



MILLERTON
Webutuck Senior Shares His Pandemic Experience **A2**



MILLBROOK
Alden Place Students Carry On 'Shady' Tradition **A4**



SPECIAL SECTION, B1

COMPASS

Education Programs At Sharon Playhouse; Eckert Gallery Moves To The Berkshires; And More **B1-3**

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PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Michael Drew held the door open to voters at Immaculate Conception-St. Patrick Parish in Amenia on Election Day, Tuesday, Nov. 3, both to direct them to the polls and to cut down on the number of people touching surfaces in hopes of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

The 2020 Election: Results and reactions

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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and
By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
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HARLEM VALLEY — Voters in the Harlem Valley are celebrating the results of the 2020 Election held on Tuesday, Nov. 3, and in the days and weeks leading up to Election Day thanks to the early and absentee voting allowed due to the coronavirus pandemic, are finally known.

On Thursday, Nov. 5, the New York State Board of Elections (BOE) calculated a total of 6,660,523 votes cast for the 2020 presidential election. Out of

those, the Democratic candidate, former Vice President Joseph Biden Jr. and his running mate, California Senator Kamala Harris, received 3,690,454 votes while Republican President Donald Trump and Vice President Michael Pence received 2,835,200 votes. As published in the Dutchess County BOE's unofficial election results, it received a total of 119,539 votes for the presidential election — 59,661 cast in support of Trump and Pence and 57,720 cast in support of Biden and Harris.

Whether they clicked on their television sets, scanned newspaper headlines or checked the world wide web, the

See **ELECTION RESULTS, A8**

From WWI veterans, in their own words

By **CAROL KNEELAND**
Special to The Millerton News

In honor of all who have sacrificed and served with the Armed Forces of this great country — excerpts of World War I writings available through the Amenia Historical Society, transcribed by Betsy Strauss, are being shared here now. The Millerton News is running a three-part series in recognition of Veterans Day. This is the second in the series. Although their hometowns aren't listed, Strauss confirmed the soldiers were from the Harlem Valley, the majority from Amenia.

Part II

In many letters, soldiers tried to send home a cheerful picture of conditions. But in his War Diary, Willard Joray made the day-to-day privations clear.

He wrote, "Arrived at St. Genevieve. Found the town in terrible condition, but inhabited. I am sleeping in a dirty room on the floor tonight. I understand that many spies are operating in this town." Sept. 5, 1918

"Heavy firing all night and today.

See **IN THEIR OWN WORDS, A8**

Webutuck reports first cases of COVID-19 in its schools

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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WEBUTUCK — One month after officially opening under a hybrid learning model, but nine months into the coronavirus pandemic, the North East (Webutuck) Central School District reported its first case of COVID-19 at Eugene Brooks Intermediate School (EBIS) on Friday, Nov. 6. The announcement prompted administrators to close all school buildings and shift to a full

remote learning model for all students. Days later, a second case was reported, this time at Webutuck Elementary School (WES).

At around 1:45 p.m. on Friday afternoon, Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani said the district was informed by EBIS nurse Charlie Davis, who was informed by a health provider, that there was an individual in the district who had tested positive for COVID-19. In order to protect the individual's identity, Castellani was un-

able to confirm whether the person in question is a student, teacher or faculty member. Likewise, he did not have information about the test that confirmed the positive COVID results.

Reacting quickly, Castellani said the district contacted the Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH), which guided it in terms of next steps and contact tracing. In turn, the district provided the DOH with all the individuals who

See **COVID CASES, A8**

Moviehouse goes up for sale

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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MILLERTON — Even as movie theaters across New York State outside of the city were given the green light to reopen Oct. 23 by Governor Andrew Cuomo and most have been taking the necessary steps to resume operations and welcome patrons back following March's statewide closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the curtain has begun its descent over The Moviehouse in Millerton. That's because theater owner and co-found-

er Carol Sadlon announced her decision last week to seek "new stewards" to lead and guide the theater's growth and evolution in the years to follow. That's right, The Moviehouse, one of the main retail anchors in the village's bustling pre-COVID business district, is now up for sale.

Under the patience and perseverance of Carol and her late husband, Robert, who first purchased the Main Street building in 1977, The Moviehouse has emerged as a treasured landmark in the village and its business district. Yet as a direct result of

the pandemic, the state-of-the-art theater was forced to shut its doors this past spring and move its business to a virtual platform in order to stay afloat. However, rather than be pessimistic about the unforeseen and unavoidable changes, Sadlon has focused her time and attention these past few months to take stock, reflect and observe where her business is and where she'd like it to be, as she wrote in a letter recently sent out to the community.

See **MOVIEHOUSE, A8**

Quilts of Valor offer comfort to heroic Pine Plains veterans

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
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PINE PLAINS — No one likes being forgotten. All those brave men and women who served in the U.S. military who were honored this Veterans Day — which fell on the eleventh day of the eleventh month this year — as in all years past since 1954 when the holiday was officially declared, and for all those World War I veterans honored since Armistice Day was originally commemorated on the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1919 until '54, are no exception. That's why programs like Quilts of Valor, which has volunteers sew handmade, patriotic-themed quilts for local veterans, are so special.

"I felt honored, obviously," said 91-year-old Korean War veteran Walden MacPherson, a lifelong Pine Plains resident whose family has lived in town for multiple generations, as has his wife's, Shirley. He spoke fondly of the quilt that his friend and fellow veteran's wife,

See **QUILTS OF VALOR, A8**



PHOTO BY RUTH KEELER

Pine Plains Korean War veteran Walden MacPherson received a Quilt of Valor from Lynne Clinch, who made the quilt herself while isolating at home with her husband, Vietnam veteran and past VFW Post 5519 Cmdr. Bobby Clinch, during the coronavirus pandemic.



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OPINION

Another Step For Local Journalism; Columns; Letters **B4**



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MILLERTON

Millerton teen Xin Wong talks about being a senior during a global pandemic

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Whether they opted for a remote or hybrid learning experience, Harlem Valley students had to adapt to a new normal as they embarked on the 2020-21 school year in the midst of the global coronavirus pandemic. These changes have stood out distinctly for high school seniors. Yet many students have chosen not to be defeated by the uncertainties of life under quarantine and have instead decided to work to the best of their abilities in pursuit of a brighter future. Such is the case for Xin Wong of Millerton, who recently shared the challenges of finishing his senior year at Webutuck High School during the pandemic as part of the Ancram Opera House's "Local Characters: Back to School" program.

"Local Characters" is a sister storytelling program to the Ancram Opera House's "Real People, Real Stories." Both are rooted in the idea that everyone has a story to tell. Ancram Opera House Director Paul Riccardi said the opera house has been doing "Real People, Real Stories" for five years and has since expanded to reach out to children and young adults, including those involved with the Teen Team program at the North East Community Center (NECC).

Riccardi explained that "Local Characters" was originally designed as live dialogue before an audience, just like a talk show. Just as they were developing the program, the Ancram Opera House went into lockdown due to COVID-19 and shifted the program to a virtual format in which people would be interviewed via Zoom. What might start out as a 30-minute interview is typically edited

down to five minutes, to share the essence of what the interviewee is talking about, Riccardi said.

"It's different from 'Real People, Real Stories,'" he explained, "but it's still someone telling a story. It's very quickly that you can sense the spirit of what someone is trying to say."

After conducting a round of interviews focused on a Mother's Day theme this past spring, "Local Characters" launched a second round of interviews in the fall, this time focusing on a back to school theme. The series was launched in three installments on Friday, Oct. 23; Friday, Oct. 30; and Friday, Nov. 6, featuring interviews with Beth Flores, a librarian at Taconic Hills Middle School; Ancramdale parent Colleen Lutz; and Xin.

When asked how he chose Xin, Riccardi said he met the Webutuck student through his involvement in Teen Team, since the Ancram Opera House and NECC partner together on a regular basis. This year marks Xin's fourth year with Teen Team, according to NECC Teen Program Director Jackie Osnato. Riccardi said Xin was very interested and eager to participate in "Local Characters," and that they talked about what it's like to be a senior during COVID-19 and what Xin has done these past nearly nine months.

"Xin was very matter-of-fact," Riccardi said. "I was really impressed that Xin was neither panicked, nor frustrated. Xin seemed to be looking at the pandemic straight in the eye and deal with what's in front of him. He's very focused on his studies; he's very focused on his future."

Indeed, Xin presents himself as calm and collected, even in the midst of a global catastrophe. With his parents scared about



Xin Wong

PHOTO SUBMITTED

his falling ill, Xin shared that he stayed indoors all summer, but kept active by working, engaging in virtual college tours and assembling puzzles in his spare time. As far as his plans go, he said they haven't changed that much. Looking ahead, he'd like to attend school somewhere close to home, perhaps studying for two years at Dutchess Community College and then transitioning to a four-year college. He shared his interest in studying accounting or another subject involving math and then pursuing a career that's "steady and independent."

Along with sharing his hopes on how the pandemic will transpire, Xin commented on the rise of social activism over the last few months and his hopes for a brighter future.

"I hope more adults read the news or care more about what's going to happen in the future," Xin said, adding that he was trying to get his parents to vote in the 2020 presidential election.

Based on what she's observed of Xin from his involvement in

the Teen Team leadership program and NECC's Teen Jobs program, Osnato praised the Millerton teen as a natural leader.

"He's very charismatic; he is willing to learn and eager to grow, he participates in a majority of activities and programs that are held through the community center with partners like the Ancram Opera House," she said, adding Xin attended "Real People, Real Stories" to watch his peers perform onstage. "He's a very supportive, active member of our group and he has a big heart. We love Xin."

Inspired by the ways in which Xin has stayed connected to his community while keeping himself and his family safe, Osnato said, "I think he has a real strong sense of what it takes to be a leader and what opportunities will be challenging for him, but he's willing to give that a try so he can grow. I'm also not surprised that he said yes to this opportunity because he's willing to grow."

To watch Xin's "Local Characters" interview, go to www.ancramoperahouse.com.

Village Board deflects AT&T request, reviews Mill Street bridge project

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILLERTON — Starting at 6 p.m., the Village Board got to work — reviewing the AT&T rent reduction proposal, assessing updates from its Highway Department, and more — at its regular meeting on Monday, Oct. 19.

The meeting was live streamed to the "Village of Millerton VOM" Facebook page due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The entire board was present, plus Village Clerk Kelly Kilmer, Millerton Police Officer in Charge Michael Veeder, Highway Supervisor Coleman Lawrence and Village Attorney Ian MacDonald.

Following the board's adoption of a negative declaration under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process for the Eddie Collins Memorial Field revitalization project, MacDonald brought up a proposal from AT&T. He reminded the board it had previously talked about a rent reduction and an increase in the lease term. The proposed reduction was about \$100 a month less than the current lease.

MacDonald said he spoke with a representative from Black Dot, a consultant that negotiates leases, about how there isn't much incentive for the village to agree to the reduction. In the past, he said AT&T has proposed rent guarantee periods as incentives for the village to agree to rent reductions. While there would be a lower monthly rent, he said AT&T would agree to pay the amount for a certain period of time, whereas under the current lease, the company has the ability to terminate its lease agreement with a one-year notice.

What Black Dot came back with, MacDonald explained, was a proposal to reduce the rent with the same amounts and terms so that AT&T would agree to a four-year guaranteed period. However, MacDonald said

it was up to the board and that there was nothing that would require the board to agree to it.

MacDonald pointed out that the village gets a slight increase percentage-wise each year, which will be taken off the table if the board decides to go ahead with the proposal. The rent will remain the same for the next four years, and he said it looks like AT&T wants to keep the rent the same for the next 10 years. In response to village Trustee Matthew Hartzog's question about the previous lease term, MacDonald said that lease term was five years and was last renewed in 2016. He added that AT&T has the one-way option to renew for additional five-year periods, and while there are at least five renewal terms, the village is already in the first renewal term with the second renewal term set to begin in February 2021. Additionally, AT&T can terminate at any time with one year's notice and can decide not to renew for an additional five-year term with 60 days' notice prior to the end of the term.

Until that time, the company is obligated to pay the village those rent amounts until the end of the four-year period. If the village accepts this proposal, MacDonald said, it would be getting less the amount of rent each month but it would be guaranteed to receive that for the next four years starting from February 2021. Otherwise, if the village doesn't accept the proposal, he said AT&T is required to pay the higher rental amount, which increases 2.5% per year under the terms of the current lease, though the company can terminate that with one year's notice at any time.

After mulling over the information, the board ultimately decided not to act on the request at this time, though Mayor Debbie Middlebrook said AT&T can revisit the issue in six months.

Among the items featured his report, Lawrence talked about information he received from

the engineering, environmental consulting and landscape architecture company Tighe & Bond, which sent him a report on the Mill Street Bridge improvement project. Totalling \$16,000, he said the report contained the bridge design services, the alternative analysis and the analysis for finding available grants to get the work completed.

Taking in the project's overall cost, Middlebrook said the board will have to get written bids. Hartzog asked if the village has a "drop dead date" for when it needs to fix the bridge, to which Lawrence replied no, and that the village has been in contact with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) with regard to this project. He added the biggest concern is that the bridge can go to "red flag" at any moment, resulting in it needing to be shut down immediately with no alternatives.

"I'd certainly hate to see the Mill Street Bridge shut down," said Trustee Jenn Najdek. "However, there's an easy enough access point if you go up the other way... Nobody would be stuck."

"I think if we continue to do our due diligence and keep going with it, the DOT will be fine," Lawrence said. "As long as we keep going along and do what we need to do, eventually we'll be able to remedy these situations, but it's not something that has to be done tomorrow."

Middlebrook and the Village Board talked about whether they should look to for grants to do the bridge work. While Tighe & Bond has said it will do the engineering work and help the village search for grants for the project work at a price of \$16,000, Middlebrook said the village will have to look at other engineering companies to compare prices, while Lawrence said he will also have to look into alternative processes since "there are multiple ways of addressing this situation. There are a lot of factors to consider — it's a big

process," he said.

Middlebrook asked Hartzog and Village Trustee Joshua Schultz to meet with Lawrence to figure out what information is needed to solicit bids from other engineering firms. She said the board also needs to first find out what's wrong with the bridge to put out those bids.

