, has once again been installed in town to encourage residents to give back to their community this holiday season. The Memory Tree benefits the Dutchess County Hearing Conversation Committee and purchases hearing aids for those who can't afford them.

This year's Amenia Lions Memory Tree can be found across the street from Freshtown, located at 5094 Route 22, and has been dedicated to first responders, front line and essential workers giving their blood, sweat and

tears during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Community members can show their support and remember a loved one with a \$5 donation. Forms may be downloaded from the "Amenia Lions Club" Facebook page or picked up at Jack's Auto, Havens Real Estate, Bank of Millbrook in Amenia or from any Amenia Lions Club member.

In order to be included in the listing in the Thursday, Dec. 24, edition of The Millerton News, names must be submitted by Friday, Dec. 18.

For more information, call 845-453-0408 or email bjdhal@gmail.com.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Amenia Housing Board briefs Town Board on its progress

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The Town Board received an update from the Amenia Housing Board at its meeting on Thursday, Dec. 3.

Town Board members gathered via videoconference due to the coronavirus pandemic; the gathering was live streamed on the "AmeniaTV" YouTube channel. The update from the Amenia Housing Board was presented by Housing Board members Tracy Salladay and Leo Blackman.

Salladay explained that the Housing Board was appointed by the Town Board and set up through the town's zoning code to administer and/or oversee workforce housing administered by developers. Since the board isn't overseeing housing that has already been built, she said it's finding it needs to research, look at policies and conduct outreach to solve housing issues for the town. Salladay has observed that the town's zoning code has a ranked system that lists income as a qualification and a point system for certain professions for people that either reside or work in Amenia.

Salladay reported that the Housing Board is looking at how housing can revitalize a struggling hamlet and how new in-

fill and renovated buildings can create a more lively economy. Through its research, Salladay said the board learned there are three different housing categories that could be built in Amenia, including compact two-to-four family structures built as infill in the hamlet core; multi-family larger scale developments that could be built at the town's four gateways; and accessory dwelling units created throughout the town that could be created by the property owners themselves.

Having done some substantial research, Blackman, an architect, said the Housing Board has a good sense of relevant statistics, regional developers, successful projects in other communities and grant resources, and that it is continuing to work with Hudson River Housing to assume responsibility for producing workforce housing.

To give the Town Board a sense of the Housing Board's next steps, Salladay said it is

nearly done with an online housing survey and postcard survey that will be sent out to Amenia households to gather information from local residents regarding their housing needs. Once that's done, she said it would like to hold a public meeting to introduce the Housing Board to the public and share what it has learned from the survey.

Looking ahead, Salladay said the board would like to coordinate its efforts with the town's Wastewater Committee and explore incentives that the town can provide. Once it gets a sense of those incentives, the board can develop its housing goals, which would involve assigning a timeline of a certain number of years and the number of units to be built within that timeline.

As a Town Board liaison for the Housing Board, Councilman Damien Gutierrez praised the Housing Board for the amount of work and research it has conducted for the last few months.

Realtor® at Large

November continues to be strong with regards to real estate sales in Litchfield County, with 171 single family home sales recorded for the month. All towns have registered an increase in property transfers over 2019. Many towns, such as Salisbury and Warren are seeing over twice the levels of sales. This activity is also apparent in the increase of students enrolled in our public schools, so this may be an indicator of a more permanent move than part time use. The chief indicator for the future is the number of pending sales, which remains high. Usually activity drops off for the holiday season, but that does not seem to be the case this year. If you would like to review the data for November, please send an email and I will be happy to send the information.



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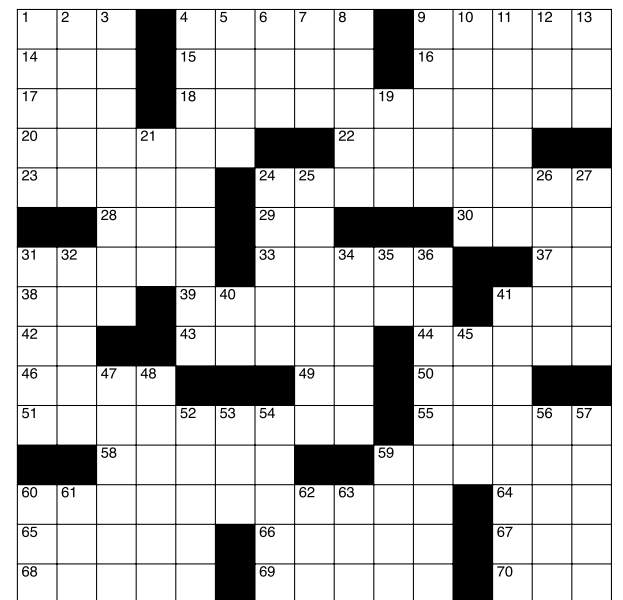
Correcting Errors

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.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Popular pickup truck
- Profoundly wise men
- Camera company
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Passerine birds
- Plum-shaped fruit used for preserves
- Popular kids channel
- Dodgers' skipper
- Removes
- The Atlantic is one
- Badgerlike mammal
- Foulness
- Luke's mentor _ _Wan
- Commercial
- A type of gin
- Temptress
- Shuts in an enclosed space
- Milligram
- Actress Adams
- Strive to equal or match
- Health insurance
- A detective's source
- Small American rails
- Alfred _ Brit. poet
- Crest of a hill
- Atomic #52
- _ Caesar, comedian
- Breaks apart
- Register formally (Brit. sp.)
- Worker
- Chemical compound
- Disgraced newsmen
- Born of
- Chemical substance
- Supernatural powers
- Clothes
- Indy footballers
- Moves forward
- Midway between south and southeast



- 10th month of the year (abbr.)
- One point east of southeast
- Belgian city
- Praise excessively
- River in France
- Edible lily bulbs
- Quarterbacks take them
- Organic compound
- Tears down (Brit.)
- Beloved Hollywood alien
- Unconscious
- Missouri
- Firemen use them
- Pig noise
- Greatly dismay
- Imitator
- Moves by turning over
- Boxing's GOAT
- Swarms with
- Margarines
- Feudal superior
- As fast as can be done
- Reciprocal of a sine
- Chinese city
- Tell on
- United

Dec. 10 Solution

R	A	M	P	S		P	M	T		R	E	D	D		
C	L	E	A	N		G	A	E	A		E	R	O		
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Sudoku

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	8		7					1
			2		9			
6			1		3			
			5					
5	1		6	2			9	7
2		9						

Level: Intermediate

Dec. 10 Solution

9	4	3	2	7	1	8	6	5
5	1	2	6	9	8	3	4	7
6	7	8	4	5	3	1	2	9
1	6	4	5	2	7	9	3	8
3	2	5	8	1	9	4	7	6
7	8	9	3	4	6	2	5	1
2	5	7	1	8	4	6	9	3
8	9	6	7	3	2	5	1	4
4	3	1	9	6	5	7	8	2



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MILLBROOK

Annual lighting of the menorah at Thorne Building despite COVID-19

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Friday, Dec. 11, marked the first day of Hanukkah. The Festival of Lights lasts for eight days, and is one of the most joyous holidays in the Jewish faith.

Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem, which had been desecrated by enemies. Judas Maccabeus, after a three-year battle to reclaim the temple, ordered the temple be rebuilt, cleansed and rededicated. He mandated each year there be a celebration marking the victory. When he arrived at the temple for the rededication, he found only enough oil to burn for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days until new consecrated oil could be obtained. Thus, the eight day celebration of Hanukkah.

Eight candles burn in honor of the miracle from the menorah, plus one extra in the middle. The middle candle is the helper candle, named the knight; this candle and one other is lit nightly and each evening another candle is added and lit from the shammash.

Many families celebrate with small gifts on each of the eight days. Following tradition, foods cooked in oil are served: latkes (potato pancakes), doughnuts, etc. Gelt, or coins of chocolate wrapped in gold-colored foil, are given out to remind people of the need to be charitable.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Rabbi Hanoch Hecht of Rhinebeck prepared the menorah to be lit in honor of Hanukkah at the Thorne Building on Franklin Avenue on Sunday, Dec. 13, an annual tradition.

Three blessings are sung or recited at each candle lighting.

On Sunday, Dec. 13, Rabbi Henoch Hecht of the Rhinebeck Jewish Center, who works with Sheldon Loebell each year to bring the tradition to Millbrook, arrived at the Thorne Building on Franklin Avenue with a small caravan of celebrants from Rhinebeck and Red Hook. Some cars were decorated with small menorahs on their roofs. About 50 people gathered on the lawn of the Thorne Building, standing in small clusters with their

families, socially distancing and wearing masks due to COVID.

The rabbi spoke of the event as a "super-spreader," not of COVID-19, but of light. He reminded the crowd that in these dark and trying times, there is a need for faith and light to be shared. He then offered gelt, homemade doughnuts in plastic containers and prayers.

Mayor-elect Tim Collopy lit the shammash, Rabbi Hecht then lit five of the nine candles on the menorah from that.

"Despite the circumstances

and the problems we face, it's wonderful that people can get together to celebrate their faith," said outgoing Mayor and soon to be Trustee Mike Herzog. "I'm thankful that we are being respectful of one another, wearing masks and distancing. Maybe next year, under different circumstances, we'll meet again to celebrate this event."

After lighting the menorah, the group sang the dreidel song, and departed with hopes that next year will be a better year for all.

Cuomo extends expiration date for driver's licenses

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Governor Andrew Cuomo shared good news with New York drivers on Tuesday, Dec. 8.

"Driver's license expiration dates have been pushed back to Jan. 1, 2021. If you have a New York State Driver's License or permit with an expiration date after March 1, 2020, it is still valid until Jan. 1, 2021," announced Cuomo through his email COVID-19 update. "This extended an Executive Order that granted people whose licenses expired during the pandemic more time to renew."

Hopefully this will give drivers who were worried about going to the DMV right now to renew their licenses time to do so safely once things calm down, and virus cases aren't raging as they are at the current moment.

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office in Millbrook remains closed at this time, as do other DMVs in Dutchess County except for those in Poughkeepsie and Wappinger Falls. Those

offices are open currently by appointment only. The Poughkeepsie DMV is open from 9 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. It can be reached at 845-486-2388. The Wappinger Falls DMV is open from 9 a.m. to noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. It can be reached at 845-298-4623.

Some Dutchess County DMV locations have drop boxes, including Poughkeepsie, located at 22 Market St.; Wappinger Falls, located at 29 Marshall Road; and Millbrook, located at 15 Merritt Ave.

Many of the DMV's forms can be obtained and completed online, to shorten wait time in person and lessen the time people have to be exposed to others during the pandemic. Some of the things that can be done via mail or through the drop box include registering or transferring a vehicle; surrendering a New York State license plate; registering a boat; and obtaining an in-transit permit.

Keep abreast of any upcoming news regarding the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles online, at www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Clerk/department-of-motor-vehicles.

Town opens bids on generators, discusses opening park to non-residents in 2021

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — Town of Washington Supervisor Gary Ciferri opened the Thursday, Dec. 10, board meeting at its newly designated time of 6 p.m. The meeting was held on Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic; along with Ciferri were Councilmen Robert Audia, Stephen Turlentes and Mike Murphy.

A resolution to transfer employees' unused vacation time to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic was approved. Monthly reports were e-mailed to the Town Board and will be attached to the December minutes. There will be a special public hearing on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m. about the fire contract with the village of Millbrook.

A reorganization meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 14, at Town Hall at 6 p.m. A meeting was scheduled to interview candidates to fill the position held late Councilman Al DeBonis.

A report from Highway Supervisor Joseph Spagnola was read. He reported on ongoing work, and was asked about winter watch, which calls for a worker to come to work at 2 a.m. Spagnola was asked if it was necessary? The board learned that winter watch is a precautionary measure as the Highway Department checks the roads for possible problems during the winter and predicts how the town should prepare if bad weather is approaching.

Spagnola asked to make the 40-hour work week consist of four days a week instead of five days a week due to COVID-19 to lessen his workers exposure to the virus. Audia pointed out that the proposed four-day work week amounts to 36 hours of work, not 40. It also posed another question: If the week ran Monday through Thursday, and a snow storm occurred on a Friday, would the crew that came in to work during the storm be entitled to time and a half? The board said it would like clarification by the

There will be a special public hearing on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m. about the fire contract with the village of Millbrook. A reorganization meeting will be held on Thursday, Jan. 14, at Town Hall at 6 p.m.

next meeting.

A proposal was made to pay down a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) of \$29,504.05 for the town's loader, bearing in mind that the town's 1995 truck will probably need to be replaced next year. A Highway Department resolution accepting a number of proposals from Bob Turner was accepted, for a number of highway items.