Lawrence was then asked to send the board the Tighe & Bond report as well as the information he received from the NYSDOT with details of what's actually wrong with the bridge for the board to review.

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Sunday in the Country

Food drive names raffle winners

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Ten supporters of the Sunday in the Country Food Drive (SITCFD) got lucky as they helped raise some of the vitally needed funds to help provide holiday meals for some 600 area residents in need.

With requests for the food baskets still coming in and COVID-19 restrictions shutting down the decades-old organization's traditional fundraising events, the raffle loomed large as the community stepped up to provide prizes.

Bill Anstett, who co-heads the food drive with his wife, Colleen McGhee, announced the results of the Sunday night drawings on Nov. 1. Rob Cooper won a handmade star quilt created by Anstett's sister-in-law, Kristal McGhee, valued between \$300 and \$400. Bill McGhee will be enjoying a \$200 Thanksgiving turkey with the traditional sides from McEnroe Organic Farm. Gift cards valued at \$200 each went to winner Joe McEnroe from Taylor Oil in Millerton, to Doris Carberry from the Millerton restaurant and bar, 52 Main and to Theresa Eisermann from The Black Rabbit bar and grill in Lakeville, Conn. The \$100 gift cards were won by Fred Stevenson courtesy of Daisey Hill Farm in Millerton, to Cheryl Ellis given by North East Muffler, to Willie Hallihan from Herrington's Hardware in Millerton and Lakeville and to Sarah and Tom Cahill from Silamar Farm in Millerton.

Anstett estimated the raffle brought in approximately \$6,000 of the \$40,000 he expects will be needed to provide the traditional holiday meals to those who would otherwise go without. He said that with the pandemic, "everything" has changed and so nothing has been finalized, from the

number of baskets needed to the total costs, and noted that in addition to the holiday baskets, the organization fulfills a variety of special requests throughout the year.

Without the other fundraisers, Anstett said SITCFD is relying on the generosity of its usual donors. He doesn't know for certain if the virus will impact donations, because "People give different amounts every year. I'm not saying it's any less, really, but it's certainly slower."

In addition to changes in fundraising, the actual process involved in distribution will be modified.

"Unfortunately, we can't really have the volunteer help we usually do," Anstett said. "We're trying to keep the numbers limited due to COVID. Typically we have some younger people to help us, but we just can't do it this year. We're going to be on sort of a skeleton crew."

Even with the smaller group, Anstett is confident they will manage to pack and distribute the necessary items to the Tri-state food pantries that request the meals.

"The core group that I have that I'm going to use has been with the group for a long time, so they know the ins and outs, which is good, and it goes along pretty smoothly," he said. "It'll be a little more work this year, but we've done it so many years in a row that we've got it down pretty good."

He is hopeful next year things will change and allow a return to normalcy. Meanwhile, they're already planning another raffle after the first of the year to raise more money.

To donate to the nonprofit, go to www.sundayinthecountry.org or send a check to Sunday in the Country Food Drive, P.O. Box 789, Millerton, NY 12546. For details, call Anstett at 845-206-5938.

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Senator Serino files to impound absentee ballots

By KAITLIN LYLE
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AMENIA — The Amenia Democratic Committee flagged a recent lawsuit filed by State Senator Sue Serino (R-41), who was just re-elected, requesting absentee ballots from Dutchess and Putnam Counties be impounded.

Serino, a Republican who also ran on Conservative, Independence and Rebuild Our State party lines, won with 61,340 votes in Dutchess County over Democratic challenger Karen Smythe, who earned 45,504 votes in Dutchess County.

According to documents submitted to the Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Dutchess on Monday, Nov. 2, Serino filed a request for judicial intervention against the New York State Board of Elections, the Dutchess County Board of Elections, the Putnam County Board of Elections and Smythe. New York's 41st State Senate District includes portions of Dutchess and Putnam Counties.

The petition acknowledged that the 2020 election "already has an unprecedented number of paper ballots being cast, many of which are being sent via the mail [which will be received after the election]" due to COVID-19 and changes to New York State laws. There was also an increase in affidavit ballots due to the changes, and the petition noted that the influx of mail-in and other paper ballots "necessarily means that the outcome of most all elections in this state will NOT be determined by the election night canvass." Additionally, the petition stated several Boards of Elections planned to alter their canvassing process "so as to reduce or eliminate poll watchers from having meaningful and effective access..."

to ballots so they might make objections to absentee, military, special, affidavit or federal ballots."

The state senator did not make herself available to respond to this newspaper's questions. But included in Serino's reasons for filing to impound the ballots provided by her office, the petition took into account that several of the machines used in the election may have been defective — resulting in inaccurate vote tallies — and that the computer-operated optical scan machines may not have been fully or properly tested, thereby creating issues related to overvoting, security and fraudulent attacks that could compromise results. Serino requested that the court preserve the ballots until the canvass and recanvass of the paper ballots has been conducted by the Boards of Elections.

"This was filed just to preserve the integrity of the election," said Candice Giove, a spokeswoman with the Senate Republican Campaign Committee.

Giove explained that this action essentially makes sure all of the ballots are secured. Kara Cumoletti, director of communications and operations in Serino's office, noted it is a standard process "when you think a race might be decided on the absentees in order to maintain the integrity of the process and ensure that all legitimate votes are counted appropriately."

However, Giove said since Smythe had already conceded, the issue is moot.

Explaining how impounding ballots works, Dutchess County Board of Elections Republican Commissioner of Elections Erik Haight said it's an order to show cause that has been dismissed, though he noted Serino's "decisive landslide victory" over Smythe won't require judicial intervention.

Nevertheless, Serino's request to have the absentee ballots impounded before Election Day raised concern from the Amenia Democratic Committee, not to mention Amenia voters, many of whom were worried their votes weren't counted. As of late last week, the committee heard from voters who contacted

Serino's office and had either not received a response by the end of last week or were told to contact Serino's campaign for answers.

"I personally did not vote via absentee ballot," said Amenia Councilman Damian Gutierrez, "but I have had a number of people who reached out who did vote via absent-

tee ballot and they're livid that their vote has not yet been counted and they want to know why Sue Serino filed this lawsuit."

The Amenia Democratic Committee (ADC) asked Serino for answers on its Facebook page, though it has yet to receive a reply.

"People in Amenia took the

time to vote," said ADC member Polly Pitts-Garvin. "All those votes count and by her impounding them, they're not read and it's a legal challenge before the vote is even in. People need to have their votes counted, and they're stuck in limbo... People should know that this is what she's up to, even before the vote."

2021 preliminary budget hearing held

By KAITLIN LYLE
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AMENIA — The Town Board held a public hearing on the 2021 preliminary budget on Thursday, Nov. 5. The board met in-person at Town Hall but also live-streamed the hearing to YouTube due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Before the budget hearing, a public hearing on the 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) application was held. Councilman Damian Gutierrez invited all citizens to submit ideas for the grant application, either through the video's live chat or in person. There were no comments; the hearing quickly adjourned.

The public hearing for the budget opened shortly thereafter. Within the first 15 minutes, residents posed questions, voiced concerns and asked for clarification of next year's budget. The board was asked about the amount of money available in the town's reserve fund; the reason behind the 22.49% increase in taxes; about the lawyer responsible for giving advice about the proper reserve amount; and the rationale behind the decision to exceed the state's 2% tax cap. The board was also asked to clearly explain its fiscal policy to taxpayers.

Resident David Broser commented that the state has been very clear about budget increases.

"I think under extraordinary circumstances, that's what it's designed to do, is to look to raise budgets when there's difficult times or something's needed," he said. "I went through the budget tonight and I really don't see where the money's going."

Based on his own familiarity with the various lawsuits facing the town due to allegedly unfair property appraisals, Broser said he'd like to know what the town has for reserves for lawsuits and who the lawyer is who is giving advice for its reserve fund.

"Obviously in the positions that you guys are in working for the town — which obviously I appreciate and every town member appreciates — you're doing your job," Broser said, "but you also have a fiduciary duty to all of us and for some reason, you do need to pay back some of the money involving these lawsuits. The last thing I want to happen as a town member is for this town to have major financial problems due to spending and not putting proper reserves in it."

Responding to a comment about the board exceeding the 2% tax cap, Gutierrez said it isn't going to raise taxes 2%. Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti said the 2% increase has nothing to do with the tax cap, adding that the tax cap doesn't equal 2%. The way the law reads, she explained, is that the tax cap is raised either 2% or the cost

of inflation. As the rate of inflation equals 1.56%, that's what the tax cap would be this year, she said.

Gutierrez explained that New York State law dictates that the growth in the annual levy is limited to the lesser of 2% or the consumer price index (CPI), subject to conditions. This year's inflation is less than 2%, Gutierrez said, so if the town needs to exceed the 1.56%, it would need to pass a resolution to be able to do so. It doesn't mean it will, but it needs the resolution, just in case it does.

"It's likely that's going to happen," Perotti said.

She explained that one of the reasons this possibility is likely is because the board is looking at a reduction in state aid and a reduction in growth sales tax revenue from Dutchess County, reflecting a shortfall in revenue of more than \$190,000 due to COVID-related factors affecting businesses and other sales tax producing areas. As a direct result of COVID-19, Perotti said the town is expecting almost \$200,000 less in revenue next year compared to this year, and while the town usually receives \$90,000 in growth tax, she was told the town will not be getting that money next year.

Speaking on behalf of his family as longtime Amenia business and property owners, John Stefanopoulos of Four Brothers Pizza Inn shared his family's excitement for the town's future growth and their eagerness to have improvements happen "as long as it's all better for its constituents." He

raised concerns about increasing expenses in budget spending and the tax levy "without any supporting reasoning or documents detailing how and why," along with cuts in services with taxes steadily increasing. They're confused how money is being spent, he said, "since we haven't seen a benefit from increased spending. It's growing increasingly difficult to operate our business in town and make it appealing for people to invest and move here," Stefanopoulos said.

Recreation Director Kelly Milano said parents were shocked to learn the summer camp program was cut for next year. She said the town needs to think about its children and seniors and about building its rec program up instead of deconstructing it.

"Nobody is just sitting here and cutting/slashing the budget without a lot of thought going into it," Perotti said. "It's been a difficult year; we don't know what we'll be getting in revenue, nothing is getting less expensive, so we're just trying to do a budget we can."

Perotti noted that the town's first preliminary budget was submitted to the town clerk on Thursday, Oct. 15; a second preliminary budget was submitted on Friday, Oct. 23. The board had an additional meeting to pare down whatever costs it could. The town intends to use \$275,000 from the general fund, \$50,000 from the highway fund and \$100,000 in the water fund to offset its loss of revenue.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Amenia Garden Club took a moment to enjoy the fruits of its labor after working together to restore Borden Park to its full potential in the hamlet of Wassaic this summer.

Amenia Garden Club seeks volunteers at Borden Park

By KAITLIN LYLE
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WASSAIC — After a fruitful summer spent weeding, watering and tending Borden Park, members of the Amenia Garden Club have been enjoying the fruits of their labor as they watch the park bloom in the hamlet of Wassaic. Now that autumn is here, the club is getting ready to start maintenance and cleanup work and is looking for volunteers interested in helping do exactly that.

Since the club initiated its restoration efforts last year, its members have been keeping busy with the many rewarding tasks involved in bringing Borden Park back to its full potential. After completing the necessary clearing and other preparations last summer and fall, it started replanting this past spring, said member Andy Durbridge, who thanked the small group of volunteers who helped plant some new material this past May.

Once the park was fully planted, Durbridge said the club organized a small, dedicated band of members, friends and volunteers to help keep the weeds at bay and manage a regular watering schedule. At this point in time, he said weeding will be ongoing as needed.

In an update issued by the Amenia Garden Club in July, the

club gave thanks to its members for helping out with chores and put out a call for volunteers to help maintain the park throughout the summer and into the fall. Specific tasks for maintaining the park included helping with the ongoing weeding in and under new plants and cutting back the woody invasive plants and weeds along the creekside. The club explained that the weeding could be done at anytime in small visits to suit volunteers' schedules. They hoped to get most of the invasive plants and weeds cut back by early September, and then again next May.

Among the enhancements made to Borden Park over the last few months, new bench-tables have been installed and are now being used by park visitors. With help from the town of Amenia, park signage has been updated and replaced. Overall, Durbridge commented, the park now has higher visibility and usage due to its location at the junction of the new extension of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, which extends from the Metro-North Wassaic Train Station to the center of the hamlet.

With November now here, Durbridge remarked, "We are happy to say our efforts were rewarded and the new planting is looking good."

As far as how COVID has affected the club, Durbridge said,

"Like everyone else, we have had to make adjustments in how we operate due to COVID. It is a challenge, but with care, we have been able to take small steps in what we do."

For now, there will be no gatherings or events, and Durbridge said club members have remained flexible about how to participate. As a way for the community to show its support, he mentioned when people shop on Amazon, they can designate the Amenia Garden Club through the Amazon Smile program to donate a to support the club.

"While the pandemic persists, we are limited, but remain available via the website and hope to expand local efforts as soon as we can," Durbridge said. "We will make changes to suit our operation, and remain optimistic that things will improve in time."

With fall, the Amenia Garden Club hopes to do a little more maintenance and clean up at the park, while abiding by COVID-19 guidelines. Such work includes enhancing the park's creekside area, cleaning up the park and adding more wood-chip ground cover — all of which will depend on how many volunteers step forward to assist and can arrange their schedules to help.

To volunteer, go to www.ameniagardens.org or email ameniagardenclub@gmail.com.

The Lakeville Journal Company

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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.

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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.

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— The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC

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MILLBROOK

Alden Place students are rooted in the community

MILLBROOK — Nine months into the coronavirus pandemic and students around the Harlem Valley are slowly returning to their brick and mortar schools, including some third-graders at Alden Place Elementary School in Millbrook, who helped uphold a tradition of planting a new tree at the school.

The students, part of the Graduating Class of 2030, planted the birch tree as a welcome gift for future incoming third-graders.

Though usually done in the spring by students leaving Elm Drive Elementary School who are newly starting at Alden Place,

due to the pandemic the planting was postponed this spring. The third-grade classes have been in the hybrid learning mode, but as of Monday, Nov. 9, all students will be have returned to their classrooms.

The tree was generously donated by Patrick Murphy of Millbrook Gardens. Some students were able to get their hands dirty and help plant it at a ceremony that took place on Monday, Nov. 2. Those who were present also signed a basketball that will be safely kept by the district until the students reach their graduation in the year 2030, when the basketball will be presented to them.

— Judith O'Hara Balfe



PHOTO BY JULIE RUIGE

Left, Alden Place Elementary School Principal Thomas Libka watched as third-grader Kipton Knittel helped shovel dirt to cover the roots of a new birch tree while his fellow classmates looked on.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CARY INSTITUTE OF ECOSYSTEM STUDIES

Bears are just one species that can do damage to property. Deer, rabbits, beavers and many others can also do damage.

Is stewardship of wildlife for you?

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judith@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies recently presented a three-part video series entitled, "An Ecological Approach to Wildlife Stewardship," helpful to those who want to live in line with nature.

Aired in three parts, on Sept. 30, Oct. 7 and Oct. 14, they can be viewed on the Cary Institute's website, free of charge, and are a fascinating study of how to be at one with the natural world.

The first presentation was "Wildlife Ecology and Management," which looked at life from an ecological perspective. Julie Hart, of the Dutchess Wildlife Conservancy and a former Cary Institute scientist, spoke of the region's history, from being covered in ice from 8,000 to 12,000 years ago to its revitalization when erosion caused soil to form during the reforestation period. When people arrived and stripped the land, hunted the wildlife until in the mid 1800s, about 80% of the land had been cleared and many animals and other wildlife fled or nearly reached extinction. Since the 1950s and '60s, another reforestation has taken place, bringing back many forms of wildlife.

The series also discussed planning, and why it's so important. It discussed animals to study when studying conservation, and its food sources. One food source may be fallen trees, or dead trees. Hart said if they are not too close to one's home to be a danger, to let them stand. If fallen, let them lie. They provide shelter, nesting space and are a habitat for many insects that birds and other small animals eat.

Kaylee Resha, of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTFF), agreed with Hart's ideas and had her own information and advice, pointing out that the NWTFF also studies other smaller animals. She agreed research should be done on animals, their habits and their needs. They said there's interconnectivity among all species of animals, plant life and humans, and a change in one impacts the others. The Cary's Mike Fargione spoke about the use of cameras in identifying wildlife and studying their behavior. He presented a video explaining the technical issues of using a trail camera.

The second workshop was about threats to wildlife. Unfortunately, Hart pointed out, most

animals, insects and birds end their lives being eaten by other species, or even their own. Whenever change takes place, it can affect the availability of food, habitat or shelter. The harm it can cause to some species, or the good it can cause to others, can run the gamut. The series addressed property management from an ecological view. It can entail actively working the land to create a specific habitat type. Nature can change vegetation over time. Property management can be used to create a desired wildlife habitat. In New York, this is important because there is a lack of timber harvesting causing a lack of age diversity in forests. Timber harvesting can help in thinning forests, allowing new growth, and possibly generating money, which can go back into the management process. With property management, a realistic goal is vital, as is research. Invasive plants and species can be eliminated or managed, as can pathogens and forest pests, but they all must be identified to be managed, as they can all constitute a threat to food, shelter and the safety of wildlife.

To read about the third part of the series, go to www.tricornnews.com.

Email news and photos to
editor@millertonnews.com

Thorne Building overlay zoning approved following public hearing

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judith@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Village Board met on Tuesday, Oct. 13, at Village Hall. General business was dealt with and department reports submitted.

The Police Department reported that a number of its officers and some members of the Village Board have been attending the police reform meetings with Dutchess County. This is an ongoing process to update police procedures and policies county wide following a mandate from Governor Andrew Cuomo. Cuomo said if all New York police agencies don't reassess their practices by April 2021, and bring community members into the conversation, they may lose out on state funding.

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro is also pushing for police reform under the governor's mandate, and has asked the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office to help. Its policy book is guid-

ing municipalities throughout the county. The sheriff's office will also help train local agencies with complaint procedures; use of force protocols as well as transparency and community policies. This fall it will train departments in procedural justice, and in the spring it will offer training in implicit bias.

Other village news

Highway Department head Bob Collocola reported bids have been received for the furnace/burner repairs at Village Hall, but added one more bid is needed. The same is true for the roof repair of the annex at Village Hall. He also reported on the planting of three trees: one on Merritt Avenue, one at the Village Garage and one at Elm Drive Elementary School in the spring, possibly on Arbor Day. The trees are in the budget and are replacing trees that had to be removed. He was also asked to get a bid on repairing the memorial on Route 343, which was damaged earlier this year.

A public hearing was held to approve overlay zoning for the

ment of Health. Town employees will be working from home for the duration of the month to keep from catching and potentially spreading the deadly virus, and anyone who had an appointment at Town Hall will be contacted to reschedule.

People who require service should call 845-677-3419, ext. 100 and leave a message in the town clerk's voice mail system. Calls will be reviewed and disseminated when appropriate. Emails will not necessarily be checked during quarantine.

"We will be reviewing how we can best serve you during this unprecedented time period," stated the town press release.

Alex also added that the Transfer Station will remain open for permit holders. Those who do not have a punch card will be billed for usage at a later date.

Hunting licenses may be purchased at Orvis Sandanona, located at 3047 Sharon Tpke., Millbrook, or on the New York State Department of Environmental

Conservation (DEC) website, www.dec.ny.gov. Orvis is open to the public, seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thanksgiving excluded.

The following services will not be available until further notice: marriage licenses, Justice Court services, building permits or inspections and assessment information. Updates will be added when available.

"The town apologizes for the inconvenience this may cause, however it appreciates everyone's understanding as its employees get healthy," it stated.

Contact the town clerk via email at malex@washingtontny.org or call the number above and she will disseminate your requests to the appropriate employees.

Alex added these words of advice to all residents: "Be well, wear a mask and wash your hands."

Anyone who has exhibited COVID-19 symptoms should contact a medical practitioner immediately.

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.

Email news and photos to
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Thinking locally can also mean thinking outside the box

Chef Dan Kish consults nationally for the food industry, but for the past 20 years, he and his wife Cindie have also fed three kids here in Millbrook.

"I know how challenging that can be," he says. That's why Dan started Market Kitchen — available at Marona's — because, "what's good for Millbrook is good for the rest of the country."

Dan came to the Bank of Millbrook with an innovative approach to small-town business. Build an industrial kitchen for his national business and keep it busy by bringing in catering and production for boutique labels, all while making fresh, affordable food for the village. Not every bank would see the value in that kind of outside-the-box thinking. We saw it as the kind of business we'd like to help Dan build.

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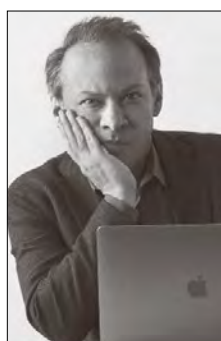
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Adam Gopnik

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PINE PLAINS

Pine Plains pays tribute to veterans past and present

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — It was with immense pride that the Pine Plains community paid its respect to local heroes as the American Legion Post 426 and the Pine Plains Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 5519 organized the town's annual Veterans Day ceremony on Saturday morning, Nov. 7.

Beginning at 11 a.m., the ceremony was held in front of the American Legion Hall at 9 North Main St. Respecting COVID-19 protocols, community members wore face masks and kept a safe distance from one another as they stood along the curb or sat in the chairs placed on the lawn in front of the Post home.

Commencing the ceremony, American Legion Post 426 Cmdr. Marie Stewart invited attending veterans to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

"November 11th is a special day reserved to recognize all American veterans," Stewart said in her opening speech. "Veterans



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Wife of Pine Plains Vietnam veteran Bob Clinch, Lynne Clinch, center, volunteered with the national Quilts of Valor program this year to provide comfort to local veterans touched by war (see story on this week's front page). She was at the town's Veterans Day ceremony on Saturday morning, Nov. 7.

Day recognizes all living veterans and those who have passed away."

Regardless of age or back-

ground, Stewart observed that "military service finds us all," and she encouraged her fellow neighbor to reach out to thank

a veteran for their service.

With the year 2020 marking the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, Stewart, on be-

half of the American Legion and the VFW, thanked veterans for their courage, selfless duty and sacrifice in every corner of the world. Among other military anniversaries, she said this year also marks the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War, and that Gulf War veterans will celebrate the 30th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm this January.

In recognition of the kindness and support community members have shown toward their local veterans, Stewart presented Pine Plains' Lynne Clinch with a bouquet of flowers to thank her for her work in creating four Quilts of Valor to provide comfort to those touched by war. The quilts have since been distributed to local veterans Wally MacPherson, Allan Blackmar, Mort Jackson and Bob Clinch. (For more on the Quilts of Valor, read this week's front page.)

Calling attention to the new Hometown Heroes banners around town, Stewart announced that applications for the patriotic program are available to sponsor a banner. For more

information, call 518-398-8600 ext. 1 (see story, this page).

Bob Clinch, a past post commander of the VFW and current member of the American Legion, announced that the American Legion received approval on its request to have Evergreen Cemetery be involved in the national Wreaths Across America program, and that applications to sponsor a wreath for National Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, Dec. 19, are now available. For more information, call 518-398-7056 or 518-821-7450.

American Legion Post Chaplain George Keeler led the ceremony's attendees in a final prayer that called for the courage to live in peace. He called for unity.

"God bless our servicemen," Keeler said.

Stewart then brought the ceremony to a close with a touching poem she read in tribute.

"Veterans are those who stand up and fight/because they know it's right," she read aloud. "It's time we pay tribute for all they have done/They are all heroes each and every one."

Preliminary budget adopted, Zoning Review Committee formed

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Taking the next step in the 2021 budget development process, the Town

Board held a public hearing for the 2021 preliminary budget at its meeting on Monday, Nov. 2.

Starting at 7 p.m., the board met in-person in the Community Room above the Pine Plains

Free Library. The meeting was also live-streamed to the "Town of Pine Plains" YouTube page, due to the coronavirus pandemic; it can be viewed there now.

Town Supervisor Darrah Cloud said she hadn't received any comments via email and asked if the board had, to which board members replied that they hadn't. Though there were no comments to address, Cloud said they should wait five minutes before closing the public hearing. She then used the time to review the document the board receives every year pertaining to how it should handle all budget meetings, checking off the steps the board has completed thus far in the 2021 budget review process.

For future reference, Cloud said the board might want to enact a policy that requires the Town Board to have the preliminary budget passed before the November elections.

"We had until the fifth of November to pass it," she said, "but considering what happened in Stanford, it might behoove us to have a policy to have the preliminary budget passed before the election."

The board was reminded of the drastic tax cut that was

found in neighboring Stanford's 2020 budget the previous year. Totalling 59.8%, the unauthorized tax cut had occurred between the approval that town's preliminary budget and its final budget.

Pine Plains Councilman Matthew Zick reminded the board it still needed to OK its final budget, which could still be changed, even if the preliminary budget was approved before the election. Cloud responded by saying the preliminary budget "can only go down between preliminary and final — it cannot go up."

With no further comments, the board closed the public hearing and Cloud called the board meeting to order.

The board then passed the 2021 preliminary budget, plus the elected officials' salaries. The fiscal document can be seen online, at www.pineplains-ny.gov.

Zoning Review Committee
Cloud then presented the board with a resolution to create a Zoning Review Committee (ZRC) and spoke about how to do so. She explained that Sarah Yackel, one of the planners from BfJ Planning involved in updating the town's Comprehensive Plan, emailed Cloud to

explain that the town doesn't really need a ZRC, given that a review committee was involved in updating the comprehensive plan. Cloud said she still thought the board would want a ZRC as "there's some other language in the zoning code that we want to change."

BfJ Planning suggested the Town Board hire a planner to "just get us the language to create the changes," Cloud said, adding that she spoke with two planners, both of whom agreed a planner should work with the Town Board. If the board still wants a ZRC, the planners suggested they look over the work, make changes to the language and any other additions.

At that point, Cloud said it'd become a review committee for the language that's been developed by the planner from all the work the board did on the Comprehensive Plan's update.

"I then realized we don't need to make a decision about how this runs: we can put out the RFP [Request for Proposals] for a planner, talk to that person and then figure out what their recommendation is in terms of how we should go forward," Cloud said. "What they're nervous about is this becomes a

three-year process of people haggling over language. I don't think that's our situation."

While the planners told Cloud the town doesn't need a ZRC, she said she still thinks it would be great. She suggested the board work with a planner on its recommendations for the changes it wants and then the planner work with the ZRC on those changes, all while keeping the board constantly in the loop. Cloud added the board can figure this out once they hire a planner.

Councilwoman Sarah Jones said she thought there was a lot of usefulness in the board discussing the kind of zoning changes it wants and emphasized that the board needs to focus on its priorities.

Cloud said the board could pass a resolution to create a Zoning Review Committee "and if we find out we don't need it, then we don't have to use it, but we might want to use it."

Looking ahead, Cloud suggested seven members for the committee; the board discussed how to solicit volunteers.

After further discussion, the board decided to pass a resolution to form a Zoning Review Committee.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Ginocchio Electric employees took great care installing a banner honoring the late Shannon Kent, a Navy senior chief petty officer from Pine Plains who was killed along with three other Americans in an Isis suicide bombing in the Syrian city of Manbig in January 2019.

Hometown Heroes honored

PINE PLAINS — Just in time for Veterans Day, the town of Pine Plains began installing its Hometown Heroes banners earlier this month in honor of those who have served or are currently serving their country.

Working in conjunction with the American Legion Post 426 and the Pine Plains Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) 5519, the Hometown Heroes program was instituted earlier this year to pay tribute to those who served in the U.S. military.

As a way to honor these heroes, local families and organizations have been invited to sponsor a banner that would be installed across town later in the year. The town began installing the banners on Monday, Nov. 2, starting at South Main Street with plans to work across a section of Route 199.

Alice Hanback-Nuccio, secretary to town Supervisor Darrah Cloud, said the town plans to do this program on a yearly basis and is hoping to hang all of the banners by the time winter arrives.

"Each flag with a hanging bracket costs \$200," but the town has offered to help "if needed," according to Cloud.