The Recreation Department said it needs a decision regarding the 2021 park season. Recreation Director Chelsea Edson asked if it should restrict non-residents and only allow town residents to use the park. She said that in years when the park was open to both residents and non-residents, there were times when it was overwhelmed, but

that the staff was able to handle the large crowds. The board ultimately decided to allow non-residents from towns that border Washington, and added it could change its decision if it deemed it best. The board and the Recreation Department are also thinking about raising its yearly recreation fee schedule.

Budget transfers were presented by Bookkeeper Lois Petrone, which the board approved.

Councilman Audia made a motion to authorize Town

Clerk Mary Alex to seek bids for the Town Hall and the Highway Garage generators based on specifications presented that night, with bids due back by Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2021, at noon, to install generators — one located at the Town Hall and one located at the town garage. The generators will need to supply an automatic transfer of power for both entire buildings if there is a power outage in either for all four seasons throughout the year.

Councilman Bob Audia thanked Kelly Cassinelli for her work in clearing, sorting, filing and making arrangements to open up additional office space on the second floor of Town Hall. The work allowed for the much needed space.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Seeing a pattern

The Millbrook Library has more than one display on its walls this month. Local author James Warhola stood next to outgoing Millbrook Library Adult Programming Director Diana Bontecou, who curated the exhibit, after they successfully hung the lovely quilts. The display will be at The Gallery at the Millbrook Library through the end of December.

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Advertising deadline including legal notices, for the Jan. 7TH issues will be **THURSDAY, DEC. 24TH, at NOON**
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OBITUARIES

Linda Sue (Farley) Decker

SHARON — Linda Sue Farley Decker, 73, of Sharon died with her family by her side on Dec. 5, 2020, at Vassar Brothers Hospital.

Linda was born Aug. 6, 1947, in Sharon, the daughter of Barbara Riley Farley and the late James Joseph Farley.

Linda spent her formative years in the Amenia Union section of Sharon, utilizing the Ten Mile River, various open fields and buildings as her playground with her five sisters.

Linda graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1965. Shortly after high school, Linda married her high school sweetheart, John Decker, on April 22, 1967, and they moved to Fort Hood, Texas, before his deployment to Vietnam. They returned to Sharon following his discharge from the Army.

Linda spent the early part of her career at Multi-Service as an account manager and later joined Salisbury Bank & Trust Company. It was through her work at the bank where Linda — also known as “Linda F” — truly became a pillar of the community. Known for her affable personality and willingness to help, she embodied the “customer is always right” mantra and went above and beyond to deliver personalized attention and care to her community members. Customers often reported feeling a sense of comfort seeing Linda on the platform, knowing she would solve any of their concerns; and the employees she supervised drew inspiration from her patience and support of them.

Linda retired from the bank after serving as a Customer Service Representative, Assistant Branch Manager, Branch Manager and Assistant Vice President.

After her retirement, Linda took enormous pride in car-

ing for her grandchildren and attended every performance, game and important event.

Linda loved the ocean and spent many years traveling to Plum Island, Virginia Beach, and Rhode Island. She often remarked there was nothing more comforting than going to sleep hearing the waves crash. Perhaps more than her own love of the ocean, she took great pleasure watching her grandkids frolic in the small waves and build sandy structures around her.

Linda was loved by all for her positive attitude, generous spirit, and unflappable devotion to her family.

Linda is survived by her mother, Barbara; her son, Thomas and his wife, Linda; her daughter, Tammy and her life partner, Dylan; her three grandchildren, Nathan John, Tyler John and Chloe Mae; her step-grandchild, Christopher; her five sisters, Diane Robertson and her husband, Jim, Jill Hill and her husband, Joe, Jackie Marston and her husband, Richard, Sue Hafford and her husband, Ken, and JoAnn Brazee; her nieces and nephews, George Jr., Wendy, James, Michael, Aaron, Nadia, Bryce, Stacey, Jessica, Shannon, Adam and William; and many more great-nieces and -nephews.

For her many family and friends to be able to celebrate Linda, the family will hold a memorial service in the late spring of 2021.

For her love of Christmas and her belief that every child should have their Christmas wish come true, memorial contributions can be sent to the Salisbury Family Services Holiday Program. Checks can be mailed to Salisbury Family Services, P.O. Box 379, Salisbury, CT 06068.

Arrangements are under the care of the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon.

Patricia A. Preston

WEST CORNWALL — Patricia “Patty” Preston, 81, of West Cornwall, devoted and loving wife of Jack Preston, passed away on Dec. 7, 2020. Patty was preceded in death by her parents, Corinne and John White; and her brother Jack White and his wife, Gerri, of Torrington.



Patty was born April 14, 1939. She graduated from Torrington High School and attended Bay Path Junior College in Longmeadow, Mass.

She enjoyed working as a secretary at Sanford & Sons in Brunswick, Mass., and most of all at Cornwall Consolidated School, where she had many friends and loved seeing the children.

Patty was active in Cornwall organizations, St. Bridget's Church, Cornwall Civic Club and Girl Scouts.

Most of all, Patty loved spending time with her sweetheart, Jack.

They enjoyed several years vacationing together at their home in Falmouth, Mass.

Patty is survived by her loving husband, Jack, of 60 years; her three daughters, Robin, Debbie and Kim and her husband, Norm Dube; her three grandchildren, Kyle, Katherine and Ryan; and a great-grandson.

Due to COVID-19, the immediate family will gather for a graveside service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to a charity of your choice.

Jack would like to thank the staff at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for their care and support. Arrangements are under the care of the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon.

Anita J. (Beltran) Gil

NORTH CANAAN — Anita J. (Beltran) Gil, 104, of Quinn Street in Wangum Village, died Dec. 10, 2020, at the Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan. She was the widow of Raymond Gil.

Anita was born May 13, 1916, in Brooklyn, N.Y., daughter of the late Anna (Cox) and Henry Beltran.

Anita was employed by the New York Telephone Company as an operator until her retirement.

She was a vibrant independent lady who was still living at her apartment in Wangum Village up to her time at Geer.

Anita was the devoted mother of Peter Gil of Brooklyn and the late George Gil; grandmother of Michael, Kevin and Mary; and great-grandmother of Pierce. She is also survived by her sister, Josephine Galvin.

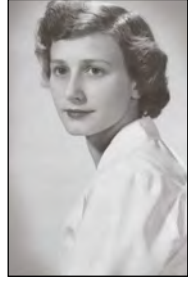
A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 11 a.m. in Church of St. Patrick in Huntington, N.Y. Burial will follow in Pine Lawn Cemetery in Farmingdale, N.Y.

Memorial donations may be sent to Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Research.

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

Mary Anna Booth

MILLERTON — Mary Anna Booth, 90, an 87-year resident of Millerton, and most recently of Rhinebeck, N.Y., died peacefully on Dec. 7, 2020, at The Thompson House where she had resided in comfort for the past three years. She was surrounded by her loving caregivers at the time of her passing.



Born June 3, 1930, in Sharon, she was the daughter of the late Henrietta (Perotti) and Henry W. Shaffer. She graduated from Millerton High School in 1947 and married Donald T. Booth on Aug. 16, 1952, at the Smithfield Presbyterian Church in Amenia. Together for more than 65 years, Mary and Don operated the Booth Farm on McGhee Hill Road in Millerton, a very successful dairy farm that had ties with the Town of North East for several generations.

Mary was an avid gardener and had a great fondness and concern for all animals.

Mary and Don were well known for their devotion to family and friends throughout their lives. They semi-retired from dairy farming in 1990 but continued to care for their vast property with great pride and much love in their later years. Mr. Booth died on Dec. 9, 2017.

Mary was a decades-long member of the Faith Bible Chapel of Shekomeko on Silver Mountain Road in Millerton. Though small in stature she was at times larger than life with her “can do” spirit and boisterous personality. Fearless in making her perspective known, she was an iconic personality to the church fellow-

ship. Mary and Don donated the land on which Faith Bible Chapel now stands and they were both personally involved in the construction phase of the ministry in 1998 and 1999 as well as many other ongoing activities. Mary worked diligently and could be found at every Work Day; she was a living example of one of the Chapel family's purpose statements: Service Is Love in Working Clothes!

Mary is survived by her sister, Elinor Duprey of Copake, N.Y., and her husband, Robert; several loving nieces and nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews and cousins; and many dear friends.

In addition to her parents and her beloved husband, Mary was also predeceased by her dear brother, Henry J. Shaffer; and her loving sister, Elizabeth McGhee. The family would like to thank all her friends who visited her while at The Thompson House and extend a special thank you to all Mary's caregivers while she was in residence.

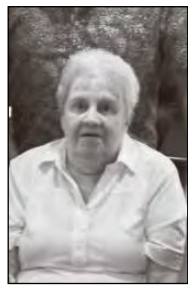
Graveside services and burial were held Dec. 12 at Irontdale Cemetery in Millerton, the Rev. William Mayhew officiating.

Memorial donations may be made to the North East Community Center Fresh Food Pantry, P.O. Box 35, Millerton, NY 12546; or Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. To send an online condolence, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

Barbara E. McGhee

MILLERTON — Barbara E. McGhee, 84, a 55-year resident of Millerton and most recently of Salisbury, since 2008, died peacefully on Dec. 8, 2020, at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in North Canaan. Barbara worked for Delson's Dept. Store in Millerton for 12 years prior to becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant at Noble Horizons in Salisbury, Conn., where she retired with 17 years of dedicated service.



Born July 19, 1936 in Sharon, Conn., she was the daughter of the late Burnis and Catherine (Murphy) Cole. She attended Immaculate Conception School in Amenia, N.Y., and married James D. McGhee on August 22, 1954 at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia. Mr. McGhee died May 26, 2010.

Barbara volunteered at Sharon Hospital for many years and was a hospice volunteer at Sharon for over seven years.

She was an avid gardener and enjoyed listening to Big Band and Swing music in her spare time.

For many years she participated in the Berkshire Women's

Bowling League and she also loved animals. Her kindness and thoughtfulness will be remembered by all those who knew and loved her.

Barbara is survived by her sister-in-law, Carol Cole of Clifton Park, N.Y.; and several nieces and nephews and many friends.

In addition to her parents and her beloved husband, Jim, she was predeceased by her sister, Margaret Burgoon of Voorheesville, N.Y.; and two brothers, Burnis Cole of Clifton Park and Robert Cole of Anramdale.

Private graveside services and burial took place Dec. 10 at Irontdale Cemetery in Millerton, the Rev. Robert K. Wilson officiating.

A memorial Mass in Barbara's honor will be held in the future at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Corner Food Pantry, P.O. Box 705, Lakeville, CT 06039.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. To send an online condolence to the family, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

David R. Chase

SHARON — David R. Chase Jr., 69, of Amenia Union Road, passed peacefully Dec. 4, 2020, at home, surrounded by his family.

David was born July 18, 1951, in Sharon, the son of Alice (Cookingham) and David Chase Sr.

David graduated from Oliver Wolcott Technical School. He was born and raised on the family farm, which he continued working on after graduation. Farming was David's passion in life.

He spent many years working at Lime Rock Park and Sharon Hospital.

He enjoyed many years volunteering on the Sharon Fire Department and Ambulance Squad.

Dave shared great times at NASCAR races, and was the founding father of Camp Chase. Growing up a farmer, he enjoyed working the Chase Farm land his whole life. This

past summer, David became the Dahlia Dad, tending the field in his backyard.

He is survived by his daughters, Stephanie Chase of North Canaan and Allison Chase of Dover Plains; his brother, Wallace Chase and his wife, Sheila, of Sharon; and his companion, Colleen Hurst, of Sharon. He leaves behind a niece and nephews, whom he adored.

He was predeceased by a sister, Sandra Pilares.

A graveside service was celebrated Dec. 9 at the Boland Cemetery next to the Chase Farm. Arrangements are under the care of the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon.

The family would like to thank the Smilow Cancer Center, especially Dr. Talsania, and all the nurses for their caring support.

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

Another obituary appears on Page A6

Email obituaries to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com



Worship Services

Week of December 20, 2020

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

<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10am www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all! 860-824-0194</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-564-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people Pastor Savage Frieze 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am AT THE PILGRIM HOUSE 30 GRANITE AVE, CANAAN: FISHES & LOAVES Food Pantry and CLOSETS for clothing Tuesdays from 5 to 7 and Thursdays from noon to 2 www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</p>	<p>Greenwoods Community Church 355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA Sunday Service 10:30 AM Kidz Connection K-6th grade (during Sun. Service) Nursery Care All Services Pastor Trip Weiler 413-229-8560 www.greenwoodschurch.com</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-564-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock Virtual Sunday service 10:30 AM Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page Virtual Coffee Hour & Bible Study Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627 www.trinitylimerock.org</p>
<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9am Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mmgates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone. We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Join our virtual service on Sunday, January 10 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at joikialul@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service Sunday School 9:15 a.m. "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>
<p>Sharon Congregational Church 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online sermons. Bible Study Guides also available by request: info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org Or contact us at 860-364-5002</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 am, Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & First Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart Face masks required</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>	<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com</p>

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COUNTY NEWS

Dutchess County adopts 2021 budget

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY — Though much of the future remains uncertain because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dutchess County Legislature felt sure of the county's financial planning as it adopted the 2021 budget on Thursday evening, Dec. 3.