"Thank you to the ones whose photographs are on the flags now flying above the streets and the families of those people for sponsoring them," Cloud wrote in her recent newsletter about the banners, expressing her appreciation to other volunteers who have helped. "[Thanks, too, to] Kyle Lougheed and his crew, Bob Clinch, Gregg Pulver and the Elms, for putting the first 12 up. There will be more flags as people bring us the information."

"This is a wonderful way to honor and celebrate the men and women who have served our country through military service," Hanback-Nuccio said. "It has been a humbling experience to learn of their stories, and I feel privileged to be a part of this project."

To fill out a request for a banner, contact Contact Hanback-Nuccio at Town Hall at 518-398-8600, ext. 1.

— Kaitlin Lyle

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ARCHIVE PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Between the casual riders and the seasoned cyclists, last year's Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour attracted more than 580 participants to tour the scenic views offered throughout Columbia County's Roe Jan area.

Roe Jan Ramble canceled due to COVID, bike tours move online

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

COPAKE — Under ordinary circumstances, cyclists of all levels of experience would come pouring into Columbia County in the fall to take part in the Roe Jan Ramble, an annual community event sponsored by the towns of Ancram, Copake and Hillsdale, created to raise awareness and donations to support the Harlem Valley Rail Trail. While the Roe Jan Ramble won't be taking place this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, cyclists can ramble through the region on their own by checking out the scenic routes posted on the event's website, www.roe-janramble.org.

In addition to five new routes for cyclists to explore, event organizers have posted the race routes from the 2018 and 2019 Roe Jan Rambles to give cyclists a chance to relive the glory of previous rides. The five new routes feature a 19-mile

Copake-Taghkanic-Ancram route, a 33.8-mile Hillsdale-Copake-Ancram route, a 21.6-mile Copake-Ancram route, a 12.6-mile Hillsdale route and a 16-mile Hillsdale route.

As listed online, the suggested routes are on paved, lightly traveled public roads as well as sections of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, "winding through lovely farmland, rolling hills and the picturesque hamlets of the Roe Jan Area in Columbia County."

Cyclists can visit the website to get printable maps and cue sheets for the different routes.

"We're disappointed we can't offer a group event this year," the website states. "But we hope you'll find personal enjoyment in setting out on your own."

Though the pandemic has changed the way in which people are able to gather this year, cyclists and visitors of the Roe Jan area are welcome to explore the scenic rides while exercising the necessary health and

safety precautions. In spite of the challenges posed by COVID, Columbia County Tourism Promotions Specialist Amy Farrell noted how these self tours have helped promote the region. Whether they're taking a pseudo-hike or walk with their immediate family members or in a small group, she said the tours give folks a chance to "explore their own backyard and look to see what they haven't gone to before."

As far as how the Ramble's cancellation may impact local communities, Ancram town Supervisor Art Bassin said he didn't think it will do much harm.

"We have been seeing a very large number of bicyclists riding our roads this spring and summer, caused probably by the large influx of people coming into the area from the city," Bassin said. "I expect this year's virtual ramble will have the largest number of riders ever."

And there's still time, despite

temperatures dropping, though this past week was abnormally warm for November. Chilly fall mornings and evenings are a great time to squeeze in a ride before winter arrives. Although the clocks changed back on Sunday, Nov. 1, with Daylight Saving Time and everyone lost a little bit of sunlight, there's still plenty of time to get in a pleasant ambling ride, or for those wanting more of a challenge, an invigorating miles-long race along the Ramble routes — so make sure to grab that tire pump and check out the options.

"The Roe Jan Ramble Bike Tour has grown every year and so I am betting that if we are able to do a Ramble next year there will be record participation," said Copake Supervisor Jeanne Mettler. "It is a wonderful event which not only raises cyclists' awareness of our area but has also raised significant money for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail."

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



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Directed by José Alberto Velázquez Campoverde, festival spectators watched in awe as "El Grupo Folklórico P'urhépecha," an indigenous dance from Mexico, unfolded on their screens.

Artists take the world stage for social change

Performers from across the globe united to showcase their talents on a virtual platform as part of the first Virtual International Arts Festival for Social Change. Organized and broadcast via Zoom by Pine Plains native and part-time Ancram resident Mark DeGarmo, of Mark DeGarmo Dance (MDD), the festival spotlighted 138 scholars and artists from 18 different countries and 12 time zones during three days.

Running throughout the month of October, and beginning on Tuesday, Oct. 17,

the festival kicked off with a "Cutting Edge Global Video Series" curated from Melbourne, Australia, by Anne Harris, Annette Markham and M.E. Luka. On Wednesday, Oct. 28, viewers sat in awe as they watched "El Grupo Folklórico P'urhépecha," an indigenous dance from Mexico directed by José Alberto Velázquez Campoverde, unfold. The festival concluded on Thursday, Oct. 29, with an emerging dance performance from MDD's Virtual Salon Performance Series in the United States.

— Kaitlin Lyle

COVID-19 not the only danger

Ticks remain a concern this fall

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY — With residents tired of self isolating due to the COVID-19 pandemic, eager to take advantage of the early fall weather and spend as much time outside before winter makes its presence known, Dutchess County officials remind everyone to keep alert and check for ticks and tick bites — as tick-borne diseases, including Lyme Disease, remain a very real danger.

"For months, we have been rightly focused on how to protect ourselves and our families from COVID-19," Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro remarked in a press release on the subject. "However, it is important to remember that Lyme disease is the most reported disease in Dutchess County, so we must be equally vigilant about protecting against ticks and the diseases they carry."

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has advised on its website, www.dec.ny.gov, to avoid walking through dense woods and bushy areas and to avoid contact with soil, leaf litter and vegetation, as ticks typically cling to tall grass, brush and shrubs.

The DEC also recommends people stay on cleared, well-trailed trails when hiking and to walk in the center of trails. Other precautions include wearing light-colored clothing with a tight weave in order to spot ticks easily as well as enclosed shoes, long pants and long-sleeved shirts. When going outdoors, it's recommended people tuck their pant legs into their socks or boots and their shirts into their pants, and to keep their hair tied back. Clothes should be checked frequently for ticks as should any exposed skin. As a preventative measure, anyone headed outside might want to consider wearing



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Squirrels, like these red squirrels found searching for sunflower seeds in a shady backyard, are known to carry the ticks that can transmit Lyme disease.

insect repellent on their clothes, preferably ones that contain DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus and IR3535 — all of which repels ticks and other insects.

After spending quality time with Mother Nature, the DEC recommends one bathes or showers as soon as possible to wash off and find ticks they might have missed, preferably within two hours of coming indoors. On top of doing one last full-body tick check for themselves at the end of the day, they should also check their children and pets for ticks and remove any ticks they find as soon as possible.

The Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health also recommended that county residents place their clothing in the dryer on high heat for 30 minutes to kill any ticks that might be lingering on the fabric of their clothing after spending time outside.

"Containment and mitigation of coronavirus is certainly what we are focused on, but just

because one disease is posing a greater threat, doesn't mean the others stop," Behavioral and Community Health Commissioner Dr. Anil Vaidian stated this spring. "Enjoying the outdoors is so important for our mental well-being, particularly during these challenging times. Taking the time for extra precautions to prevent tick bites will help protect you and your family from the stress and pain of tick-borne diseases."

Should someone find a tick on their body, they are advised to use a fine point tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and gently pull the tick in a steady upward motion. After removing the tick, immediately wash the area with a disinfectant. At no point should they try to touch the tick with their bare hands, use a foreign substance (such as oil) to smother the tick or squeeze the tick's body.

"It's important to remember that ticks don't social distance," State Senator Sue Serino (R-41) told her constituents in a recent press release warning of Lyme

disease, "so be sure to always take a few extra minutes to check yourself, your loved ones and your pets every time you come indoors."

Now that fall is here and the still-pleasant weather has people heading out to explore the great outdoors before it gets too cold, residents are advised to continue practicing preventative measures to keep themselves safe.

"As the weather begins to cool, it's important that we remain vigilant against ticks," said Richard Ostfield, a disease ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook. "In the northeastern U.S., the warm season is getting longer due to climate change. This means that ticks are active well into the autumn months, and even on warm winter days. Wearing long sleeves and pants, applying repellent and doing thorough tick-checks after spending time outdoors are effective measures to reduce your chances of being bitten by a tick. Be sure to check gear and pets, which can also carry ticks."

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While the local real estate market continues to be strong due to the COVID relocations to the NW corner, there are large segments of our community who have not fared as well. With the holidays approaching, there is an increased demand on our local food banks. With the pandemic, it is harder for these nonprofits to do their normal fundraising events, so it is especially important to reach out and support them. My favorites are Sunday in the Country Food Drive which supplies thousands of meals to Tristate families in need, you can donate online at sundayinthecountry.org. The Corner Food Pantry also does great work in distributing food to families, their website is www.thecornerfoodpantry.org. In North Canaan, the Fishes and Loaves Pantry helps their community and can be reached at 860-824-7232. Thanks for your generosity!

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OVER THE BORDER

Schools stay open as COVID-19 spreads

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS
Special to The Millerton News

NORTH CANAAN, Conn. — Two residents of the Geer Village Senior Community in North Canaan died because of the coronavirus last week. They are the latest victims of COVID-19, which has hit the assisted living facility hard.

Until this new increase in infections nationwide, there had been no Geer residents, and staff with positive test results.

Last month, COVID-19 infections pushed North Canaan into the Red Zone of towns in Connecticut with the highest percentage of positive test cases. As of Nov. 7, the Red Zone standing puts the rural Litchfield County town in the company of 68 other communities impacting about 60% of Connecticut residents.

Geer Village was the hardest hit, with 48 positive cases and four deaths reported as of Thursday, Nov. 6.

Elsewhere in the six town Region One School District, small clusters of the disease impacted The Hotchkiss School in Salisbury, Sharon Hospital and several of the public elementary schools as well as the shared high school in Region One (which includes Canaan/Falls Village, Cornwall, Kent, North Canaan, Salisbury and Sharon).

Gov. Ned Lamont has rolled back Connecticut's coronavirus reopening regulations to a modified Phase 2, which took effect Friday, Nov. 6. As part of the order, all restaurants must now reduce indoor dining capacity from 75% back to 50% and close at 10 p.m.

Also responding to rising cases, on Thursday, Nov. 11, the Department of Public Health issued an advisory urging all state residents to limit non-essential trips between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. in an effort to reduce viral transmission from informal private gatherings.

Great Falls Brewery

Just as outdoor dining wraps up and cold weather descends, the governor's Phase 2 order is serving up a double-whammy to the restaurant sector.

"We are slashing hours to bare bones for everyone," said Chris Tripler, co-owner of Great Falls Brewery in North Canaan. "We expect a major revenue drop this month and going forward into winter."

Like other eating establishments around the state, outdoor dining — whether under tents, on the sidewalk or in parking lots — helped keep their business afloat. The brewery owner said that once outdoor seating ends, he has no choice but to cut hours for employees. As a result of lost hours, many staff will also lose income from tips.

The state's rollback also sets limits for restaurants, ordering them to close by 10 p.m. and to limit the number of patrons at one table to eight. Customers cannot be served after 9:30 p.m.

Tripler said his brewery's hours will not be impacted by the Phase 2 early closing, as his establishment has a self-imposed curfew of 9 p.m. Ever since the pandemic started, he said, "We've always had a contingency plan," which included an expansion of outdoor dining options, strict social distancing rules and a "robust health policy. We've been acting like this is a very serious issue at all times."

"I feel for the restaurants in town," said North Canaan First Selectman Charles Perotti. Two weeks ago, when North Canaan's rising coronavirus cases put it in the Red Zone, the town's top official had the option of choosing whether to revert from Phase 3 opening regulations to the more restrictive Phase 2.

'We know that the nursing home population was horribly devastated and think of all the people who care for them ... they are still in the thick of it, and are heartbroken and exhausted.'

— Maria Coutant Skinner, Executive Director, McCall Center for Behavioral Health

Perotti felt that because the spread was primarily contained within the Geer Village assisted living facility, which was locked down, that North Canaan should remain in Phase 3.

But within days, Lamont ordered the modified Phase 2.

Perotti has maintained that unlike the state's more populated towns, there is currently very little community spread in North Canaan. Tightened restrictions will only pose a "great hardship" on the few eateries in his town and in the surrounding communities. Referring to the governor's order, which overrides his opinion, "He's got to do what he's got to do, but it definitely hurts the small towns."

Region One stays open

Lamont has said the stricter rules are necessary in order to avoid a larger shutdown later and to help keep schools open.

For now, public schools, including those in Region One, have the green light to use their discretion in determining whether to revert from in-person learning to a hybrid model of in-person and remote instruction.

"At this point we don't feel we have to move to a hybrid model in North Canaan," which is under a 'red alert' for a recent spike in COVID-19 cases, "or elsewhere in Region One," said Lisa Carter, interim superintendent for the Region One School District.

As a result of discussions with the state departments of public health, education and the Torrington Area Health District, said Carter, "It was determined that at this point the schools are not transmission sites. We are, however, ready to pivot on a dime if we need to make a different decision. But right now, it doesn't seem necessary to do that."

Screening and state health advisory

At Sharon Hospital, which reported zero hospitalizations involving individuals with coronavirus as of Thursday, Nov. 5, spokeswoman Marina Ballantine said one employee contracted COVID-19, bringing the total staff infections in recent weeks at Sharon Hospital to four.

Contact tracing is ongoing with the state health department and the hospital's infection control team.

Counseling available

Geer Village announced the deaths of two additional residents due to COVID-19 on Friday, Nov. 6, and one new positive case among a resident, bringing total positive cases at its Assisted Living Facility to 48 (34 residents and 15 staff).

Since the viral infection was first detected on the North

Canaan campus last month, four residents have died.

All residents and staff continue to be tested weekly in accordance with state health department requirements. The campus will be declared COVID-19 free only when three consecutive weeks of testing reveal zero positive cases, according to Geer CEO Kevin O'Connell.

"As the first exposed individuals complete their quarantine period or treatment, staff and residents may now begin to be classified as recovered," according to the update by Geer. "We are happy to report that most of our positive cases have recovered."

O'Connell said counselors are being made available to staff, residents, families and anyone in the community through a partnership with the McCall Center for Behavioral Health. "We have coaches who will do counseling with people who are dealing with hardships as a result of the pandemic," said O'Connell.

According to Maria Coutant Skinner, McCall's executive director, a grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) allowed her agency to hire three counselors and a supervisor to assist "anybody who has been adversely affected by COVID-19."

Skinner said although the funding was originally designated for a natural disaster, "We have never had a disease like this," which constitutes a major public health disaster. As a result, the outreach program, she said, was rolled out in July and aims to help those with a recent diagnosis, someone who lost a family member, or a health care worker on the front lines.

"We know that the nursing home population was horribly devastated. And think of all the people who care for them ... and the trauma associated with that. They are still in the thick of it, and are heartbroken and exhausted," said the McCall executive director. "We want to make it easy for them to get the help and support they need. They haven't exhaled yet."

Noble Horizons

At the Noble Horizons Senior Community in Salisbury, Administrator William Pond said he is thankful that as of Friday, Nov. 6 — and since the pandemic began — his facility has had no positive cases of COVID-19.

Nonetheless, said Pond, who has experience as a cognitive therapist, he is keenly aware of the stress, fatigue and mental toll the pandemic has placed on his employees. Several staff, he said, have sought in-house counseling to help them cope with the daily stress.



PHOTO BY HUNTER O. LYLE

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Conn., will present plans for an expansion and renovation.

New plans for a library expansion in nearby Sharon

SHARON, Conn. — New plans are being presented soon for an addition to the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon.

The library announced last week that it is planning "a top-to-bottom restoration of its historic building on the town Green, including a proposed addition that would provide improved handicapped access and additional space for children's activities and adult programming."

Library Board President Thomas Trowbridge said in the announcement that, "This is the result of a community survey, finding that the interior of the library was starting to look tired and that the building needs more space for its expanded programs."

The planned restoration will involve a complete makeover that includes new carpeting, repaired and repainted walls, cleaned wood finishes, and upgraded lighting. The goal is

to return the library to its historic elegance; however, Trowbridge said, the renovation will also "give us the opportunity to refit the library with current technology — without disturbing its magnificent architectural heritage."

The library was completed in 1893 and was designed by renowned architect Bruce Price, famous for his work in the Shingle Style but who was also known for his work in the important late 19th century style known as Richardsonian Romanesque (the style used for the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon). The style is named for Henry Hobson Richardson and was used in many public projects. Another famous edifice done in the style of Richardsonian Romanesque is the Museum of Natural History in New York City.

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon was a gift to the town from Maria Bissell Hotchkiss,

in honor of her late husband, Benjamin Berkeley Hotchkiss.

According to the news release from the library, "The proposed expansion will take the form of a modest addition to the rear of the building, providing handicapped access and an accessible bathroom on the main level. A lower level will contain a multi-purpose room for children's activities and specialized programs. With a footprint of 900 square feet, the addition will be barely visible from the street."

Groundbreaking is expected in spring 2021. Approval must be secured from town boards and commissions including the Historic District Commission.

"Our library is an architectural and historical gem and we need to take these steps to prepare for the future by preserving and improving the building," Trowbridge said in the news release.

— Cynthia Hochswender

Brain Teasers

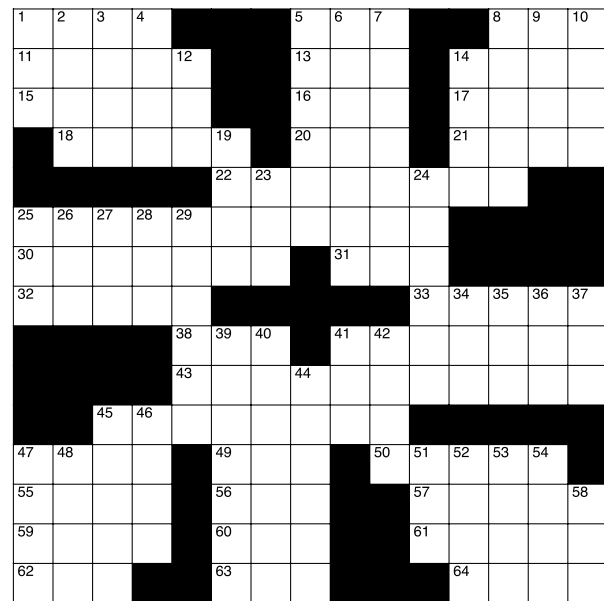
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dutch word for "language"
- 5. Popular music style
- 8. Body part
- 11. Largely dry valleys
- 13. Brew
- 14. Ancient Greek sophist
- 15. Where rockers play
- 16. Human gene
- 17. One point east of northeast
- 18. Adversary
- 20. Small cask or barrel
- 21. About ear
- 22. Benign tumors
- 25. In a different way
- 30. One charged with a crime
- 31. Chinese principle underlying the universe
- 32. Long, narrow straps
- 33. Passover
- 38. Ottoman military commander
- 41. One who does not succeed
- 43. Data
- 45. 3D image
- 47. Whale ship captain
- 49. Japanese title
- 50. Made of wood
- 55. Yokel
- 56. Exercise system —bo
- 57. Supreme being
- 59. Playing card with three spots
- 60. Hostel
- 61. Spiritual leader
- 62. Single lens reflex
- 63. Time of the 90th meridian, used in the central U.S.
- 64. Thomas __, American cartoonist

- 26. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 27. __ fi (slang)
- 28. A joke rooted in wordplay
- 29. Attack violently
- 34. Keyboard key
- 35. __ juris: independent
- 36. Corporate executive (abbr.)
- 37. Adult female bird
- 39. Pertains to knowledge
- 40. Pashtoes
- 41. Prefixed title for Italian monks
- 42. To be fired from a gun
- 44. A way to position
- 45. __ process: produces ammonia
- 46. Follow instructions

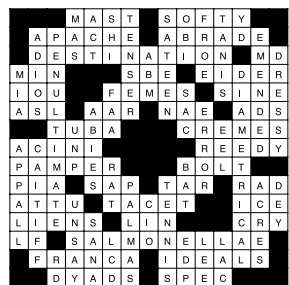
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Shuttered airline
- 2. Swiss river
- 3. Port city in Yemen
- 4. It can be straight
- 5. Tennis player's tool
- 6. Estranged
- 7. Garden archway
- 8. Assists
- 9. Grain crop
- 10. Millisecond
- 12. U.S. Founding Father Adams
- 14. Small, deerlike buffalo
- 19. Easily manageable
- 23. Male parent
- 24. Nearsightedness
- 25. Patriotic women

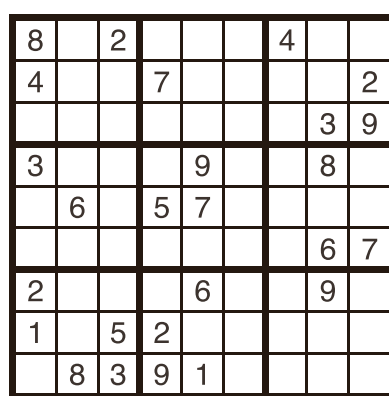


- 47. Humanistic discipline
- 48. Throat
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. American hate group
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Seizes
- 58. Baseball stat

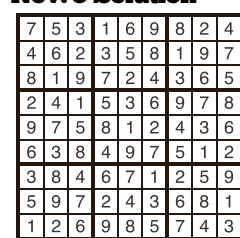
Nov. 5 Solution



Sudoku



Nov. 5 Solution



Level: Intermediate

AREA IN BRIEF

Helping feed your Tri-state neighbors

LAKEVILLE, Conn. — The Corner Food Pantry at 80 Sharon Road in Lakeville is looking for able-bodied volunteers. For more than 25 years (formerly known as OWL's Kitchen), the Corner Food Pantry has been providing nutrition to individuals and families in the Tri-state area.

Without the dedication and hard work on the part of its volunteers, it would not be possible for The Corner Food Pan to fulfill its mission and meet the high de-

mand in recent months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Volunteering at the Corner Food Pantry is a simple way to give back to the community.

There is a range of volunteer opportunities; some require heaving lifting, bending and outdoor tasks.

Due to COVID-19, there are policies in place to help ensure the safety of volunteers and clients. To learn more, go to www.thecornerfoodpantry.org. To join the team, call 860-435-9886.



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ELECTION RESULTS *Continued from Page A1*

entire country watched anxiously for four days while the votes were tallied and a map of the United States went from red to blue. By Saturday, Nov. 7, Americans finally had their answer as Biden was declared president elect and Harris made history as the first female VP and first woman of color in that office. That evening, viewers across the U.S. and around the world tuned in to hear the 46th president and vice president elect. Following an historic election, Biden declared that now is a time to heal.

As of Monday morning, Nov. 9, the New York Times and other media outlets were reporting Biden received 279 electoral votes while Trump received 214.

New York results

The race for New York State's 19th Congressional District was close in Dutchess County. According to the Dutchess County BOE's results, out of 47,973 votes cast, Millbrook attorney and Republican candidate Kyle Van De Water received 23,633 votes while incumbent Democratic U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado received 23,489 votes countywide. According to the state BOE's unofficial results, Van De Water received 11,470 votes out of a total of 27,726 while Delgado received 15,019.

Campaigning for the 41st District of the New York State Senate, incumbent Republican Sen. Sue Serino won 68,907 votes out of a total of 121,985 votes from both Dutchess and Putnam Counties, according to the New York State BOE. Her Democratic opponent, Karen Smythe, received 49,477 votes. Serino received 61,340 votes out of 106,860 votes in Dutchess County while Smythe received 45,504 votes.

"Serving our community has been the honor of a lifetime and to be able to continue serving as your state senator is truly humbling," Serino said her victory statement. "I thank Karen for a hard fought race and for taking the time to call me to concede so that we can all work to move our community forward together. In a year that's been more divisive than most, what matters now is coming together to rebuild our

community. I won't stop working to ensure our neighbors have a strong, independent voice fighting for them in the days and weeks to come. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for giving me the opportunity to continue to do the job I love."

For more on Serino and her filing to impound absentee ballots, turn to Page A3.

Out of 35,266 votes, incumbent Democratic New York State Assemblymember Didi Barrett (D-106) received 18,039 votes in Dutchess County, while her opponent, Republican Dean Michael, received 17,220 votes. Calculating all statewide votes from the 106th Assembly District, Barrett received 25,951 votes out of a total of 52,572 votes, while Michael received 24,138 votes.

"I am tremendously honored to be re-elected to serve a sixth term representing our beautiful district in the New York State Assembly and I thank you from bottom of my heart for your calls, texts, yard signs and vote of confidence!" Barrett said in her acceptance announcement. "These are challenging times for everyone and I am ready to get back to work on the many important issues affecting our families and communities in the Hudson Valley — and across the state, country and planet."

The race for the 105th District in the State Assembly saw incumbent Republican Kieran Michael Lalor win handily with 34,617 votes countywide over Democrat Laurette Giardino, who earned 20,822 votes. Lalor has served in the Assembly since 2012. Giardino also ran against Lalor in 2018 and lost. Out of the 56,961 statewide votes, Lalor received 33,651 votes while Giardino received 19,642.

Local elections

In the town of North East, incumbent Republican Councilman George Kaye won with 589 votes out of a total of 1,115 votes in the race to fill a one-year unexpired term on the North East Town Board, while his opponent, Democrat Claire Owens, received 525 votes.

Even as the results are looking to be a secure win for Kaye, he said, "It's not a win yet — the

absentee ballots have not been counted, so we have to wait until those have been counted. We'll have to wait and see."

In the village of Millbrook, incumbent Democratic Trustee Timothy Collopy won the hotly contested race for mayor with 335 votes, over challengers Brian Hicks (Citizens Party), who earned 256 votes and Kay Vanderlyn Ulrich (United Village Party), who garnered 37 votes. A total of 631 votes were cast in the mayoral race.

"I'd like to thank the residents of Millbrook for giving me the opportunity to serve as mayor for the next four years," said Collopy. "I promise to work hard on problems, big and small, so as to make the village a better place now and in the future. Also, I'd like to give a tip-of-the-hat to Brian Hicks for running a tough, spirited and fair campaign."

Brian Hicks, who ran against Collopy on the Citizens Party line along with Kay Vanderlyn Ulrich, who ran on the United Village party line, was also gracious.

"Good luck to the winners," he said following the election, "I wish them well. I believe the village is in good hands."

In the race for the Millbrook Village Board, Democrat Mike Herzog won with 353 votes, along with Democrat incumbent Trustee Victoria Contino, who was serving an unexpired term on the board, earning 348 votes.

Herzog is currently serving as mayor, filling the post left vacant by former Mayor Rodney Brown, until Dec. 31. Herzog has served been a trustee since 2012.

"We don't have to deal with some of the issues that they do nationally," said Herzog. "We are a small town, and we have to be flexible and work together to maintain the caring and values that Millbrook has always had."

There were two open seats on the Village Board, with four candidates running. Incumbent Trustee Joe Rochfort (Citizens Party) earned 278 votes and newcomer Sierra Roth (Citizens Party) earned 226 votes in her first bid to serve on the board. A total of 1,207 votes were cast in that race.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS *Continued from Page A1*

Cold rain and the mud is ankle deep. I have wrapped my ankles and legs with burlap which helps some." Sept. 12, 1918

"I will never forget this morning... We were all wearing our gas masks. Couldn't see a foot ahead of me. The roads are nothing but sticks and logs laid down... Dawn finds me propped against a poplar tree and I sleep. We are all very tired and very dirty." Sept. 16, 1918

"Cold and dreary... I sleep on the ambulance seat... Rain, in gobs!" Sept. 29, 1918

"A letter from T tells me it's all over — our love affair! Darn it, and I was so happy today. I don't care what happens now. Guess it was only a war romance anyway." Oct. 2, 1918

"Bathed today. Cooties were lusty and strong and all were doing well." Oct. 3, 1918

Ten days before the Armistice he wrote, "Oh! What a wretched barren country. The trees have been mowed close to earth by a severe barrage and the roads are in terrible condition. We are dead tired and it's an easy matter to fall asleep leaning against a wagon wheel. Flashes along the horizon warn us that we are to have a taste of something before long." Nov. 1, 1918

Occasionally, deep feelings and derogatory terms were expressed, which *The Millerton News* does not approve of or condone but included for the sake of historical accuracy.