With total appropriations calculated at \$501,832,097, next year's budget offers a workforce reduction with no layoffs, a reduction in the property tax rate from \$3.26 to \$3.18 per \$1,000 of true valued assessments, a reduction in county spending by \$18.5 million (or 3.6%) and a property tax levy reduction for the seventh consecutive year.

That was managed while maintaining existing services and programs. The budget also features several new initiatives that address youth services, police reform, homelessness and housing. Some focus on provid-

ing eviction prevention resources, rental support programming, training for high-quality day care providers and funding for procedural justice, implicit bias and crisis intervention training. The county is still trying to deal with the impact the pandemic has had, and the 2021 budget includes money for critical staffing and other resources, according to a press release from County Executive Marc Molinaro's office.

Several legislative amendments were made during the budgeting process this year, including, among other changes, a \$10,112 increase to the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office to restore funding to the Dutchess County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DCSPCA); a \$350,000 increase to the county's Department of Planning and Development's Agency Partnership Grant (APG) program; a \$210,000 increase to its Department of Community and Family Services; a \$287,112 cut to its jail for inmate health

services after its vendor contract was renegotiated due to fewer inmates at the jail; and a \$7,500 increase to the Board of Elections to provide additional funding support at polling sites. The changes were funded after the county decreased its projected interest requirements for serial bonds and by reducing its contingency funding, according to the county executive's office.

The 2021 budget was adopted when the Dutchess County Legislature met on Thursday, Dec. 3, with a 16-8 majority vote.

When asked how budgeting for next year was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature, Gregg Pulver (R-19), former long-time Pine Plains town supervisor, said, "It was always in everybody's minds — we took COVID very seriously in the budget process both in the 2020 budget, which we tried to realize how we had to cut back as much as possible, and of course moving into the 2021 budget."

Pulver added that the county was able to save significant amounts of money through early retirements and by not filling certain vacancies in county positions.

"I think all in all it went very well," he said, "we're very proud of the county workers that are digging deep to make this process happen. Every dollar we looked at in this budget, and the county executive and his team put it together and it's a lot better than a lot of other counties are facing and we're proud of that."

Molinaro spoke about how he felt the budget was impacted by the pandemic in a recent press release.

"As we work together to face the challenges left in the wake of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this budget allows us to provide the support and services to our residents without adding any taxpayer burden," he stated. "I am particularly grateful to our dedicated county employees — while there is much work ahead, every one of them is ready to rise to the challenge with their continued commitment to public service. Together with the County Legislature, we share a vision of a strong Dutchess County community that will overcome this pandemic and be stronger for the challenge."

With the legislative amendments included, the adopted 2021 budget was sent to Molinaro for his review and signature. On Monday, Dec. 14, the Legislature met and adopted the tax levy.

Additionally, members of the Legislature's Republican Caucus donated their \$500 salary increases, which were already pre-decided for 2021, to Dutchess County charities.

The 2021 Dutchess County budget can be found online at www.dutchessny.gov/budget.

OBITUARY

Vivian Claire Sullivan

SHARON — Vivian Claire Sullivan died peacefully on Dec. 12, 2020, surrounded by loved ones.

The daughter of William and Isabel Graham, Vivian was born July 23, 1919.

She married Richard Sullivan on Aug. 27, 1939. While vacationing in Connecticut in 1969, they decided to buy property for a retirement home. They built a lovely house in Sharon on picturesque Ford Pond, adjacent to the Sharon Audubon, which they called "A Wild Goose Chase" because of all the wildlife they appreciated seeing each day. They were weekenders until 1973, when Vivian decided to retire. Vivian worked for New York Telephone Company for 35 years and retired from a management position at the main office in Manhattan.

Vivian will be remembered for her commitment to her community. She served as a volunteer and treasurer of the Sharon Hospital Auxiliary and the Bargain Barn. In 1973, she joined the Sharon Woman's Club and served as treasurer for many years. As a member of St. Bernard's R.C. Church, she acted as a volunteer bookkeeper for 30 years and was awarded the St. Joseph Medal of Appreciation by Archbishop Cronin for her years of service to the church.

Vivian was a passionate traveler. She went to Italy on her first trip to Europe. In 1975, with her sister, they took their mother to Scotland, England and Ireland

to celebrate her 75th birthday. Her mother had been born in Scotland and came to the U.S. in 1909 with family and never went back.

When Richard retired, they made 11 trips to their favorite location, the beautiful country of Ireland, until he died in 1993. With a friend, she made seven trips to many other countries in Europe.

In 2013, Vivian sold her home in Sharon and moved to a cottage at Noble Horizons in Salisbury. She raved about the excellent care she received there from the staff. Vivian was an avid reader and bridge player. She was a member of the Sharon Duplicate Bridge Club.

Friends will always remember Vivian as uniquely smart, lovable, wise, caring and irreplaceable. Her positive attitude was legendary. She faced life with courage and determination.

Vivian is survived by her sisters, Gloria White of Charlotte, N.C., and Madeline Parsons of Winston-Salem, N.C.; and three nieces and four nephews.

A Mass of Christian burial will be held Saturday, Dec. 19, at 11 a.m. in St. Bernard's R.C. Church in Sharon. Burial will follow in St. Bernard's Cemetery in Sharon.

Memorial donations may be sent to either St. Bernard's R.C. Church or the Sharon Woman's Club, P.O. Box 283, Sharon, CT 06069. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

More obituaries appear on Page A5

Sheriff Anderson spends half a century keeping the county safe

POUGHKEEPSIE — On the first of December, the top law enforcement officer in Dutchess County, Sheriff Adrian "Butch" Anderson, was honored for 50 years of service.

Sheriff Anderson began his five-decade long career with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office on Dec. 1, 1970, as a uniformed Deputy Sheriff before "rising through the ranks" and being elected to his first term as sheriff in 2000, an office he continues to hold today, 20 years later.

This impressive milestone was celebrated on Tuesday, Dec. 1, with both a caravan of the sheriff's friends and family from Pawling to the Law Enforcement Center in Poughkeepsie, where there was a small but much appreciated building dedication ceremony. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the ceremony was brief and only a few attended. Among those who did attend was Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, who described Sheriff Anderson as "dedicated, respectful, compassionate and



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, left, was among those who attended a small service in Poughkeepsie honoring Dutchess County Sheriff Adrian "Butch" Anderson on Tuesday, Dec. 1, for his 50 years of service.

honorable."

The county executive added that "On behalf of the men and women of the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, the people of Dutchess County and everyone who has been impacted by Sheriff Anderson, we thank him for everything that he has done over the last 50 years to make Dutchess County a better place."

— Whitney Joseph

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Please take notice that the organizational meeting for the Pine Plains Fire District of the Town of Pine Plains, County of Dutchess, New York, will be held on the 5th day of January, 2021, at 7 o'clock P.M. on that day at the firehouse, 7 Lake Road, Pine Plains, NY.

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

Secretary
Heather Lamont
Pine Plains Fire District
12-17-20

Legal Notice

The Board of Trustees of the Evergreen Cemetery Inc. have scheduled a lot owners and general business meeting on December 19, 2020 at 9:00 am.

The meeting will be held at the American Legion Post #426 located at 9 North Main Street, Pine Plains, NY 12567.
12-10-20
12-17-20

TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Annual Organizational Meeting of the North East Town Board for the year 2021 will be held on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex, 28 Century Boulevard, Millerton, New York.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, in case of cancellation due to inclement weather, the Annual Organizational Meeting will

be held on Tuesday, January 5, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex, 28 Century Boulevard, Millerton, New York.

The audience will be limited based on social distancing rules. Attendees must wear a mask.

The meeting will also be via "Zoom" and anyone wishing to attend should contact the Town Clerk at northeasttown@taconic.net to request the videoconference link and password.

The videoconference will be recorded and a transcript of the meeting will be made available at a later date. Dated: December 11, 2020.

BY ORDER OF THE NORTH EAST TOWN BOARD

Gail J. Wheeler, Town of North East Town Clerk
12-17-20

Legal notice

Notice of formation of 6 WEST STREET PAWLING, LLC; Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/06/2020; Office located in Dutchess County; SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served; SSNY shall mail a copy of any such process served to: The LLC, 10 West Street, Pawling, NY 12589; Purpose is any lawful act or activity.

11-26-20
12-03-20
12-10-20
12-17-20
12-24-20
01-07-21

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\$59⁰⁰ 3M 3M Worktunes 90543- 4DC Ear Muff, AM/FM Radio Band, AA Battery, Black/Yellow 5852553	\$134⁹⁹ Makita MAKITA 7 1/4" 5007MG Circular Saw
\$84⁹⁹ CAMO LEVER Board Bender Works On Wood and Synthetic Decking CAMOLEVER	\$149⁹⁹ Makita MAKITA 3-1/4" Planer, with Tool Case KP0800K
\$114⁹⁹ DeWALT DeWALT 12.0 AMP RECIPROCATING SAW DWE305	\$199⁰⁰ Bostitch Bostitch F28WW Framing Nailer, 1/4 in Air Inlet, 100 Magazine, 0.113 to 0.131 in Dia x 2 to 3-1/2 in L Fastener 7566698

GIFT IDEAS UNDER \$400

\$219⁰⁰ Makita Makita MAC700 Big Bore 2.0 HP Air Compressor MAC700	\$299⁹⁹ DeWALT 20V MAX Cordless Brushless XR® Hammerdrill & Impact Driver Combo Kit (5.0Ah) DCK299P2
\$279⁹⁹ STABILA STABILA 72" Plate Extension Level Extends 7' To 12', Steel 106t Item 35712 7281587	\$329⁰⁰ Makita 18V X2 (36V) LXT® Lithium-Ion Brushless Cordless Blower Kit with 4 Batteries (5.0Ah) X3U02PT1
\$279⁹⁹ Makita Makita 18V LXT® Lithium- Ion Brushless Cordless 2-Pc. Combo Kit 4.0Ah) XT286SM1	\$389⁹⁹ Makita 18V X2 (36V) LXT® Lithium-Ion Brushless Cordless 14" Chain Saw Kit with 4 Batteries (5.0Ah) XCU03PT1

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PINE PLAINS/AREA

Jingle All The Way, Thru parade

PINE PLAINS — The Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center campus was bursting with Christmas cheer on Friday, Dec. 11, as the Pine Plains Elementary PTA hosted a Jingle All The Way, Thru holiday drive-thru parade for district students and their families.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., a steady stream of students and their families navigated their cars through the Seymour Smith parking lot, where holiday displays of all shapes and sizes were set up, featuring different traditions from the holiday season.

From the holiday-themed banners hanging off the fence surrounding the playing fields to the Hanukkah station to Bee Bee the Clown's Mrs. Claus station to the Grinch driving an ATV, the parade offered an abundance of holiday cheer for those driving along the parade route.

School district staff and families also pitched in, adding to the festivities by decorating their vehicles and waving to those passing by. Some of the participants handed out treats and others dressed up for the occasion.

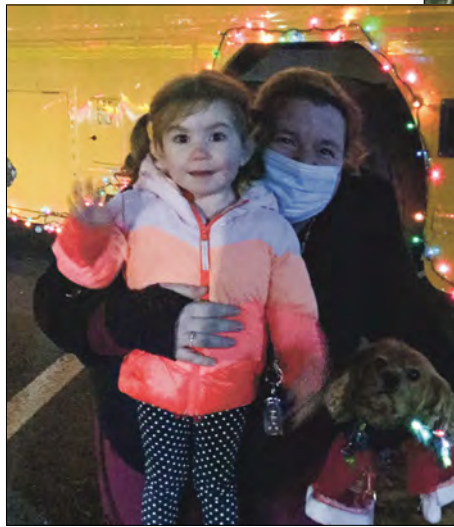
As spectators made their way through the parade, the Pine Plains Elementary PTA encouraged students and their families to consider writing letters to residents in local nursing homes; the PTA even provided a drop box for any outgoing holiday cheer.

— Kaitlin Lyle



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

With help from their families, members of the Pine Plains Central School District's Transportation Department waved to families driving by a brightly decorated school bus.



Emilia Ross waved to those passing by, along with her mother, Pine Plains Transportation Supervisor Lauren Ross, and her King Cavalier, Samantha.



From left, with that timeless tune, "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" playing out of their car's speakers, Jaylen, Teyden and Alyssia Beliveau paid homage to the holiday song by decorating their Jeep as a reindeer with Maliah (front and center) playing the role of Grandma.

New Roe Jan children's librarian seeks to join reading, nature and art

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

COPAKE — Santa brought an early gift to the children of the Roeliff Jansen Community Library in the form of its new Children's and Youth Services Librarian Tia Maggio, with 25 years experience. Maggio is also a professional artist with plenty of creative ideas.

Highly energetic, Maggio has the perfect mind set to work with children. She said she is "not being afraid to be silly — to be on their level."

"Never have I talked down to a child," said Maggio. "I always feel that we are at the same level... I just love — love them — and I love the innocence of them. And to be an adult it's nice to keep that innocence in you to carry with you and spread the joy that way."

Intimidated by libraries and reading as a child, Maggio is anxious to be sure the library is accessible and inviting.

Recognizing multiple learning styles, Maggio said she enjoys combining props and artistic elements with books, "which helps children absorb the information from the source," be it funny or dramatic.

"Children are such sponges," she said, "and every age has its wonderfulness."

Maggio plans to duplicate some of the techniques she used previously, including engaging young listeners during story hour activities with music and opportunities for plenty of movement. A favorite is "yogurt breathing," which features different flavors tied to different movements. She said, when "blueberry" is called, children wrap themselves into a ball. For chocolate "they bang the floor with their hands and feet and get their wiggles out and then are quiet as a mouse. I can't wait to do that with children again."

She has introduced artists to the children by combining



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Tia Maggio is the new children's and youth services librarian at the Roe Jan Library in Copake. Also a professional artist, Maggio promises to bring plenty of creative inspiration to her new job.

books about them with a series of art projects emulating their styles, presenting some of her own artwork as an example of what the children could produce themselves.

She is particularly delighted by the library's proximity to nature as she plans to incorporate those elements with more outdoor activities, including increasing the locally popular Story Walks. Another local favorite, "For the Birds" project combines cranberries, popcorn, peanut butter and pine cones to create lovely garland bird feeders that decorated trees around the library.

For the holidays, the library provided gingerbread house kits for completion at home.

Maggio is still in the process of familiarizing herself with all of the available selections at the Roe Jan Library, with an eye toward expansion.

"I would love to increase the collection here and revive some of the classics," she said, "that should just be a library staple. My antenna is up at the moment to see what we have and what we can inject into the collection."

She noted the library is always open to suggestions from library patrons.

Originally from Brooklyn,

Maggio recently returned to her family's home base compound, Mayflower Farm, in South Egremont, Mass., where her brother raises sheep and where she spent her teenage years before studying at Pratt Institute, the University at Massachusetts and Catholic University.

During a lengthy stint in Virginia, where she worked with both children and adults in a large library system, Maggio continued her art career while raising two children, a son who works with the Washington Nationals baseball team and an educator daughter, who is currently in Brooklyn completing the family's "circle of life."

At the library, COVID-19 protocol involves a mask requirement and social distancing, with no more than eight patrons allowed at one time.

Currently, story hours on Zoom are Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and are accessed at www.roejan-library.org, which also lists other activities.

For more information, call 518-325-4101. Roeliff Jansen Community Library serves the communities of Ancram, Copake and Hillsdale.

To view Maggio's artwork, go to www.tiamaggio.com.

Town Board OKs line adjustment correction in 2021 town budget

PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains Town Board held an extremely brief meeting on Monday, Dec. 7, for the purpose of approving a line adjustment correction in the town's 2021 budget and then re-approving the budget.

Sharing the 2021 budget document with her fellow Town Board members so they could see where the error had been made, town Supervisor Darrah Cloud said the fiscal document will remain the same with no change to the town's tax levies.

On a later date, she attributed the error to a clerical problem with her Excel spreadsheet, not to adding or subtracting any new budget lines. This was an error Cloud said she noticed after the Town Board passed next year's budget on Monday, Nov. 2.

The town supervisor explained that Town Engineer Ray Jurkowski had originally laid out his budget with additional money in the tax levy that shouldn't have been in the tax levy but instead should have been in his fund balance. In other words, she said the figure should have been in a different location in the budget but was erroneously put in the tax levy and added into the budget's numbers. The numbers have since been corrected in the final town budget.

Following a brief dialogue, the board unanimously voted to accept the changes and then re-approve the 2021 budget. The board's Dec. 7 meeting can now be viewed online, on the "Town of Pine Plains" YouTube channel.

— Kaitlin Lyle



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Santa Zooms with Ancram children

Santa knows all — even how to keep himself and the children who love him safe in the days of COVID-19. But he also knows how important it is for EVERYONE to listen to children, so he asked his elves to set up a special command center at the North Pole where he could Zoom with the children of the Roe Jan Library on Saturday, Dec. 12. Each virtual visitor had five minutes with their favorite elf in red to share their secret wishes for Christmas. Santa, in turn, sent a special "Ho, Ho, Ho" to all who made the visit possible.

AREA IN BRIEF

Christmas Eve Zoom service

COPAKE FALLS — A Christmas Eve Service is being offered by Zoom at the Church of St. John in the Wilderness in Copake Falls, on Thursday, Dec. 24, at 7:30 p.m.

Call for the Zoom link: 518-329-3674.

Assistance with emergency food

PINE PLAINS — Both food pantries in town — Willow Roots at 23 North Main St., 518-751-0164, and the Pine Plains Community Food Locker at 3023 Church St. (Route 199), 518-398-7273 — are helping people who can't afford food.

Smithfield Church

656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Amenia

Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 pm

Attendance limited to 25 units
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www.thsmithfieldchurch.org

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GARAGE GRANT *Continued from Page A1*

look for other sources of funding, including from the county. "I should immediately say it's thanks to the hard work and initiative of Assemblymember Didi Barrett, who nominated us for this grant, probably two or three months ago. That did happen pretty quickly. There are still many steps that one has to go through before we actually see the actual financial support."

That's because, as Barrett explained it, the grant is a reimbursement grant, which means the work must be done and the funds spent before the town gets the money. The grant itself comes through State and Municipal funds, making it a SAM grant. It's a complicated process, going through the Ways and Means staff and processed by the New York State Dormitory Authority. Barrett said the project was likely favored because it was a joint services project, something "the governor has been encouraging," she said, which she was "very happy to recommend and delighted for it to go through."

The assemblymember added such joint projects don't occur as often as one might think, and with Millerton and North East actually being adjoining municipalities, the logistics couldn't have worked out better.

"This is a natural fit for that,"

she said. "And if you can get two municipalities to benefit from one grant, it's a win-win-win. It's a win for each of them and a win for the State of New York."

"I cannot express enough my sincere appreciation to Assemblymember Didi Barrett for her work to secure this grant," said Millerton Mayor Debbie Middlebrook. "Without support in the form of grants from the state and the county, this project would not have been able to move forward."

Taking advantage of rates

But it's the town and village that are the real winners here. Especially the town, which is the municipality that's pursuing the grants and in charge of construction and heading up the project. Kennan said he's not wasting any time; he's pursuing more funding options, as interest rates are at a rock-bottom low right now due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"At some point we'll be looking to bond the remainder of this. One of reasons I want to continue to move as quickly as possible on this is that interest rates are very low," he said. "The BAN [bond anticipation note] we have is at a 0.95% interest rate — we have bonds out at the moment at 3.5%; to find something less than a third of that is really great. Interest rates are low at the

moment. That's one of the things I want to take advantage of. Interest rates have been fairly low recently, but COVID has made them even lower."

The need is real

And, of course, the current town highway garage, which is still in use, can't hold out much longer. Located at 11 South Center St., Kennan said "the cinder blocks are coming apart" in the 100-year-old building, adding "it's not tall enough for the equipment to come inside during the winter; it's decrepit, it's falling apart — it's inadequate."

Even Barrett expressed concern about the building's safety. "The old garage is barely standing," she said, adding it's also an environmental hazard as salt from the salt shed leaches into the Webatuck Creek it's adjacent to.

"I feel this project is moving forward at an even better than expected pace due in part to the strong efforts by former town Supervisor George Kaye and current town Supervisor Chris Kennan," added Middlebrook. "Both understood the necessity of a new highway garage for environmental concerns as well as the need to replace a deteriorating physical building that no longer could meet the needs of our community."

Nice to focus on the positive

When asked how it felt to be the bearer of good news in a year filled with so much sadness, the assemblymember said it was a welcome change. She clarified, though, that it was actually Kennan who called to tell her about the grant award.

"We've been so challenged on the front lines these last months, so I'm delighted to be a part of something positive and upbeat for parts of the community," she said. "This whole experience representing my district has been so heartbreaking; all you want to do is help people and road blocks keep being thrown in your face, so it's really nice to have some good news for our communities. He was so delighted — it was so nice to hear that."

Kennan added while shared projects like the joint highway garage are often "compelling," they don't always happen. He's glad this one did, though, and said there are many incentives to pursue similar projects, including saving money and being more efficient. Fostering positive community relations is another.

"I think one of things I am really proud of is we have an excellent working relationship with the village these days," said the town supervisor.

Middlebrook agreed working

together has its benefits.

"I am a strong proponent of shared services when they meet the needs of the community," she said. "As you know, the village of Millerton and the town of North East currently engage in a shared services program for the recreation program and the police department. Sharing space

for a highway garage is just one more instance where these two municipalities have found a way to work together. I think it is important anytime government can find a way to share and conserve resources to the benefit of the residents and taxpayers in a community they have an obligation to do so."

RED WOLVES *Continued from Page A1*

wolves were shot or run over.

The zoo currently has two red wolves. Luna, who had her last litter of wolves there in the spring of 2012, is now too old to reproduce. One of the six pups from that litter, Clifford, who is blind, is still at the Trevor Zoo. Some wolves inherit a gene that causes blindness. Two of Clifford's siblings were sent to live in the World Reserve Wolf Sanctuary in Salem, N.Y.

The breeding habitat, which will be built over the winter, will cost \$38,000; the grant will pay for half of that, \$19,000. Much of the money will go toward fencing, which will be done by Adams Fencing out of Poughkeepsie. After completion of the habitat, the zoo will acquire a pair of breeding wolves.

Construction on the building has already begun; it's going slowly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Donations are still needed and welcome. Aside from the grant and donations, the remainder of the cost will come out of the zoo's budget.

Wolves are a keystone species; they are needed to balance the ecosystem as they keep the population of grazing animals down. Grazing animals eat a lot of vegetation around watering areas. This can actually, over time, change the course of how rivers flow, and change the grasses and vegetation that depend on river banks to flourish.

Once red wolves were plentiful, with more than hundreds of thousands of wolves roaming areas from Key West, Fla., to New York State, west to Oklahoma.

As land was settled and farmed, wolves became a nuisance and were killed off in large numbers. They also lost much of the habitat that kept them safe and able to breed. Today there are fewer than nine red wolves reportedly left in the wild.

The Recovery Challenge Grant was established to enhance and increase partnerships with agencies and organizations implementing high priority recovery actions for federally listed endangered and threatened species, and in particular for genetically-sound breeding, rearing and reintroduction programs.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 authorizes the use of federal financial assistance to encourage states and other interested parties to develop and maintain conservation programs to safeguard the nation's heritage in fish, wildlife and plants for the benefit of all citizens.

The work on the breeding habitat will continue throughout the winter, and hopefully spring will bring a pair of adult breeding wolves to make use of it.

The work to bring back the red wolf population is long, arduous and expensive, but the balance of the ecosystem is dependent on every species being allowed to do its part. Trevor Zoo is doing its part to help make that happen.

At this time, people can visit the zoo in limited numbers or check it out online at www.millbrook.org/trevor-zoo-home or live on Facebook and YouTube.

For more information, call 845-677-3704.

WEBUTUCK *Continued from Page A1*

distance learning; guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH) that schools aren't considered super spreaders; and the number of school districts in Dutchess County that are bouncing between opening and closing their schools due to COVID-19. Castellani added the fair warning given about a potential spike in COVID-19 cases this winter.

"There is no right or wrong answer," he said. "There's no answer that everyone is going to be happy with 100%, but I open it to the board for their input in regards to guidance on moving forward with opening school."

Considering how problematic it's been to open and close schools during the pandemic and the recent warning about a COVID-19

spike in Dutchess County, BOE member Jay Newman wondered if the more prudent option would be to remain remote until the next semester.

Weighing her dual roles as a parent and a BOE member, Nikki Johnson spoke of disruption at the elementary school level. She said as since there are so few school days left until Christmas is it worth it to send students back on campus and then pull them right out again?

Also juggling her roles as a BOE member and the parent of a first-grader, Jessica Deister weighed the challenges of opening and closing schools, while BOE member Chris Mayville said it's a matter of having enough staff.

Having contracted COVID-19 himself, BOE member Christo-

pher Lounsbury said "kids will adapt to just about anything," suggesting the board base its decision on whatever offers the best education at this time — remote or in-person teaching.