Local soldiers wrote of Paris, swimming in the Somme River and, some, like Milo Winchester "saw Amiens and that beautiful cathedral which Fritz seems determined to destroy. It is a shame to think that civilized people could make such destruction in such a beautiful city as it was once." July 27, 1918

But they were, perhaps, more impressed and comforted seeing reminders of home.

Winchester said, "You re-



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Soldiers such as Clifford Loper, above (father of Millerton's Ray Loper), wrapped their legs in burlap to try and keep them warm and dry despite the cold and mud.

member in the Catskills last summer how pretty it was. Well, just recall that and make it more beautiful and you will have an idea of the scenery. For all the world, these mountain peaks remind me of Shokan." Aug. 5, 1918

Joray wrote, "Such a golden dreary day. The towering beeches are in their autumn dress. I endeavor to dream myself back to the Berkshire hills. How wonderful they must be at present." Oct. 5, 1918

But no matter the situation nor the view, soldiers such as Clifford Reed thought often of

those waiting for them to return.

"Sunday, 2:45: that means it is a quarter of nine at home. I wonder what you are doing. Maybe you will take a spin in the Buick and go to Millbrook. I wish I could be with you, but I never mind. I sure will make up for lost time when I get home... You are continually in my thoughts, and I am praying that God will be with you until I come back to you. I know you must worry a lot, but, little Mother, I assure you that I am in good hands, and am in good spirits, as well as in good health... Your 'soldier boy' is well and happy." April 1918

"I am feeling fine and all that worries me is that you are worrying about me. Don't do it, Mother Reed. Your boy is all right. Have Pop take a cottage on one of the lakes and go there and have a good rest. He could go back and forth in the car, the same as we did a couple of years ago... My thoughts are with you all the time. How I love you all and am hoping the time when I can be with you again will soon come." July 17, 1918

Finally, his hopeful words, "We hear good news every day now and everyone seems to think that our work 'over here' may soon be over and we will be on our way back to the good old U.S.A. before long... but then, what won't I do to those old-fashioned fritters and maple syrup that mother makes and homemade sausage and pancakes won't go so bad either." Oct. 5, 1918

Just over one month later, The Armistice came.

In Part III: What happened just after the guns went silent.

Read full letters transcribed by Amenia Historical Society's Betsy Strauss at www.ameniah.org. Thanks to her and North East Historical Society President Ed Downey of the Downey Family Archives.

COVID CASES *Continued from Page A1*

would need to be contacted as part of that process. Given the small size of the district community and the amount of space shared between students, teachers and school buildings, Castellani said the DOH told the district it should look back to the date of when the individual would have last been in the district and when they would have shown any symptoms. The district was also advised to quarantine for 14 days.

In his letter to Webutuck families and staff, Castellani explained that in order to complete contact tracing for all students and staff and to ensure the virus doesn't spread further, the district will be moving to a full remote learning model for all students in all buildings with an anticipated return to the hybrid learning model on Monday, Nov. 16.

He notified families that students and staff exposed to the infected individuals would be contacted separately by a school official and will be required to quarantine for 14 days from the date of their last exposure; those who were exposed would also be receiving a call from a state contact tracer. He also recommended

that anyone who was potentially exposed to those individuals be tested for COVID-19 as a precaution.

Since the last person to be on campus was there on Friday, Business Administrator Robert Farrier said the district will deep clean all school buildings to make sure the virus doesn't spread.

"Our primary concern is the safety and wellbeing of our staff and students," Farrier said. "Therefore, our reaction to this positive test really highlights in terms of closing all three schools and moving to remote to make sure we're not having any more cases."

"We feel that our measures that we have taken as a precaution in the first month of hybrid have been fantastic and we've been very lucky, so we're going to keep doing what we've done and continue to work with the Department of Health and monitor," Castellani said. "We've been fortunate due to what we put in place that we are one of the last districts with a positive case."

When asked how concerned he was now that Webutuck has had its first COVID-19 case, Castellani replied, "I'm not afraid. I don't

think I'm anxious either. I think we are concerned as a school district, as a community, as a region, and we're cautious in regards to we're hoping just like every other human being around that this does make its way through and we can get through this together."

On Monday morning, Nov. 9, just as the district began its full remote learning model for the week, Webutuck learned of another individual testing positive for COVID-19 at Webutuck Elementary School, resulting in its decision to push the return to the hybrid model to Tuesday, Nov. 17. In addition to working closely with the DOH to complete contact tracing, Webutuck families and staff were assured in Castellani's most recent letter that the district is continuing to follow health protocols and will keep everyone informed of any updates.

"We're monitoring this closely," Castellani said, now that there's a second case. "Because we're such a small community, we want to make sure we try to isolate these incidents and it doesn't spread, so we hope everybody continues to follow social guidelines and we can get through this quickly."

MOVIEHOUSE *Continued from Page A1*

Sadlon explained that as she went through this process of reflection, she came to realize that while she was excited by what her beloved theater can become "with an influx of new thoughts and ideas," she was melancholy in accepting that she could not do it all by herself. This resulted in her decision to seek new stewards to lead the theater's growth in the way she and Robert envisioned when they originally bought the building more than 40 years ago.

"Our goal is to hand the baton to someone who is passionate about the cinema arts and local community," Sadlon stated, "who

will be able to realize the incredible potential for The Moviehouse as a regional Arts Center for both our existing audiences and a new and enthusiastic generation of cinephiles."

Recognizing that this search and transition won't happen overnight, Sadlon announced her plans to continue the theater as it has been these last few months and use a "wait-and-see" approach before making any decisions to reopen.

The marketing team at Select Sotheby's Realty will be leading The Moviehouse in its endeavor to find new ownership.

QUILTS OF VALOR *Continued from Page A1*

Lynne Clinch, delivered to him on Saturday, Oct. 17, in a formal presentation with representatives from the town's VFW Post 5519 and American Legion Post 426, along with another friend and fellow veteran's wife, Ruth Keeler, acting as the official photographer.

"They're beautiful for one thing and I was very honored to receive it," he said. "I was very surprised. I didn't know anything about it in advance. I felt honored and don't know why I was picked out... but I was very pleased with it."

MacPherson was humble about being recognized for his service so many years ago, but acknowledged that "everybody likes to be honored, whether they deserve it or not — and I appreciate it very much."

Keeler said it's the least the community could do for those who served so valiantly and selflessly.

"Veterans are really such special people to have given so much to our country," she said.

"Anything that honors the veterans of the community I think is wonderful," agreed MacPherson.

And that was exactly the point, according to Lynne, who said she wanted to do something productive during the shutdown caused by the coronavirus pandemic and thought doing something to support veterans would be especially meaningful. Her husband, Bobby, is a Vietnam War veteran and past post commander of the Pine Plains VFW. He also received a Quilt of Valor on Oct. 17. In fact, Lynne said, it was her husband who inspired the whole project.

The goal, she said, was to "make a patriotic style of quilt you can cover a veteran with for their warmth and comfort; all I can relate it to is wrapping their arms around somebody to offer comfort. That is what a quilt does — it offers comfort from the horrors seen during war."

She said that Quilts of Valor, a national organization run entirely by volunteers with no money exchanged, is "relatively new." It began in 2003 after a Blue Star mother whose son was deployed in Iraq had a dream of a soldier sitting on the edge of a bed in despair. In the next frame of her dream, the

mother wrapped a quilt around the soldier, and his demeanor changed. He was comforted. She then realized her calling was to make quilts for veterans; she put out the call for quilters to donate quilts to vets.

Lynne said she learned of the volunteer program on PBS, when watching a quilting show about three years ago. The idea sat in the back of her mind. In the meantime, quilting scraps — lots and lots of material — amassed in her home. Not unusual for a quilter, she said.

When COVID struck, Lynne decided to pull out her scraps of material, buy lots of cotton batting to stuff the quilts with and get to work. She made four 55-inch by 60-inch oversized lap quilts, all 100% cotton. They were all done block by block, and took many hours to complete. But Lynne said, "When you enjoy sewing, you don't count hours. Nobody would understand that unless you're a quilter."

In addition to her husband and MacPherson, Lynne presented the Quilts of Valor to Pine Plains veterans Mort Jackson and Allan

"She really is determined to find someone who will carry on what they've been doing and to not change it," said Dick Hermans, longtime owner of Ob-long Books & Music in Millerton, "so I'm hopeful that happens. I would think that there have to be people for whom this would be a very exciting opportunity, and I think anybody who supports The Moviehouse might spread the word that they're looking for a new owner and hopefully that person or that group of people will appear. I think it really says a lot about Carol's devotion to her craft."

Blackmar. Each time there was a formal ceremony.

Then she notified the foundation, which to date has donated 250,000 Quilts of Valor to veterans and active service members in the U.S. There's currently a waiting list, she said.

"I plan on doing more. It just really made me feel good," she said. "Sometimes we do so little for the service veterans, but they should be recognized. The fact is they go and protect people that they don't even know. To say 'thank you' is great, but this is better."

MacPherson is extremely appreciative of the quilt and that he and his fellow veterans were recognized for their service.

"The color of the quilt — it's multi-colored — I look at it at a glance and it's almost like an American flag; it's very beautiful. A lot of work went into it and a lot of thought and I very much appreciate all the effort a lot of people put into this," he said. "I couldn't imagine living in any nicer town in the country. I've been all over the world and always come back here. I don't want to be anywhere else."



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Your Guide to Tri-State Events

November 12-18, 2020

CATERING: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Divide and Conquer (and Hire a Caterer) To Get More Joy from Your Holiday Meals

This is it, folks, the year when you actually have a legitimate excuse to stay home for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays and cook whatever you want. There is no pressure this year to include all the main and side dishes that your sister and your mother and your Aunt Suzanne consider an irreplaceable part of the season.

Have some fun. Experiment.

This year, my plan is to make a meringue topping for my pumpkin pie. And to make peach stuffing for my turkey (which I'm going to try and brine this year. Finally.).

THE YEAR OF LARGE TURKEYS
And remember, everyone, that the turkeys we eat this year were probably conceived and planned and hatched before everyone knew that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was going to tell us that big holiday meals are a

bad idea (and that traveling across the country to go to a big holiday meal is an extra bad idea).

What this means in terms of your holiday meal planning is that grocery stores and poultry vendors are likely to have a lot of very large birds in stock that they will have trouble selling; while it will be harder than normal this year to find a small bird.

There are probably a lot of ways to plan around

this. Perhaps you can cook a large turkey ahead of time and share it with elderly neighbors on your street, who won't be able to join their younger family members for the holiday.

Or perhaps this is the year when you decide to roast a chicken instead of the larger fowl, which is (as you know) much easier to cook. You can still stuff it — although remember that our federal food experts recommend that you not cook the stuffing inside the bird. If you must, be sure to use a food thermometer to check that the stuffing has reached a safe temperature of 165 degrees (that's for bread stuffing).

PUT YOUR FEET UP, AND RELAX

Many of us, especially those who have clocked in more than 50 years worth of Thanksgiving and other holiday feasts, will prefer to have someone cater their meal.

This has been a very difficult year for caterers, so no doubt your chef of choice will be very happy to hear from you. Ask if he or she or they would be willing to make a meal for just you and your (small) household; and if not, then think about maybe (again) sharing a catered meal with your neighbors.

The caterer can cook

one turkey and divide it in half (and how lovely to have a professional carve that big ungainly roasted bird for you) and package it up for you to safely deliver to your meal partners.

IT'S NOT JUST THANKSGIVING

If you plan to celebrate Hanukkah with potato latkes, hiring a caterer means you don't have to do all the shredding and frying and cleanup. Latkes re-heat beautifully, in the oven or in a nonstick skillet or in a regular skillet with a little oil.

And again, once your food pro has cooked three or four latkes, he or she or they might as well keep going. So ... make plans with a friend or neighbor to share the bounty (you can even split up the apple sauce and sour cream).

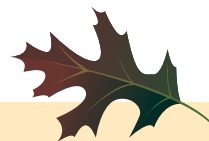
Assigning all the hard stuff to a professional will leave you more time and emotional bandwidth to make something absurd — like a meringue topping for your pumpkin pie.

Or, as my friend, the caterer Sarah Weinberger from Campbell Falls Kitchen in Southfield, Mass., is planning to do for the holidays: You can use your meringue to make a pavlova, which is basically meringue topped with fruit and whipped cream. Sarah is making spiced pavlova with pumpkin mousse; find



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.



This has been a very difficult year for caterers, so no doubt your chef of choice will be very happy to hear from you.

out more at www.campbellfallskitchen.com.

HOW TO MAKE MERINGUE

Novices underestimate the importance of two things when making meringues: the quality of the eggs and the amount of time you need to spend beating the whites.

First, there are many vendors of really exceptional fresh eggs in the region. Chances are you drive by one all the time and have never thought to stop and shop. For meringues, it's worth it; the cost should be roughly \$5 for a dozen. Some farms make bigger eggs than others; if the eggs in your carton look small, add an extra egg to what the recipe calls for.

If the eggs aren't pristine when you buy them, you 100% must clean them gently with warm water before you crack them open, so your eggs don't get infected with dirt and debris from the barnyard.

Second, we think of meringues as very light and delicate, but in fact they are (like ballerinas) deceptively tough, which is appropriate since the pavlova dessert is named for the Russian prima ballerina Anna Pavlova.

This is just a quick summary of meringue knowledge. Two more in-depth explanations can be found at www.joyofbaking.com, an excellent website; and on YouTube in a video posted by the Johnson and Wales cooking school called "The Secrets of the Perfect Meringue."

Use an actual recipe to get the measurements right. Most likely, you will need superfine sugar, which is regular sugar that you've run through the food processor for about 2 minutes.

Your egg whites need to be at room temperature (leave them out for at least 30 minutes after you've

separated them). Your mixer and beaters need to be absolutely pristine. You should really clean them with vinegar to be sure there is not a trace of grease or fat on them.

You can use cream of tartar to stabilize the eggs — or you can use a pinch of salt (not big pebbles of sea salt; use the finer stuff such as Diamond Kosher or Morton's).

Start with just the whites in your mixer bowl (and seriously, no yokes) and beat for about 2 minutes. Add your tartar or salt. Keep beating at medium until you reach the soft peak stage, which is where most of us make the mistake of stopping.

Soft peak means that if you take the beaters off and turn them upside down, the egg whites will curl over backward and form a hook.