BOE member Rick Keller-Coffey inquired about students returning to class in certain grades. Castellani said students in pre-k through fourth grade would return Friday, Dec. 18, and spend four days in school before the holiday break. Keller-Coffey said how tough going back and forth between opening and closing can be. He said it would be great for middle and high school students to revert to hybrid.

"Having listened, I think obviously we're all on the same page... there's no great answer," BOE President Judy Moran said, adding community spread of CO-

VID-19 seems greater than the spread within the school district, so students technically could be more at risk out of school than in school. She suggested the district remain closed until at least January.

Castellani also recommended students remain off campus until after the end of Christmas vacation, on Monday, Jan. 4. Hopefully during that time, he said, the district will get more guidance from the CDC and the DOH. The BOE also agreed the district will continue to teach remotely until the winter break begins on Christmas Eve, Thursday, Dec. 24.

VACCINE *Continued from Page A1*

nity in North Canaan, CEO Kevin O'Connell said he expects coronavirus vaccinations to be given to about 300 staff and 160 residents "sometime in the end of December. We'll be getting word any time now," he said on Monday, Dec. 14. "It's the number-one answer to try to fight this virus, and get it behind us."

Drugstore chains help with roll-out

Long-term care facilities across Connecticut have agreements with either CVS or Walgreens for vaccine administration and distribution, and those facilities, along with their health-care workers, have been put at the top of the priority list for receiving Pfizer's and Moderna's COVID-19 vaccines.

O'Connell said Geer is working with the national drugstore chain Walgreens. "When Walgreens gets the vaccine in, representatives will come to Geer at a certain day and time."

In the meantime, O'Connell said his goal is to share information about the importance of receiving the coronavirus vaccine. "We are communicating with staff, residents and families to help them understand why it is so important that we take it. A lot of people around the country are fearful and don't know whether to trust it or not."

Reassurance is needed

In response, Geer is offering PowerPoint presentations, town hall-style meetings with staff to share information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state Department of Public Health (DPH).

"If we can't get 60 to 70% of people to get the vaccine, that's going to make it difficult for us all to build up immunity and get through this," said O'Connell.

Noble Horizons' Pond is hoping to serve as a positive example to his staff by rolling up his sleeve and taking the first shot. "I have volunteered myself to go first. We'll see if that helps anybody" who might be hesitant, he said, noting that there is a "certain amount of trepidation as well as excitement."

At Sharon Health Care Center, residents and staff are expected to start the new year off with a shot. Jan. 2 is when CVS will distribute the first round of vaccinations to the Sharon nursing home, according to spokesman Tim Brown. "We are partnering with CVS, who will be taking care of distribution to all Athena [Health Care] buildings. Their team, working with building administration, will go room to room administering vaccines to residents," he explained. "The residents get their shots bedside."

A separate clinic-like area will also be set up at Sharon Health Care Center so that employees can receive their vaccinations throughout the day, said Brown. "CVS will return 21 to 28 days later for round two," booster shots, he said, and a third visit in the following weeks.

All nursing home administrators said they are breathing a sigh of relief. "I think everybody sees the light at the end of the tunnel... getting to the other side of this pandemic sooner, rather than later," noted Brown.

Long-term facilities are a priority

Over the weekend, Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont ordered its state Department of Public Health to make all necessary preparations for the vaccine to be received as early as Monday, Dec. 14, and distributed and allocated shortly thereafter to

health-care institutions and long-term care facilities statewide.

"This is a significant moment for our state and our country," Lamont said in a press release. "Here in Connecticut we are incredibly proud to be able to say that the Pfizer team in Groton, Conn., helped to develop this first vaccine to fight the coronavirus, which we know will help to get our communities back to normal."

Connecticut placed its first order for 31,200 vaccines on Friday, Dec. 4, with anticipated delivery to hospitals on Monday, Dec. 14.

According to Sharon Hospital spokeswoman Marina Ballantine, the distribution dates and allocation amounts for hospitals in the Nuance Health system will be different based on Connecticut and New York state government guidelines. Information is evolving daily, she said on Monday. "We will offer vaccines to patients following federal and state distribution guidelines."

Senior government officials held a briefing of Operation Warp Speed on Monday regarding the national COVID-19 vaccine distribution. According to Health & Human Services Secretary Alex M. Azar, the vaccine will start saving lives very soon.

"By the end of February we believe we will have 100 million vaccination shots in arms between those who have had the first dose and booster shots of individuals," said Azar. He added that by the end of first quarter of 2021, 100 million individuals will have had at least a first dose of the vaccine.

For an explanation of some COVID-19 vaccine basics, turn to *Health*, Page A6.



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Your Guide to Tri-State Events

December 17-23, 2020

HOLIDAY SHOPPING: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Shopping Local, Through the Holidays and All Winter Long

In spite of the pandemic, it is still possible to shop local for the holidays, although it might entail waiting in line at the door of some shops. Dress warmly and bring a book — and remember that in some of our busier metropolises you can find several shops to visit. They won't all have lines at the same time. Cast a discerning eye and go to the store with the shortest line at any given moment.

Towns that have a variety of retail choices include Millerton, N.Y.; Kent, Conn.; Salisbury, Conn.; and even little Sharon, Conn., where the B. Johnstone & Co. vintage fashion shop is steps away from the Sharon Farm Market grocery store, which recently got a nice sprucing up; and the little gem of a wine and spirits shop called Rick's Wine and Spirits (run now by Dave, not Rick).

And then there's small and extremely charming West Cornwall, Conn., which is home not only to the historic and iconic red Covered Bridge — it also has Ian Ingersoll's world-renowned Shaker furniture shop; and the wonderful Wish House, which is a few small rooms that are overflowing with perfect small gifts for all ages (including a room dedicated just to infant and toddler clothes and toys).

And now there is an added attraction in the form of a winter indoor farm market that is a proj-



The Local: A Cornwall Collective is now open in West Cornwall, Conn., on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The volunteer-run indoor market has everything from fresh eggs to beautiful woven goods made by Undermountain Weavers using "Sam's Wool" from Birdseye and Tanner Brooks Farm in Cornwall.

ect of the town's Hughes Memorial Library. The library is temporarily closed while the town makes a decision on how and when to upgrade the village's septic system.

So the library volunteers decided to open the indoor winter farm market to offer someplace for shoppers to find not only fresh winter farm foods but also wonderful artisan-made gifts, many of them from Birdseye and Tanner Brooks farm, which is owned by a well-



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The Wish House in West Cornwall, Conn., is a lifesaver for those who suddenly discovered (perhaps a little too late for the postal service) that they hadn't bought enough holiday gifts.

known actor and is ably run by farm manager Mark Orth.

Although the farm sells livestock, you won't find any cows or lambs at the new market, which was beautifully designed by Dee Salomon and is going by the name The Local, A Cornwall Collective.

You will, however, find cuts of fresh meats from the farm as well as shelves full of gorgeous shearing rugs, and blankets and

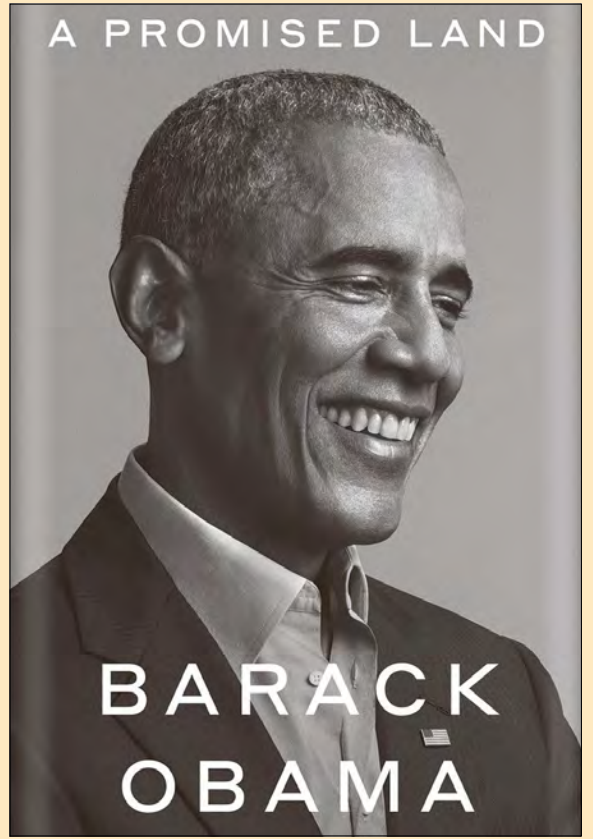
scarves and hats and yarn all made from the farm's sheep, under the label "Sam's Wool." The woven goods are mostly made for the farm by Salisbury's very respected Under Mountain Weavers.

Meats are also for sale from Hurlburt Farm and Ridgway Farm.

You can find arrangements of flowers and greens. If you don't have anything to put them in you can certainly find a handcrafted vase in the shop, which represents potters Jane Herold, Sanah Peterson and Susan Fox. And James Fox offers soups, including classics such as lentil and clam chowder as well as the enticingly named Kentucky Mushroom.

Calf and Clover farm on Route 7 heading south from town has a cooler full of dairy products, including lusciously thick creams. They sell baskets of fresh eggs as well, but you'd better get there early if you want to buy some.

Baking of course is best with fresh eggs and dairy products, but for those who'd rather let someone else do the heavy kitchen lifting there are baked goods from Cornwall's famous small-scale baker,



BOOKS: ROBERT LEHRMAN

A Washington Insider, on Obama's Book

This review was written by Robert Lehrman, who was Chief Speechwriter for Vice President Al Gore. He is the author of several award-winning novels as well as "The Political Speechwriter's Companion." He is also the cousin of editor Cynthia Hochswender.

This is an excerpt. The full review can be found at www.prorhetoric.com/a-promised-land-a-speechwriters-perspective.

In the days when former House Speaker Newt Gingrich was churning out books under his name just about every year, some people wondered how he could write so fast.

"Ha. Gingrich," one Washington writer said. "He hasn't read half the books he's written."

Whether for books or speeches, politicians often insist on keeping writers anonymous. So it's not surprising that reporters asked whether Barack Obama actually wrote "A Promised Land," the 700-page first installment of his presidential memoir released last month.

He did. Do I have any inside knowledge? No. But if he didn't, he wouldn't dare tweak Michelle Obama for her ghosted memoir, "Becoming." "I'm writing mine myself," he's let reporters hear several times, an invitation for fury from her and leaks from the writer if that was a lie.

Besides, once you start reading the book, you find chapter after chapter is so filled with intimate detail, description of Obama's often irreverent thoughts, arguments with Michelle, and ridicule of the absurdities of political life. No president would hand those off to a ghost.

Obama has never been reluctant to acknowledge his writers. In this time when less than a third of U.S. Senators even list their speechwriters on their staff directories, he not only praises Jon Favreau

("inspired") and Ben Rhodes ("immense talents"); they become characters in the book.

Obama's openness is one signal that his account will be unlike any presidential—or political—memoir we've ever read. "I wanted to offer readers a sense of what it's like to be President of the United States," he writes in the preface, and "to pull the curtain back a bit."

Which he does. Sometimes dramatic, sometimes reflective, sometimes anecdotal with scenes using dialogue, swearing included — he clearly kept a journal — we see him worried, self-critical, jubilant and reflective, confident and insecure, and revealing.

Does he reveal anything speechwriters can learn? A few things. The prose echoes stylistic devices that have been Obama signatures.

But paragraph for paragraph, this book is better than his speeches. I don't just mean that it offers the nuance and richness of detail possible only in a 700-page book. Of course that's true.

It's also better because there are sides of Obama we have never seen before, which he describes with excruciating candor.

In part, he's free to be candid because he is no longer president. But plenty of presidents have written memoirs. We don't see the glimpses of family life, or the microscopic

Continued on Page B4

UPCOMING EVENTS

With the rise again of concerns about COVID-19, many cultural venues are canceling events at the last minute to protect staff and patrons. It's always a good idea to check websites before you go to an event.



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Continued on Page B4



The key to making a nice tight wreath, explained Wayne Jenkins in a how-to workshop last week, is to keep the frame and greens flat on the table as you wrap them (tightly) with florist wire, top left. You can add in greens such as holly, center photo. Jenkins leaves a piece of ribbon at the starting/ending point of his wreaths.

HOLIDAY GREENS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

From a Master, Lessons on How To Make a Wreath

The popular holiday shop at the regional high school in Falls Village, Conn., is already pretty much sold out of wreaths and trees, a week earlier than normal. We will leave it to the sociologists to figure out why.

There are of course other places to buy trees and excellent handmade wreaths (including the Sweethaven Farm pop up shop in Salisbury, Conn., behind the pharmacy).

But those who traditionally shop at Housatonic Valley Regional High School treasure the beautiful handmade wreaths created during two “production nights,” when students and alumni gather in the agricultural education department and create a giant wreath (and roping) assembly line.

Pine sap is everywhere. The smell is incredibly delicious.

For anyone who has ever wanted to make their own wreath, production night is the way to learn from the masters.

And who are those masters?

The reigning champions right now are Cricket Jacquier and Wayne Jenkins, both of whom have decades of experience.

Look for the video online

Because there was no production night this year due to COVID-19, Jenkins generously offered to share his expertise with our readers — and with students in the agricultural education department, who watched the workshop on a live video feed.

The instructions in this article are very abbreviated and give the general information only. To get the full benefit of Jenkins’ wisdom, watch the hour-long video on our website at www.tricornernews.com. Aged teacher David Moran oversaw and organized the workshop and video feed.

The first thing you need to make a wreath is a frame. Jenkins is from the old school and says a sturdy wire clothes hanger can be twisted into a circle, with the hook used to hang the wreath up.

For the wreaths sold at the high school, the frame

is a crimped metal form that can be purchased from Kelco (www.kelco-maine.com) or Alders Wholesale Florist (www.alderswholesaleflorist.com). You can also purchase forms at craft shops such as Michael’s but they usually sell less sturdy metal forms that have two concentric circles, not a single circle, which makes it a little harder to tie the greens in tightly.

If you want to make a 2-foot wreath, buy a 1-foot wreath form.

Firs last the longest

For the greens, Jenkins and Moran said the best are the firs, because they don’t drop their needles as quickly as, for example, the long-needled white pines.

Moran particularly loves a green that is relatively rare in this part of the world called the concolor fir; it has needles that are both long and strong. Other good varieties are balsam, fraser and noble. Eastern red cedar can work well too.

“Firs hold their needles the best,” explained Jenkins, who worked for decades at the Great Mountain Forest, a teaching forest that is in both Norfolk and Falls Village, Conn.

For the 2-foot wreath Jenkins made in this workshop, he used about 8 pounds of evergreen sprigs. The greens had been pre-cut into 6-to-8-inch lengths and they filled a very large plastic tub. Very little was left over at the end.

To tie the greens onto the wreath form, Jenkins used a sturdy 22-gauge florist wire, which you can find at any craft store.

The wires definitely can cut your hands (and the sap can get sticky) so even though Jenkins’ hands were bare, it’s a good idea to wear gardening gloves that are sturdy enough to protect you but flexible enough for you to grab and tie the wire as you go.

Start with a loop

Jenkins likes to tie a metal loop at his starting point, which not only reminds him where he started, but also creates a hook for hanging the wreath. It also gives you something



PHOTOS BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Master wreath maker Wayne Jenkins explains how to make a tightly constructed wreath using greens, pine cones and winterberry that can be found in the area.

to tie your wire to as you start and end your wreath.

The key to making a stable and sturdy wreath, Jenkins says, is to tie the wire very tightly around the base of your handful of greens. To do this, you want the wreath lying flat on the table as you tie.

If you hold the wreath in the air as you’re tying it, he warns, you’ll get wobble.

A heavy wreath

Jenkins started with a big handful of six to eight sprigs of fir (and each sprig was about 6 to 8 inches long).

“I like a heavy wreath” he said of the amount of greens he was using. And indeed, when it was done, this was a thick, luxuriant wreath.

“But everyone is different,” he said.

He likes to mix several kinds of greens in each bundle. He used the concolor in every handful but mixed it up with some of the other types of fir.

Lay the first bundle

down on the wreath frame up near the top, where you put your wire loop.

Then, for this first grouping, lay an additional two bundles down, not exactly on top of each other but “descending” down the frame. They should all face the same direction — the cut end of the branches should be at the bottom, the leafy tips should be at the top. The leafy tips for these three bundles should face out at slightly different angles from each other.

If you want to be certain the wire has something to

hold onto as you get started, knot it onto the base of the wire loop at the top of your wreath.

Then spool the wire out to the bottom of the first bundle, and wrap it around three times, as tightly as humanly possible. Do the same with the second and succeeding bundles. Keep layering new handfuls of bundles on top as you go along and keep tying them in (tightly).

“You want it so tight you can almost hear the wire snap as you wrap it

around,” he said.

And at that moment, the wire did indeed snap.

Unfazed, Jenkins just knotted the broken end back onto the wire coming off the spool and kept on going.

Adding cones, berries

If you want to add cones, it’s a good idea to do it ahead of time: Cut about 12 inches of wire and wrap the wire a few times around the base of the pine cone, looping it inside the cone’s bottom few “flaps.” There should be about 8 inches of wire left, hanging loose. Use that to wire the cone into the greens as you go, layering another handful of greens on top of the cones.

The heavier cones should be at the top of the wreath, so they can hang down.

You can similarly lay sprigs of winterberry on top of the greens and wire them in. If you’re tying the wire tightly enough around the greens, the berries will stay safe and snug in between.

When you get to the end of the wreath, wrap your wire tightly around the last bunch of greens about five times. You can then knot it onto the loop that you left at the beginning.

Again, this explanation (while lengthy) only gives a tiny bit of the information that Jenkins provides in the how-to video.

To watch master wreath maker Wayne Jenkins explain how to make a holiday wreath, go to our website at www.tricornernews.com.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Look for a new calendar of events at our website, www.tricornernews.com/events-calendar. We will also include the calendar in our print edition as space allows.

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**LITERATURE:
CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER**

A Class in Tolstoy To Help You Sled Through the Winter Months

The winter hasn't been that bad yet (even though it is 2020 and one might have expected this to be the worst early winter in decades). But soon it will be very cold and snowy and we will be quarantined and the conditions will be just perfect for reading the work of Leo Tolstoy.

For anyone who is intimidated by the lengthy works of the Russian novelist (and all those complicated Russian names), help is at hand in the form of well-known American novelist Roxanna Robinson, a Cornwall, Conn., resident who has donated her time and talent during the quarantine to leading literature workshops online for the Cornwall Library.

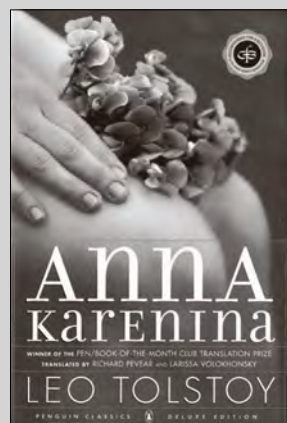
Some of the authors and titles discussed in the Cornwall Reads Great Fiction series over the summer were Honor Moore ("Our Revolution: A Mother and Daughter at Midcentury") and Tessa Hadley ("Bad Dreams and Other Stories"). Those were single sessions; Robinson did a deeper dive on Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary."

Starting on Jan. 12 and continuing until March 2, Robinson will dig into Tolstoy's tragic love story, "Anna Karenina."

"We'll talk about vital, electrifying Anna and her handsome and mysterious lover, Vronsky," Robinson said. "We'll talk about Tolstoy, who he was and what he represented in 19th-century Russia, what Russia was like at that time, what the novel was doing, how Tolstoy prefigured modernism, what his intentions were in writing the book, what its factual origins were, how his family played into it, and anything else that comes in to my head."

"It is a fabulous, moving, fast-paced novel, not at all ponderous or weighty, and it is one of the greatest novels ever written, so this is the chance for everyone who's been meaning to do so to read it, and the chance to re-read and savor it for those who already have done so."

Robinson, a novelist with 10 books to her credit (including "Dawson's Fall," which came out in 2019), is also a teacher and has



taught "Anna Karenina" for nearly 15 years in the MFA Program at Hunter College in New York City.

Locally, she is a member of one of Cornwall's oldest families, descended from the Scoville clan, who first settled in Cornwall in the 18th century.

"My great-grandfather, Samuel Scoville, married the daughter of Henry Ward Beecher and his family — Harriet Beecher Stowe among them — lived in Litchfield," she said.

"The Scovilles have been ministers, farmers and lawyers, and have taken care of the North Cornwall church since it was built in 1812. I live in the house my grandparents built — Samuel Scoville Jr., who was a lawyer and writer."

Scoville's unexpectedly amusing writing was read aloud by Robinson in the library's Cornwall Reads Cornwall over Thanksgiving weekend.

Participation in the eight-week "Anna Karenina" class is open to everyone at no cost (donations to the library are appreciated, however). The class will meet by Zoom on Tuesdays at 4 p.m., beginning Jan. 12 and ending March 2.

The edition to get for the class is the paperback version of the acclaimed translation by Richard Pevar and Larissa Volokhonsky (a photo of the cover is above, on this page) from Penguin Classics.

Participants should plan to read 100 pages every week — however, there is no requirement that you come to class having read the material, Robinson promises. "I hope you'll come to the discussion anyway, so as you finally finish the book you'll have thoughts from the class in your mind."

To register, go to the "events/programs" page on the Cornwall Library website at www.CornwallLibrary.org.



PHOTO COURTESY PINK MARTINI

Pink Martini will present two glamorous, big band-style "virtual" shows for the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass., on Dec. 17 and 31.

CELEBRATION: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Enjoy a Bubbly Pink Martini This Year on New Year's Eve

One thing we know for sure is that a majority of us will spend this New Year's Eve at home.

But there's no reason why that can't be festive and fun. No doubt in the weeks to come there will be any number of "virtual" concerts announced for the night of Dec. 31.

I've already chosen my concert, though.

In this dull year of staying home too much and listening to the same music over and over, the one musical group I haven't become bored with is Pink Martini, a band from Portland, Ore.

Pink Martini was created by pianist/bandleader Thomas Lauderdale but it's probably most associated with its lead singer, China Forbes, and frequent guest singer Storm Large (and no, I don't know if those are their birth names or their stage names).

The envelope of this group is extremely flexible and incorporates big band music, peppy little bal-

lads, songs in the English language, songs in French, Portuguese, Italian and Japanese. In that sense it's like one of those Putumayo collections from the 1990s, with diverse music from far corners of the world; but while those compilations always felt a little bit "improving," the music of Pink Martini always feels like a smooth, fun and almost guilty pleasure.

It's hard to choose a genre to put their music into, but if I had to I would say it's a mix of light jazz and show tunes. They're kind of campy but not quite; if you like the Austin Powers movies, you will probably like Pink Martini.

And anyway, what could be more appropriate for a New Year's Eve concert than a band named after a cocktail?

As much fun as Pink Martini is to simply listen to, they are phenomenally fun to see live. This is a put-on-a-show kind of band, with glamorous 1960s eveningwear outfits and a rotating cast of musicians

and singers who wander in and out of frame.

I saw Pink Martini several years ago at the Mahaiwe in Great Barrington, Mass., where they have performed several times.

This year, the band is doing two "virtual" concerts as fundraisers for the Mahaiwe. One will be tonight, Dec. 17, and the next will be on Dec. 31; both shows begin at 9 p.m. (a perfect time for those who plan to creep off to bed before the ball drops at midnight). They are two separate performances, but both are filmed in a studio in Portland in front of a 35-foot holiday tree.

Onstage for one or both concerts, at various points, will be Thomas Lauderdale and China Forbes as well as Storm Large, Ari Shapiro from NPR (yes, I'm surprised by that, too) and guest vocalists Edna Vazquez and Jimmie Herrod, Sofia von Trapp (from the famous "Sound of Music" von Trapps) and Cantor Ida Rae Cahana.

Tickets for individuals are \$15 for each performance, or \$20 for the package of both. Tickets for families are \$20 for each performance, or \$30 for the package of both. For tickets and more information, go to www.mahaiwe.org.

... A Promised Land

Continued from Page B2

accounts of policy disputes we see in "A Promised Land."

Incredibly, some reviewers saw such detail as a fault. They were impatient with his description of how to approach meetings or offer background, or give us a sense of the infinite steps you take before moving a bill to the floor.

Obama shows us what he was thinking at the time, the interplay of his beliefs with his personality, the ways principle must give way to reality—and

the mistakes he made.

As someone who was once a White House staffer, I thought the way he captured the flavor of staff meetings, and the painfully slow steps you need to pass a bill were the best portraits I've ever read of political life as it really is.

He makes drama from the tedious business of solving an economy teetering on the edge of bankruptcy, or winning agreement on a health care bill for a hundred million Americans.

... Shopping Local

Continued from Page B2

Susan Saccardi.

There is of course no shortage of farm markets (in normal times) in our area towns, but farmers and artisans seem to especially like the model being used for The Local.

For one thing, they don't have to be on the premises to sell their wares. The library volunteers are on hand, and transfer the cash for each sale to the artisan/farmers, sometimes by modern means such as Venmo.

Perhaps even more enticing is that there is no fee for them to sell at the market.

"It is a collective market where all profits flow back to the farmers, artists, cooks and craftspeople who work and thrive in Cornwall," said Libby Mitchell, one of the organizers.

The market is expected

to remain open through the winter on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. It is in the building that for years was home to Todd Piker's pottery shop.