At this point, add your sugar in three or four installments and then leave your mixer running on medium for several minutes. You're incorporating air at this point; the more air the better.

You'll know you're done when you rub a little bit of the meringue between your fingers and there's no gritty feeling; it should be smooth as satin. If it's not, keep beating. If it is, add vanilla and beat for another few seconds.

You have to bake your meringues at very low heat for a long time. Check your recipe for specifics. I'm planning to make my meringues ahead of time, then make my pie, then adorn the finished pie with what I hope will be little meringue mountains or mushrooms.

I hope.

Wish me luck and we at The Lakeville Journal Co. wish you all a beautiful, warm and healthy holiday season, wherever and however you plan to spend it.

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THEATER: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The Hits and Ideas Keep Coming from Sharon Playhouse

Real theater people don't give up when times are tough — they put on a matinee!

The Sharon Playhouse team in Sharon, Conn., has shown they're true troupers not only through a summer's worth of innovative theater and musical performances during months of COVID-19 restrictions but, now, through the debut of fall and winter educational programs. When a pandemic tries to shut down all entertainment venues, apparently the only possible response is to get creative and find ways to do even more outreach and more programming.

Taking charge of the education program will be a familiar face from past Sharon Playhouse shows: Michael K. Baldwin has joined the team as Director of Education/Associate Artistic Director.

"As a teaching theater, education is very important to us — be it classes for all ages or our acclaimed children's theater," said Playhouse Artistic Director Alan M-L Wager in a news release last week.

"We're thrilled to welcome Michael and begin this new chapter at the Sharon Playhouse and expand our educational programming."

Baldwin will guide all new and existing educational programming, according to the release. "This will include off-season classes, summer youth theater and community outreach while ensuring that all is fostered through



PHOTO BY ROBERT LEVINSTEIN

Sharon Playhouse announced last week that it will offer off-season education opportunities, under the direction of Salisbury, Conn., native Michael K. Baldwin.

a lens of equity, cultural awareness and sensitivity. He will also collaborate with and support the Artistic Director and Managing Director with season planning and operations."

Playhouse Board President Emily Soell enthusiastically noted the connection between theater and education.

"To my mind teaching is theater!" she said in the release. "The teachers I remember were not the scholars, but those who knew and cared so deeply about their subject, they made them breathe and come alive.

"Now we have a director of education for the Playhouse whose love of theater is palpable and who can both teach and

act." Baldwin grew up in Salisbury, Conn., and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Theater and Sociology from Skidmore College and a Master's Degree in Education from The City College of New York. He taught drama at The Brearley School in Manhattan for seven years, where he received the Sandra Lee Marshall Award for devotion in teaching and the Class of 1992 Award for Excellence in Teaching.

He has also taught at Hunter College High School, Skidmore College, Acting Manitou Performing Arts Camp, TADA NYC, SOAR and The Falls Village Children's Theater. Baldwin's first the-

ater experience was on the stage of the Sharon Playhouse, when he was 10 years old, playing Billy in "The Woman Who Laughed," a world premiere of a play by Joyce Carol Oates starring Lucie Arnaz.

He has played Tony Whitcomb in "Shear Madness" at The Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and The Notary in "The Barber of Seville" at The Metropolitan Opera in New York, directed by Bartlett Sher.

And most recently he took part in the Sharon Playhouse/Sharon Historical Society/Hotchkiss Library of Sharon readings of "Spoon River Anthology" in the historic Sharon Burial ground.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Carl Chaiet's new work, inspired by Vincent Van Gogh's "The Bedroom," is being sold in a limited edition with a portion of funds benefiting The Lakeville Journal.

HAVE A SEAT AND HELP YOUR LOCAL NEWSPAPER

Carl Chaiet of Sharon, Conn., is a sculptor and a painter and, in many ways, a comic. Those three artistic disciplines come together in his new work, a whimsical recreation of an iconic chair featured in Vincent Van Gogh's painting, "The Bedroom."

Chaiet has taken the chair from the room and created a silhouette of it on birch wood that is then gessoed and painted so it seems to pop out from its background.

"Prop it in a corner," the artist suggests. "Hang it on a wall!"

"The Vincent Chair" is now being sold with a portion of the profits from each sale going to The Lakeville Journal's

ongoing contribution campaign. The cost to purchase the work is \$145; The Lakeville Journal receives \$25 of each sale.

"The Vincent Chair" is a limited edition of 50. It is 39 inches tall and 19 inches wide and weighs 2 pounds. It comes with hardware and is ready to hang (if you choose not to prop it in the corner).

For information or to order a chair, contact Chaiet at 860-364-5618 or send an email to lynninsharon@earthlink.net. Chaiet will deliver to residents of the Tri-state region for a fee or help organize shipping to more distant locations.

— Cynthia Hochswender

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ADAM GOPNIK, SEEKING SANITY, IN A FORUM TALK

Adam Gopnik, a veteran contributor to The New Yorker magazine, reprises his 2016 appearance at the Salisbury Forum in a Zoom webinar on Friday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m., with a timely and critical look at liberal democracy, its strategies for survival, and its risks of extinction.

In his 2019 book, "A

Thousand Small Sanities: The Moral Adventure of Liberalism," Gopnik argues for a sensible path for liberalism that is between the extremes of the left and the right.

Gopnik served as The New Yorker's art critic from 1987 to 1995, and was then the magazine's correspondent in Paris. His essays about life in the French capital were published by Random House in the book "Paris to the Moon," in 2000.

Gopnik continues his association with The New Yorker as a staff writer, with essays spanning a wide variety of categories, including art, humor,

food, politics and gun control and gun violence. More recently he has added music to his repertoire, collaborating with Broadway and movie composer David Shire to create a new musical in 2019, "Our Table," based on his 2011 book, "Table Comes First: Family, Friends and the

Meaning of Food." To join the Salisbury Forum Zoom webinar on Friday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m. go to www.salisburyforum.org and click on the link. Gopnik's books can be purchased online at Oblong Books or in person at its stores in Millerton and Rhinebeck, N.Y.

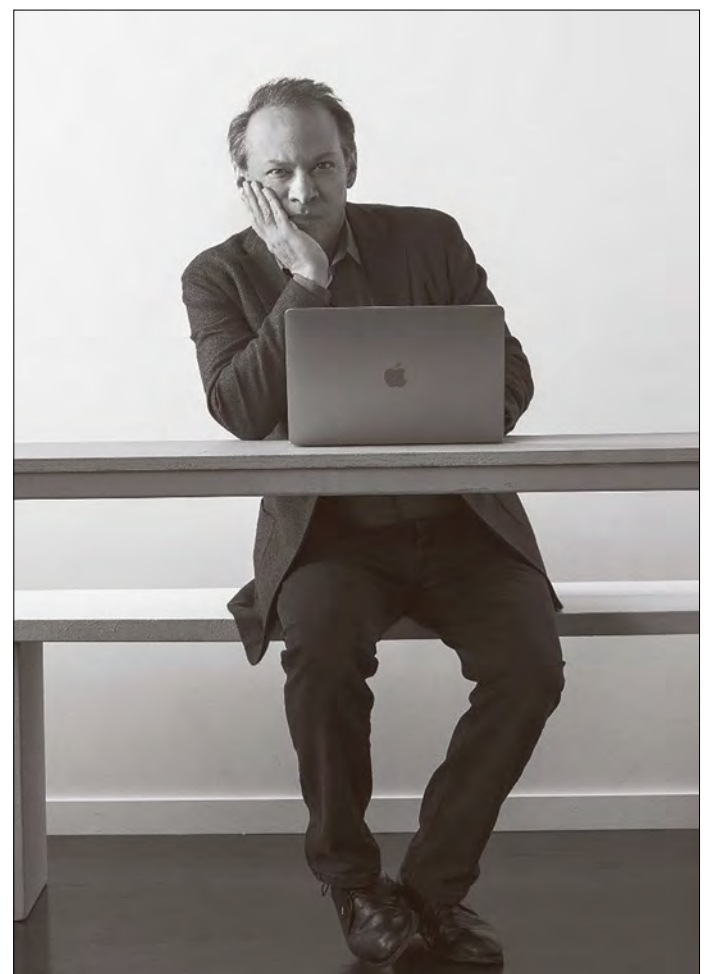


PHOTO BY BRIGITTE LACOMBE

New Yorker writer and author Adam Gopnik is the Salisbury Forum speaker on Friday, Nov. 20.

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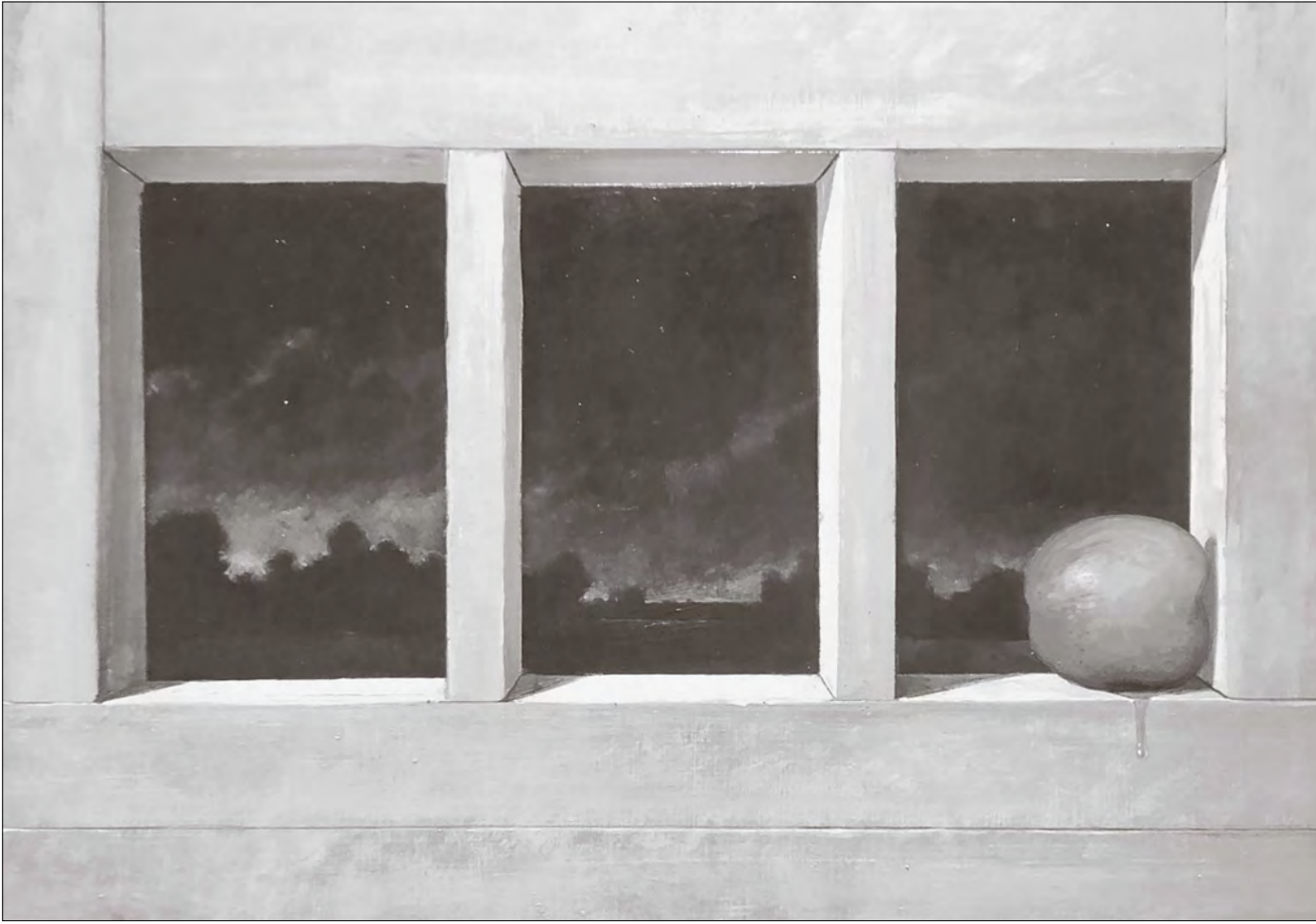


PHOTO COURTESY ECKERT FINE ART

“Continuance” by Eric Forstmann is one of the works represented by Eckert Fine Art Gallery + Consulting, which will now be on the campus of MASS MoCA in North Adams, Mass.

ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Eckert Moves Her Gallery From Kent, Conn., to the Berkshires

Jane Eckert and her Eckert Fine Art Gallery + Consulting represents some of the most famous artists of our time, but here in the Tri-state area she is particularly known as the exclusive agent for Sharon, Conn., beloved painter Eric Forstmann.

Eckert announced last week that she is closing her gallery in Kent, Conn., on Monday, Nov.

16, and moving onto the campus of the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA) in North Adams, Mass.

The new gallery will open on Saturday, Dec. 4, with work by Sol LeWitt, James Turrell, Robert Rauschenberg, Forstmann, Alice Dalton Brown, Chizuru Morii Kaplan and Hunt Slonem. In a news release, Eck-

ert, who is a past chair of the Director’s Advisory Council at MASS MoCA, said she is looking forward to “being in the Berkshires full-time and on the campus of this wonderful museum.”

In addition to her affiliation with MASS MoCA, she is also chair of the President’s Circle at Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield, Mass.

“Kent will always be a large part of EFA’s history; however, we are looking forward to the future in the Berkshires. Please come visit us there.”

To learn more, go to www.eckertfineart.com or call the gallery at 413-398-5905. The new address will be Eckert Fine Art, 1315 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, MA 01247.

INTERIORS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Hendricks Churchill Are Honored For Their Sharon ‘New Farmhouse’

Once again, the Sharon, Conn., architecture and interior design team of Rafe Churchill and Heidi Hendricks has been honored with the 2020 Stanford White Awards for Excellence in Classical and Traditional Design from the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art.

The team won in the “Interior Design – Houses” category for its “New Farmhouse” project in Sharon. This is the second year in a row for Hendricks Churchill, which was honored in the “Residential Architecture” category last year for its “Oblong Valley Greek Revival” project, also in Sharon.

The ninth annual Stanford White Awards Ceremony will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at a free virtual event hosted by Architectural Digest Decorative Arts Editor Mitchell Owens.