And in the event that there is a wait to enter The Local or The Wish House, you can take a walk and look at the Twelve Days of Christmas holiday display, with works of art depicting the days in the holiday song, at locations throughout West Cornwall village.

The display will remain up, day and night, until Jan. 3.

The Local is at 415 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike in West Cornwall, Conn., just steps away on one side from the Covered Bridge (and Robert Ensign's electric bicycle shop) and Ian Ingersoll Cabinetmakers; and steps away on the other side from The Wish House, 413 Sharon-Goshen Turnpike.

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As we navigate these difficult times, we at The Lakeville Journal Company are committed to bringing you the news and information that is important to you, your family and your community.

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EDITORIAL

Keep talking, stay positive

Last week we wrote about an incredibly important issue: The debate over whether people should wear face masks during the current second wave of the coronavirus pandemic, and a local business that has taken an anti-mask stance (although its workers are now wearing masks after being fined for violating the state mandate by the Dutchess County Department of Health). That anti-mask view, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has contributed to the surge of COVID-19 cases during the past 10 months that has killed more than 1,633,037 men, women and children across the globe (as of Tuesday, Dec. 15); has forced entire nations to shut down, the impact of which has trickled down to local communities like ours, closing non-essential businesses, restaurants, salons, movie theaters — not to mention schools — for months on end; stretched hospitals and medical staff so thin that many no longer have any ICU beds available to accept COVID patients; put the lives of front line and emergency workers at risk, as well as the life of every single person who comes in contact with someone not wearing a mask.

People clearly feel very strongly about the topic, as evidenced by the feedback we've seen on our Facebook page as well as other comments on social media in the Millerton community and around the Tri-state region. We're glad to see people are talking through the issue, and we hope the discussion remains positive and respectful.

To see what some of our readers have had to say on mask wearing, as well their comments on last week's front page article and editorial about the issue and how it's come to a head at Millerton's Talk of the Towne Deli, check out the letters to the editor on this and the following page.

We'd also like to mention that roughly a week and a half ago, on the weekend of Dec. 5, the NorthEast-Millerton Library's sign was vandalized. So, too, were signs destroyed at Salisbury Bank & Trust, along with a number of large planters and other minor items belonging to merchants along Main Street. A report was filed with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.

The property damage might not have been great, but it was enough. Especially in a year when there have been so many challenges and unexpected and unnecessary expenses to contend with due to the coronavirus pandemic; this really was a low blow.

As Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson explained, the library has had to purchase extra supplies this year, including additional cleaning supplies and personal protective equipment (PPE), to keep its workers and its patrons safe, spending what little extra funds it had in its budget. To now find the estimated \$1,000 or so it will likely cost to repair the sign that was partially destroyed by the vandals is just one more hardship the library has to endure in a year that's been particularly tough. Like most other libraries in the area (as well as many other nonprofits, etc.), it hasn't been able to hold all of its regular fundraisers or normal activities or even have patrons "drop a penny" at the circulation desk throughout the year to contribute to its coffers.

The Main Street merchants are facing similar challenges; they've been closed for so many months they're barely getting by, and to have to purchase new planters to replace the damaged ones, if they opt to even do so, will be costly. And those planters helped beautify Main Street — they made the village look pretty for residents and attracted visitors, which brought money into the community, and that benefited everybody. Whoever the vandals are, if they are local, they're shortsighted.

As Mayor Debbie Middlebrook said, "I am disappointed that during this very difficult time when we should all be working together, there are those that feel the need to wreak havoc on our community and damage someone else's property, adding to that property owner's stress. Shame on them."

The vandals certainly don't care very much about this village and they surely don't have the Christmas spirit. It's too bad, because Millerton is an amazing community that cares deeply for its residents.

That's been proven throughout this pandemic — just read through back issues of The Millerton News or go to www.tricornernews.com to see the stories yourself, from the Oakhurst Diner giving out free meals for months on end to licensed psychologist Paul Gunser offering free virtual therapy to first responders and healthcare providers to The Watershed Center giving away healing broth and free face masks and organizing community relief efforts.

Millerton leaders, nonprofits, residents and business owners alike have all stepped up at this time of enormous need, and to see vandals strike right now is really unfortunate. We hope they're caught, and that the perpetrators realize such negative behavior is especially detrimental at a time when people need to be lifted up, not held back.

To our Roe Jan Library patrons

We wish we could celebrate this holiday season with you as we always do, with concerts, holiday programming and the Friends' annual Cookies, Soup and Books Sale. But COVID-19 has made 2020 a year of unprecedented trials for the library. Every year at this time we come to you for your support. This year your generosity is needed more than ever before.

If you have already given, thank you so very much. If not,

please go to our website and learn how the library coped this year. And then we hope you, too, will support the library.

Our deepest gratitude and warmest holiday wishes to you and your families.

Pat Placona
President, Board of Trustees
Copake

Tammy Gaskell
Director, Roeliff Jansen
Community Library
Hillsdale

More letters appear on page B6.



The Republican Caucus of the Dutchess County Legislature donates raises

This year has been more difficult than any of us imagined. While we believe the light at the end of the tunnel is approaching, we all must continue to do our part to protect the health of our family, friends and community.

Due to the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic, the 2021 County Budget was more challenging than usual. The difficult decision was made to not give County employees a salary increase for the 2021 calendar year. Our finances this year simply did not allow for increases this year, especially considering there are those in our community who are out of work or are struggling financially. We greatly value our employees and we know they work hard every single day for everyone in Dutchess.

In 2019, the prior Legislature established salaries for the 2020-21 term of elected legislators. When the increases were passed, the economy was in excellent standing and a 3% increase seemed reasonable — obviously now we find ourselves in different circumstances. There has been discussion of removing salary increases from legislators for the upcoming year, however, state and local laws prohibit the Legislature from changing our own salaries.

In order to do our part and stand next to our employees, the undersigned of this letter pledge to donate our 2021 \$500 salary increase to Dutchess County charities.

We wish everyone well during the Holiday Season and hope you stay safe.

Sincerely,

- Gregg Pulver**
Chairman (R-19)
- Donna Bolner**
Majority Leader (R-13)
- John Metzger**
Assistant Majority Leader (R-12)
- Will Truitt**
Budget and Finance Chair (R-7)
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- Lisa Paoloni**
Legislator (R-14)
- Michael Polasek**
Legislator (R-3)
- Don Sagliano**
Legislator (R-2)
- Alan Surman**
Legislator (R-24)
- Ed Hauser**
Legislator (R-23)

Help lay Wreaths Across America

Each day, in cemeteries throughout this country, family members of our veterans and active duty military members listen to the sorrowful sound of taps played as their loved ones' caskets are lowered into the ground and American flags are folded and presented in remembrance of their service and sacrifices. It is the commitment of the Wreaths Across America (WAA) organization to not only honor those currently being buried, but also to remember those who have gone long before and who might not have family members to visit their gravesites and thank them for their service.

I have just recently become the location coordinator for the Evergreen Cemetery in Pine Plains. This year, the cemetery has become a new location for the laying of wreaths on National WAA Day. As coordinator, I am responsible for organizing and conducting all aspects of my community's ceremony. This includes recruiting and organizing volunteers, reaching out to the community, including

veterans' organizations and others, working with fundraising groups, communicating with local press, receiving the delivery of wreaths, facilitating the ceremony, removing wreaths after an appropriate amount of time and staying in close contact with WAA support staff. It was a big undertaking but one that is near and dear to my heart.

Wreaths Across America does not "decorate" headstones. We are honoring all veterans and active military members by placing live wreaths on the headstones of veterans. The fresh evergreens have been used for centuries as a symbol recognizing honor and as a living tribute renewed annually. We want people to see the tradition as a living memorial to veterans and their families.

The 2020 Theme: Be An American Worth Fighting For was inspired by Staff Sgt. Daniel Strong. As an infantryman in the Marine Corps, he lost 18 Marines during his service. Sgt. Strong's raw emotion was felt by all on that cold December day, as he spoke about his

Deli owner should have been called out in article

Whitney Joseph's article profiling Talk of the Towne Deli owner Mary Hosier's feelings about masks has a serious and possibly deadly flaw.

The very first line should read, "Despite scientific evidence and near 100% consensus

that masks prevent the spread of COVID, Mary Hosier..."

It is irresponsible to not point out clearly that Mary is unequivocally incorrect in her belief about masks.

Alex Ely
South Kent, Conn.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Listen to science, not opinions

"Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity." Martin Luther King said this half a century ago.

Once upon a time there was respect for education as opposed to just opinion. So now we have deli owners weighing in on grave matters of public health because, after all, opinions are for the having. And we have a president spewing forth false claims as to the efficacy of

hydroxychloroquine and chlorox instillations because he believes he's a smart guy who thinks he might just have a talent for medicine on top of his many other skills. This is the tyranny of the under-informed and over-opinionated.

Why would anyone listen to them rather than someone who got eight-plus years of medical education? Don't!

Marietta Whittlesey Gallatin

Talk of the Towne should reverse policy

Unappetizing servings of alternative facts and misguided opinions were dished out by Talk of the Towne's management in a provocative interview in last week's Millerton News, offering both food for thought and heart burn.

The deli's owner says she does not believe face masks can protect the public from being infected with coronavirus, stating it is no different than flu. A good reminder that our beliefs/opinions aren't automatically the truth. Fortunately, science doesn't care what we believe!

Health experts unanimously agree that wearing a mask is one of the most effective means of protection. To dispute this is unbelievable. (Conversely, I'd prefer an experienced deli chef prepare my sandwich rather than a surgeon general.)

Another indigestible deli delight, "More people die of flu

than they do of this COVID."

A speedy web search reveals otherwise. Unless information from Johns Hopkins Medicine is deemed "fake news," we find: COVID-19: There have been approximately 1,584,788 deaths reported worldwide.

Flu: The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 290,000 to 650,000 people die of flu-related causes every year worldwide.

Whether coming from a place of willful ignorance or simply being misinformed, I encourage Talk of the Towne to reconsider its policy and begin asking customers to mask-up for the sake of the community, which it proudly serves.

Look forward to sampling your food and humor when you do.

Respectfully,
Jonathan Doster
Sharon, Conn.

Celebrating the historic Irondale Schoolhouse

Efforts to save the old Irondale Schoolhouse on Main Street, located at the entrance to the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, began in 2009 with the formation of The Friends of the Irondale Schoolhouse.

Thanks to the hard work of a group of dedicated volunteers, work started to restore the building and find the best location in the historic district of Millerton.

The schoolhouse was given a new public purpose and opened

to the public in 2015.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we suspended our programs for the season, but we look forward to reopening next spring.

On Saturday, Dec. 19, at noon, we will celebrate the seventh anniversary of the move by ringing the old schoolhouse bell. The public is invited to attend.

Ralph Fedele
President, The Friends of the Irondale Schoolhouse
Millerton

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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

Serene Sharon, Conn.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mask article was sound, its placement was not

The decision to place the story about the local business owner who disbelieves in the number of coronavirus deaths and the danger from the coronavirus on the front page and "above the fold" requires some explanation.

By doing so, you have legitimized and disseminated misinformation about the pandemic that circulates widely on social media platforms, at an incalculable cost of lives. It is laudable to report on disputes about public health measures that allow your readers to avoid commercial establishments whose owners have the views and attitudes of this one. It is also perfectly legitimate to report the owner's erroneous opinions; after all the U.S. wouldn't have the largest number of deaths from the virus in the world if there weren't many people who received their

wrong opinions from the same purveyors of false information that this shop owner does. The account was fully reported from all sides.

My concern is about where you placed the article in this issue of the paper. I question the judgment to put this story (and the quote from the defiant shop owner) in such a prominent position and to fail to provide a broader public health context for those opinions in an equally prominent place. Alas, many, perhaps most, readers, don't read beyond the first two paragraphs of a news story.

Your paper is now complicit in the same processes of circulation of perilous news for which many criticize social media platforms. But local newspapers are supposed to offer an alternative.

Laurie Nussdorfer
Amenia

COVID-19 and the flu are not the same

In last week's edition, in a story about a local deli, it was stated that COVID-19 is no worse than the flu and that more people die from the flu.

While annually the flu is a scourge, a burden on our economy, and pure misery for anyone who gets it, the flu is not COVID-19. In fact, it's possible to get both at the same time. (The survival rate for that double whammy hasn't been computed.)

In less than a year, COVID-19 has killed more Americans than died in World War II. And the numbers keep climbing, largely because people in small towns and rural areas are not taking it seriously. Here's what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), still the world's most respected disease expert, says about the common flu:

Annually since 2010, the CDC estimates that influenza has resulted in up to 45 million illnesses, up to 810,000 hospitalizations and up to 61,000 deaths. For the 2019 to 2020 season, those numbers were 38 million illnesses, 400,000 hospitalizations and 22,000 deaths.

COVID-19: As of Dec. 14, nearly 17 million American have been infected, 306,000 have died. In other words, quite a few more people get the flu each year than have had COVID-19, and thank goodness: COVID-19 is 10 times deadlier.

It's possible that, even after most people take the vaccine, COVID-19 will still mirror the infections and deaths of the common flu. Every disease has its own personality.

Speaking of personalities, it's not too late for you outliers to get a flu shot. And when your turn comes, get the COVID-19 virus vaccine, both shots. Until then, wear a mask and social-distance — if not for yourself, for your community, your family, your friends, your co-workers. Keep mask-wearing and social-distancing after your get the vaccine, till the CDC gives us the all clear. As new research has learned, you can still be a carrier of this hideous disease, particularly in your nose. Sneeze, cough, laugh or shout once and you could contaminate a room.

Tom Parrett
Science writer
Millerton

Appreciate editorial on wearing masks

Many thanks for your well-written, sensible editorial on mask-wearing. It is, of course, unfortunate that such an editorial should be necessary but the front-page article about the Talk of the Towne Deli owner demonstrates that there are people who think like that in our community.

My husband and I are rarely out so we have no sense of how prevalent this kind of attitude and behavior is, but the fact that it exists at all makes your editorial needed and an important public service.

Again, many thanks.
Amy Rothstein
Pine Plains

HEALTH
The mRNA vaccine, and what we know and don't know yet

By Cynthia Hochswender

Development and distribution of the vaccine to protect against COVID-19 has moved very quickly, leaving many people with questions about what's happening.

What is a vaccine?

The website at www.vaccines.gov/basics (from HHS) explains that, "A vaccine is made from very small amounts of weak or dead germs that can cause diseases — for example, viruses, bacteria, or toxins."

The National Institutes of Health breaks it down further (www.niaid.nih.gov/research/vaccine-types), explaining that there are three basic types of vaccines. The most common type are whole pathogen vaccines that "consist of entire pathogens that have been killed or weakened so that they cannot cause disease. Such whole-pathogen vaccines can elicit strong protective immune responses. Many of the vaccines in clinical use today fall into this category."

Less common are the subunit vaccines, which "include only the components, or antigens, that best stimulate the immune system. Although this design can make vaccines safer and easier to produce, it often requires the incorporation of adjuvants to elicit a strong protective immune response because the antigens alone are not sufficient to induce adequate long-term immunity."

The website describes nucleic acid vaccines as an "investigational approach" that "involves introducing genetic material encoding the antigen or antigens against which an immune response is sought."

The mRNA vaccine

The new COVID-19 vaccines are a type of nucleic acid vaccine, using what is known as mRNA or "messenger RNA." The mRNA vaccines had been considered unstable and difficult to deliver to cells, but have become more reliable.

The Centers for Disease Control And Prevention (CDC) goes into more detail, explaining that to trigger an immune response, "many vaccines put a weakened or inactivated germ into our bodies. Not mRNA vaccines. Instead, they teach our cells how to

Sharon Hospital testing

SHARON, Conn. — Testing for COVID-19 will move to an appointment-only basis at Sharon Hospital until further notice. All specimen collections at the hospital are completed in an isolated area at the facility's rear Wound Care entrance.

Hours of operation: Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 845-790-8855, Option 1.

Information about COVID-19 testing at Nuvance Health's primary care practices and outpatient locations. Go to www.patients.healthquest.org/covid-19-testing.

make a protein — or even just a piece of a protein — that triggers an immune response inside our bodies. That immune response, which produces antibodies, is what protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies."

The COVID-19 mRNA vaccine, specifically, will "give instructions for our cells to make a harmless piece of what is called the 'spike protein.' The spike protein is found on the surface of the virus that causes COVID-19."

Although there are not yet any licensed mRNA vaccines in use, "researchers have been studying and working with them for decades," according to the CDC. "Interest has grown in these vaccines because they can be developed in a laboratory using readily available materials. This means the process can be standardized and scaled up, making vaccine development faster than traditional methods of making vaccines."

The CDC offers this reassurance: "mRNA vaccines do not use the live virus that causes COVID-19" and they "cannot give someone COVID-19."

And, "They do not affect or interact with our DNA in any way. mRNA never enters the nucleus of the cell, which is where our DNA (genetic material) is kept."

"The cell breaks down and gets rid of the mRNA soon after it is finished using the instructions."

What is an EUA

The new COVID-19 mRNA vaccine was developed by Pfizer, a U.S. company with ties to the Northwest Corner, and a German company called BioNTech. It has not been approved by

the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) but has been approved for use through an EUA or Emergency Use Authorization.

Another vaccine, by a company called Moderna, is also being tested and could be released soon. The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee was expected to meet Dec. 17 to discuss the Moderna vaccine.

Pfizer-BioNTech have done clinical trials on "approximately 20,000 individuals 16 years of age and older," who "have received at least one dose of the vaccine."

In the trials, Pfizer said, the "vaccine has been shown to prevent COVID-19 following two doses given three weeks apart. The duration of protection against COVID-19 is currently unknown."

Continued vigilance

Among the many things not known yet about COVID-19 and the new vaccines is how they will work in the real world.

Also, there is a priority order for people to receive the vaccine, so it's possible that within one household or family unit there can be some people who have been immunized and others who have not.

For these and other reasons, the CDC recommends continuing to follow social distancing protocols: wear a face mask, avoid crowds and indoor gatherings and stand 6 feet apart or more. Wash your hands often and thoroughly.

Even people who have already been infected and recovered should continue to practice safety protocols. The jury is still out, according to the CDC, on post-infection immunity and

how long it lasts.

"Since this virus is new, we don't know how long natural immunity might last," according to its website. "Some early evidence — based on some people — seems to suggest that natural immunity may not last very long."

It is also not yet known whether mass vaccination will protect the community at large through what is known as "herd immunity."

The CDC warns that, "Experts do not know what percentage of people would need to get vaccinated to achieve herd immunity to COVID-19. Herd immunity is a term used to describe when enough people have protection — either from previous infection or vaccination — that it is unlikely a virus or bacteria can spread and cause disease. As a result, everyone within the community is protected even if some people don't have any protection themselves."

"The percentage of people who need to have protection in order to achieve herd immunity varies by disease."

It is also not known yet how long the immunity provided by the new vaccine will last.

Where to learn more

Most of the information below is collected from various Centers for Disease Control (CDC) information pages; the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS); the National Institutes of Health; and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Those websites are frequently updated and are the best places to get definitively correct information. There is also specific information on the new vaccines at the websites of Pfizer and Moderna.

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This letter has been enclosed in print editions of The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News and on www.tricornernews.com for several weeks. We invite all our readers to continue to keep track of our progress and we will keep you updated regularly.

Can you imagine a world without your Lakeville Journal or Millerton News?

Dear Reader,

Late in 2019, we came to you, hat in hand, to share with you our story within the world of vanishing local journalism. You generously supported us, to date, in the amount of \$164,975 in what was known as the "Community Membership" model and will now be known as the "Community Contributor" model.

- Your generosity made up a deeply appreciated 39% of annual General Expenses from September of 2019.
- We are happy to have qualified for a PPP loan (which we will convert to a 'grant', having met the necessary criteria), in the amount of \$146,643, contributing 35% of General Expenses during this same period.
- As they experienced their own COVID-19 cash needs, our steadfast advertisers needed to scale back their commitments to us. Our advertising revenue has dropped over 30%.
- Effective October 15, 2020, we have raised the cost of the newspaper to two dollars, the first increase since 2003.

COVID-19 has awakened an awareness of the significance of our papers, as we seek information about our world. Thanks to our Community's generosity and the unwavering dedication of our fine Team, we were able to remain fully functional through this pandemic. We love our Community partnership. We will continue our work, with your kind respect and support.

— The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC

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SPORTS

Visions of sugarplums dancing at Wethersfield

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

AMENIA — The dream-like world of Tchaikovsky's 1892 Christmas classic, "The Nutcracker," will be more magical than ever as "some of the best dancers in the world" bring the ballet to life at the elegant Wethersfield Estate in Amenia.

The event is the brainchild of choreographer and director Troy Schumacher who, with the support of many, especially Wethersfield Foundation Board Vice Chairman and Secretary Tara Shafer, worked at top speed to bring some 50 New York City Ballet dancers and support staff out of the COVID-19 induced darkness and back into the spotlight. A sight, he said, that is "incredibly moving."

Schumacher's vision for the event took shape following a September tour of the extensive Wethersfield gardens, which he examined with an eye toward mounting an open air production there next summer. Having been concerned about the impact on "the art form and traditions" that a lack of the annual "Nutcracker" would have, he immediately saw the possibilities of the classic Christmas ballet being performed in that perfect setting, "reimagined for the CO-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Stars shown bright at Wethersfield in Amenia, when world renown dancers from the New York City Ballet presented a newly imagined holiday "Nutcracker" throughout December. The event, which was designed to move through the house and gardens, will be available for viewing Wednesday, Dec. 23, through Saturday, Dec. 26, at www.nutcrackeratwethersfield.com/stream.

VID-19 era."

The invitation-only event, for which performers prepared by isolating mainly at Wethersfield starting in mid-November, will be presented throughout the month before being live streamed on demand Wednesday, Dec. 23, through Saturday, Dec. 26, at www.nutcrackeratwethersfield.com/stream.

Audience members, known as guests, will be organized in

small, socially distanced groups or "pods" of eight, with a strictly limited total of 32 with none ever coming closer than 6 feet to anyone.

Schumacher said they will "experience the Nutcracker in a very immersive way," first in the highly decorated formal living and Gloriette rooms, where they can view party scene dancers dressed in donations from Oscar de la Renta and Todd Snyder,

which Schumacher said, "gives the experience a really wonderful timeless classic vibe."

The mansion's windows will provide views of the outdoor scene in which the Nutcracker kills the Mouse King on the estate's lawn, something Schumacher described as "a truly magical experience."

Then, breaking with tradition, "the Nutcracker actually greets the guests and leads them into the

snow ballet, which takes place in the famous gardens of Wethersfield and then into a large tent" with plenty of ventilation and air scrubbers for the final half of the event.

Schumacher said outdoor dancing "is actually not in toe shoes because the way shoes like that are constructed, they would just basically fall apart, so the snow scene is one of the more fantastical costumes. We actually put the ballerinas in full body snowboarding ski suits and ski style high topped boots and tutus. It's quite a scene."

Because of the unique outdoor nature of the presentation, developed for safety's sake, Schumacher said contingency plans are in place, one of which was implemented when an early performance was blown off schedule by heavy wind gusts.

He noted the entire work is "a feat of logistics."

He explained: "We actually have, in some cases, three casts of dancers swapping roles. We have the best dancers in the world here and we wanted to give as many of them different feature opportunities as possible ... so roles are shared between those dancers."

Schumacher, on behalf of BalletCollective, which quarantined in Pine Plains this summer and

premiered a new ballet in that town, produced the event. He said, "We are immensely grateful to Wethersfield for their enthusiasm for getting together with us to participate in this very special project. This was something that would be amazing any year but is only really possible because of what has happened this year. Normally every dancer in this production would be a part of the New York City Ballet 'Nutcracker' in Lincoln Center, which is obviously canceled this year. It's incredibly unique for this year and we will see what happens in the future."

Although Wethersfield normally charges for organizations presenting events on its grounds, it has donated the venue for "The Nutcracker," which is being presented as a fundraiser for the BalletCollective.

"It's more of a public service than anything else, although we certainly do not discourage people from also donating to us," Wethersfield Foundation Program Director Matt Speer said. "I think this is the first of its kind. We've had much smaller Shakespeare performances here, but nothing on this scale."

The estate is normally open only from June to September but Speer said, "This was an opportunity to bring some holiday cheer."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Recreation schedule for town of Washington

WASHINGTON — The Town of Washington Recreation Department's winter schedule is as follows.

Kindergarten Basketball will be held on Wednesdays, from Jan. 6 through Jan. 27, from 5 to 6 p.m.

LMC Saturday Basketball, for grades 1 through 6, will be held Jan. 9 through Feb. 13.

Indoor Soccer for grades k through two will be held Mondays, from Jan. 11 through Feb. 8, from 5 to 6 p.m.

Pickleball may be played by those who would like to rent the Guertin Gym weekday mornings. For more information on this and other programs, email RecDirector@Washingtonny.org or call 845-677-3419, ext. 6.

Pine Plains ice skating this winter season

PINE PLAINS — The town of Pine Plains has set up its temporary community ice rink for the winter season.

Located on the girls softball field at the recreation fields along Beach Road, the temporary ice

rink will be open, weather permitting, for ice skating throughout the winter season.

Look for updates on the rink's status to be posted on the "Pine Plains Ice Rink" Facebook page.

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