To learn more about Hendricks Churchill, go to www.hendrickschurchill.com.



PHOTOS BY AMANDA KIRKPATRICK

Heidi Hendricks and Rafe Churchill have been honored for the second year in a row by the Institute of Classical Architecture and Art, this time for a modern farmhouse in Sharon, Conn.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Annie Dorsen, an award-winning expert on artificial intelligence and experimental theater, will talk about the intersection of her specialties on Nov. 14.

IS AI OUR FRIEND, ENEMY OR ENTERTAINMENT?

Annie Dorsen, recipient of a MacArthur Fellowship, an Alpert Award in the Arts and a Guggenheim Fellowship, will give a talk for the Cornwall Library on Saturday, Nov. 14, at 5 p.m. via Zoom.

Dorsen received the MacArthur Fellowship in 2019 for “pioneering a new genre of theater that dramatizes the ways in which

nonhuman intelligence is profoundly changing the nature of work culture, and social relationships.”

She is the daughter of the late Harriette and Norman Dorsen of Cornwall, Conn.

Her talk is entitled “How to Act Like a Human.”

Register for the Saturday, Nov. 14, 5 p.m. Zoom talk at www.cornwalllibrary.org.

THEATER: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Yes, It Really Was An Extraordinary Time on Broadway

One of the many benefits of living in or near New York City is, of course, Broadway and Off-Broadway.

Those who feel like they’ve lived through an extraordinarily creative and exciting period in theater history will get affirmation in a talk on Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. featuring author and theater maven Tom Santopietro and New York Post columnist Michael Riedel.

Sponsored by House of Books and Kent Memorial Library in Kent, Conn., the book talk and “virtual signing” will wrap around Riedel’s new book, “Singular Sensation,” which is according to the press release, “the extraordinary story of a transformative decades on Broadway, featuring gripping behind-the-scenes accounts of shows such as ‘Rent,’ ‘Angels in America,’ ‘Chicago,’ ‘The Lion King’ and ‘The Producers’ — shows that changed the history of the American theater.”

The book travels back to the 1980s and that decade’s version of the British Invasion, with hits such as “Les Miserables,” “Cats” and “The Phantom of the Opera.”

It then segues into the next decade and the dominance of a diverse selection of American musicals (from “Rent” to “The Producers”) and “the powerful comeback of plays,

always an endangered species on Broadway, with Tony Kushner’s ‘Angels in America.’

“A different breed of producers rose up to challenge the grip theater owners had long held on Broadway, and corporations began to see how much money could be made from live theater.”

Riedel gives an appropriately dramatic recounting of the late 1990s into the early 20th century, with traumas such as the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and their impact on theater, the arts and life in America.

Interviewing him will be Tom Santopietro, who is himself the author of many books on Broadway and the theater, including “Dancing Man: A Broadway Choreographer’s Journey” and “Sinatra in Hollywood.” He lectures nationwide on classic films, interviews celebrity authors and has managed more than 30 Broadway shows over the past 25 years.

This event is free and open to the public and is on Zoom. For more information or to order any of the books by Riedel and Santopietro, visit House of Books online at www.houseofbookscct.com.

To find the free Zoom link for the Wednesday, Dec. 2, 7 p.m. conversation about “Singular Sensation,” go to www.kentmemoriallibrary.org.

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EDITORIAL

Another step for local journalism

Some of our readers may have noticed that over the past few weeks, we've included in our print editions a letter from the owners of The Lakeville Journal Company. Well, actually, we know that some of you have noticed, because we are already receiving responses and support proving it. Thank you for reading the letter, and thank you to all who have contributed.

During the past year, our owners and staff and many interested community members have done research and given much thought and discussion to what the next steps should be for The Lakeville Journal Company and its publications (The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News and more). What should the model be? Other news organizations had gone nonprofit; or stayed for-profit but pursued a membership model like the one we did last year; or they have done a hybrid, remaining for-profit but creating a nonprofit foundation that would help support the news side of the company.

An additional challenge in 2020 for many nonprofits has been dealing with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which made survival extremely daunting — and sometimes impossible. Our company qualified for a PPP loan/grant, so that despite losing more than 30% of advertising (for good reasons, during the coronavirus pandemic) it retains a good measure of financial stability.

Last year at this time, The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News and www.tricornernews.com, which you know as your local and locally owned news sources, reached out to the community asking for what we called at that time “membership support” to help this independent media company survive. At that time, it was indeed a struggle for our survival. Since then, a lot has happened. But the result is that the company is in a much more stable position as we move forward into 2021. What must happen now is ongoing serious consideration of the future of this company by the ownership and staff, readers and supporters, as we seek a conclusion to what model might best work to ensure our survival going into the next year and beyond.

After that consideration, the company is entering 2021 with the same general model we used in our pre-2020 initiative, but calling those who take part “community contributors.” This is simply to differentiate between the longtime board and executive committee, the company’s owners, who are referred to as “members.” There has been a cushion of time given for the next decision, because in addition to our PPP loan/grant, our readers also gave generously over the past year, not only taking us through 2020 but into 2021.

So why are we continuing the for-profit model if the company is stable for the near future? Because we don’t want to get into an emergency situation like the one we were in at this time in 2019. The way that local news is suffering in general throughout the country, it is far too likely that the challenges of the marketplace could again become too much for this little media company to survive. And as we heard from readers when we did the surveys last year and since that time, this area needs local news coverage and would suffer without it. We are very committed to keeping local news here, and will be flexible and creative with solutions every step of the way in order to be sure it continues.

Thank you again to all who have supported us, and to all who continue to support us. Without that support, your local journalism would not be in your communities right now. But The Lakeville Journal Company, which includes The Lakeville Journal, The Millerton News, www.tricornernews.com, Compass, TriCorner Real Estate and other publications, is here, grateful and highly motivated to remain, precisely because of the community support that came to our aid when it was critical. We take your trust very seriously and are now taking every measure to be sure local news will be part of the Tri-state region for years to come.

The time for change is now

On this post-election morning, I am retiring my worn and tattered American flag, which has served its purpose flying proudly and honorably for more than a year representing freedom and the ideals this nation was founded upon. It is now folded into 13 precise triangles, but it will never be forgotten.

So, too, does the office of the President of the United States seem to be headed in that direction on Jan. 20. President Trump, like him or hate him, has achieved tremendous successes that have benefited this nation that have been mostly ignored by the majority of media outlets and stubborn minds. I can recall at least 10 major issues that have improved American lives.

We have just finished a contentious election. Like the results or not, we all have a duty to respect the office of the new commander in chief. I pray that Mr. Biden has the strength and fortitude to carry forth President Trump’s agenda. I hope Mr.

VETERAN’S CORNER

Larry Conklin

Biden demonstrates decisive leadership and appoints a worthy U.S. Cabinet representing all U.S. citizens — not partisan politics. I hope he resists any attempts from the radical left to influence him. Most liberals, conservatives and independents want what is best for this nation.

I believe President Trump lost this election not because Democrats had a better agenda and better policies, but because many disliked his personality and were still angry with results of the 2016 election, and voted accordingly. I personally dislike the president’s personality too, as I did many I served under in the military. But despite my dislike of President Trump and those military leaders, I knew how to get the job done.

I voted for President Trump because for past four years I believe he demonstrated the kind of leadership needed to achieve much good for this nation and for the future of my children and my grandchildren.

We experienced a good deal of election interference this year, not from the Russians but from our own mainstream and social media. This has gotten out of control and must be reined in. A uniform set of national election rules must be established to achieve election results in a timely manner — though I cringe thinking about getting the Feds involved. But this year’s election was mayhem, with different rules for different states. Some rules changed a day in advance of the election. Florida should serve as a role model. They did it right.

I fear our own election and voting integrity has been seriously degraded. Anxious voters question the honesty of our politicians and of our electoral

system. The process this year was an embarrassment to our nation and is being scrutinized by foreign countries everywhere.

Anyway, congratulations and good luck, Mr. Biden. Be strong, independent and decisive, especially regarding foreign policy. Keep the Mid-East peace agenda alive. Our dear ally, Israel, cannot be abandoned. Keep our borders sovereign and safe. Don’t be compromised by Iran, communist China, Russia or the radical left. Be your own man and fight for the principles and freedoms of our Constitution.

God bless you, President-Elect Biden, on your new journey, and God bless you, patriotic readers. Take a deep breath, practice tolerance and be kind to one another.

Till next time... Vietnam veteran Larry Conklin is a Millerton resident who belongs to both the Millerton American Legion Post 178 and the Couch-Pipa VFW Post 6851 in North Canaan, Conn.



Cartoon by Bill Lee of Sharon and New York City

Trust must be restored

Life, especially a calm and orderly life, depends on trust — trust in your environment, trust in your fellow citizen, trust in your own safety. Without trust in these three areas, you live in fear.

A raging conflict or indeed war is not frightening only because you may be injured, it is terrorizing because you cannot have trust in the person you see on the street, you cannot have trust for your safety and, especially, you cannot have trust in your environment that can be destroyed at any moment. It is the lack of trust that terrorizes even non-violent moments in places of conflict.

Imagine you witness a criminal gang attacking a bank. Your moral compass tells you there are dangerous people attacking the bank. You make an evaluation. Why? The why is simply answered: You do so in self-preservation. You cannot trust those people you see breaking the law, trampling your moral compass. Now, imagine you are drawn — for any small reason — in sympathy to those criminals’ reasons for robbing the bank and begin to believe in their moral code to do so and, in so believing, you begin to see their purpose as being righteous. Do you adopt all of their moral codes? Do you see the possibility of murder, gun fights, stealing as moral, for you as being moral? Or do you simply look the other way and feel smug?

Bonnie and Clyde, the famous bank robbers, killed and murdered people. They were despicable examples of moral values and upholding the sanctity of life. And yet, their aim to strike back against “the man” and the banks — to liberate funds for themselves and their followers — allowed thousands to hide them, condone their murders, and, when they were caught and shot, to give them a public viewing that papers at the time described as “many thousands paraded in the streets.”

Now, I have to ask: How can anyone ever trust those who “adored Bonnie and Clyde,” who murdered 13 people and

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

stole people’s hard-earned funds (many small banks went bust and lost depositors’ money)? Are all those idolaters evil or were they so self-deluded to believe that murderers should be acclaimed heroes and “of the people?” If you made those folks face the corpses of those Bonnie and Clyde shot — sometimes 30 or 40 times, gleefully mutilating corpses — I doubt “good people” would feel proud of their support.

In fact, what we now know as The Stockholm Syndrome — identifying with your captors — has only one cure: to be faced with facts, with reality. Only when those idolaters are faced with such reality can they begin to regain the trust of normal citizens or society.

And so, here we are: faced with almost half the country who idolized a liar, misogynist, a xenophobe, a racist and, above all, an opportunist at any cost. Are his supporters to be trusted, can they be trusted, or has their moral compass been compromised forever? Like the Bonnie and Clyde idolaters who admired the banks being destroyed, who overlooked the 13 murdered in the process, when faced with the reality of the gang’s criminal activity, many felt ashamed or made excuses of “we didn’t know!” At the end of WWII there were millions of Germans and Italians and collaborators who claimed they too “didn’t know” what Nazi Germany was doing. If they didn’t know, it was because they chose not to see, not to know, never to admit.

So, too, with Trump’s supporters. Many, perhaps most, will never admit they were morally corrupt to support him and his gang. In fact, the divisions in our country will continue unless they have a chance for rehabilitation by facing the truth — of the more than 243,000 people who died of COVID needlessly, of the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, Stissing Center, for a smooth Election Day

We’re not in the habit of writing letters, but the experience we had on Election Day in Pine Plains motivates this one.

We both want to say “thank you” to all the people who ran the Pine Plains voting at The Stissing Center. They did a superb job.

In a year when almost everything else has been bumpy to say the least, they ran the election smoothly and, though it seems strange to say, hospitably. There was even free coffee and cake to greet the voters. The voting lines were processed in a matter of minutes.

To all the people who ran the elections — Republicans, Democrats and Independents — a big “THANK YOU!” Whether you consider yourself to be a winner or loser today, we can all be grateful that the process in our community was handled so professionally by such good people in such good spirit.

Nina and Tim Zagat
Town of Pine Plains

Millbrook film free online

I thought it would interest your readers to know that the documentary, “Il Villaggio di Millbrook,” which my nephew and I produced in 2017 about the Italian-American community in Millbrook, has just gone on Amazon Video, and can be streamed on Amazon Prime free of charge.

Robert Hixon Hanson, the filmmaker, now teaches film at Blair Academy in Blairstown, N.J. Last June his full-length feature documentary about archery in Bhutan, “Kingdom of Archers,” premiered at the Brooklyn Film Festival. He had just put on Amazon Video a 2013 TV series that he had done called “Nock Out” (also about archery) when he learned of the recent death of Town of Washington Councilman Al De Bonis, one of the “stars” of the Millbrook film. That news inspired him to put the Millbrook film on Amazon, too.

“I made this documentary with my aunt several years, ago,” wrote Robert on his Facebook page, “and it’s very close to my heart. I’m excited to make it widely available.”

Barbara Hanson Pierce
Salt Point

Robert Hixon Hanson
Blairstown, N.J.

‘The election process... is in excellent hands’

I always look forward to Election Day. Everything about it leaves me feeling a sense of pride, part of a greater whole and optimistic. Watching results come in inspires a sense of awe about the logistics. The poll workers are always helpful, knowledgeable and amiable.

As Election Day approached this year, I was thinking about all of them, concerned for their well-being in the COVID-19 era, and how that might impact people’s ability to vote. Being healthy and able-bodied, I decided to volunteer. The official title was “Election Inspector.”

I was assigned to assist at Dover Town Hall. Throughout the process — training in Poughkeepsie, setup and Election Day in Do-

ver — I was greeted by thoughtful people who are serious about the process. Long-time inspectors coached newbies. Critiques by the veterans focused on ways to improve setup, teardown and supplies for next time.

The sight of neighbor greeting neighbor; election inspectors checking in then applauding first-time voters; Republicans and Democrats working together; and people being patient whilst waiting to vote was heartening.

Difficult conversations are ahead but we should approach them confident that the election process in our county is in excellent hands.

Kevin McEvilly
Millerton

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