

The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

Thursday, September 10, 2020

Volume 89 Number 33 • 10 Pages in 1 Section



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\$1.25

Rural broadband and remote learning

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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HARLEM VALLEY — Local students who found internet access a challenge long before the coronavirus pandemic hit now find lack of reliable broadband a barrier to their education, as they are now attending classes remotely as school buildings remain closed during the health crisis.

Pine Plains town Supervisor Darrah Cloud said broadband access is the first question potential buyers ask when visiting Pine Plains, and its absence is a hindrance to the town's economic development, as well as to student success.

Pine Plains has a Broadband Committee looking into improving internet access. Although New York State has

designated Dutchess County as "completely served" with internet access, Cloud said this is not the case.

"That is an error in the logic in the internet companies and the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] and they made this error because of the way they did their calculation of who had it and who didn't," she said, "and because of that, a lot of people don't have internet or internet at all, and it's literally on the FCC and the internet companies."

She charges the issue is "all about the money," in her Aug. 7 e-newsletter. "To me, it is a class issue, because it's all about money and who can afford what, and it shouldn't be — it should be everybody's right."

See **BROADBAND, A7**



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The groundbreaking ceremony at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook set the stage for a major \$13 million renovation. From left: Chair of the Cary Institute's Board of Trustees Scott Ulm, Trustee Timothy Bontecou, President of the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies Josh Ginsberg, Trustee Hugo Casirer, Trustee Irene Banning and Trustee Martin Senzel.

Even amid pandemic, Cary Institute raises \$11 million for renovation

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
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MILLBROOK — When the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies was founded by Gene Likens, world-renowned ecologist, in 1983, the world was a very different place. Over those 35-plus years, science has evolved, and so has the Cary, and while buildings were added to and improved upon, the main edifice has basically remained the same.

Joshua Ginsberg, the current president of the institute, invited Cary supporters, board members, area residents and community members to share in "Reimagining the Cary Institute" via

Zoom on Friday, Aug. 21, and a great many took him up on the offer.

Ginsberg spoke of the future of the Cary, plans for a \$13 million renovation, \$11 million of which has already been fundraised, with a Campaign for Cary launched to hopefully raise the remaining \$2 million.

Ginsberg answered many questions that have arisen concerning the renovation of a building that is a familiar site on Route 44. For instance: Is this the right time to start a project like this, during a worldwide pandemic? Plans were made far in advance of the COVID-19 crisis; it was put on hold, but now it's felt that it will be safe to proceed. The expected time for the renovation

to be completed is between 12 and 18 months. Since many scientists and staff are already working from home, there will be less disruption to the scientific work and research done at the institute. Only a small section of the nature trail, from the fern glen to the headquarters, will be closed, and at times parking in the lot will be unavailable, but other arrangements will be made for onsite access to parking and trails.

Ginsberg said when the staff and the public are able to return to the brick and mortar establishment, "they will be returning to a cutting-edge building that has incorporated modern health and

See **CARY INSTITUTE, A7**

What are the legal pitfalls of reopening schools?

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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NEW YORK STATE — Even after Governor Andrew Cuomo's announcement that schools will be allowed to open this fall and school districts submitted their reopening plans to the state, students and their families have continued to raise concerns about whether it's possible to safely return to in-school instruction during a pandemic. The New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) is so concerned, it held a webinar entitled, "Reopening Schools: Legal Issues and Concerns" to tackle those issues on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the program was held via Zoom. Calling

the coming season "a fall like no other," Jay Worona, deputy executive director and general counsel for the New York State School Boards Association, said, "There's nothing more important, of course, in living through these hard times than focusing on the effect it has on our children, our students."

Worona acknowledged how parents are living through the most difficult time in respect to making decisions about the safest way to educate their children, whether it means continuing their education from home or in school. Prepared to discuss reopening schools from a legal perspective as well as from a human perspective, he

See **REOPENING SCHOOLS, A7**

Geer Adult Day permanently closed

By **DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS**
Special to The Millerton News

NORTH CANAAN, Conn. — After 42 years of providing seniors across the Tri-state region with an alternative to more expensive home care, the Geer Adult Day Center (ADC), which has been closed since March 16 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will not be reopening. New York residents have been served by the ADC and will now need to find such support elsewhere.

Kevin O'Connell, CEO of Geer Village Senior Community, made the announcement Sept. 1, citing safety concerns for participants, family and staff. "Sadly, after much consideration we have concluded that we will not reopen Geer's ADC program. The risk of infection as we transport highly vulnerable people across long distances and provide care in a confined space is just too great," said O'Connell in a statement.

The nature of adult day centers is that personalized care is provided; in combination with participants who are at greater risk from exposure, it creates

"Going forward, we are focusing on new ways to help those who need support at home."

Kevin O'Connell, CEO of Geer Village Senior Community

a "very fragile environment," O'Connell said.

Financial component

The center's closing has also resulted in the layoff of its director, although program staff have been "absorbed into the organization in other ways," said Stacie Nicholas, Geer's development director.

The Adult Day Center had an enrollment of about 40 individuals and served an average of about 15 people daily.

Nicholas further noted that financial considerations, as well as space constraints that did not allow for adequate social distancing, were contributing factors.

"The Adult Day Center was what we call a 'loss leader'; it provided a great mission but never really balanced its budget, so obviously that's a factor."

In July, Geer hired an architectural

firm, Amenta/Emma, to conduct a reopening assessment on all campus facilities and a report on how each space can be adapted to conform with new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state regulations around spacing, social distancing and cleaning. Geer also worked with national and state agencies that oversee and fund adult day centers to create a plan on how best to serve participants in the safest way possible in the future.

"Within our program and space configuration there is limited ability to provide social distancing for participants without significantly reducing the numbers served," O'Connell said in his statement.

"As well, many of the individuals have dementia-related illnesses, which may

See **GEER ADULT DAY, A7**



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Vroom, vroom

This year's Historic Festival at Lime Rock Park was closed to spectators Labor Day weekend because of COVID-19 but the annual vintage car parade through Salisbury and Falls Village, Conn., gave car fans a sampling of antique motor sports.



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OPINION

We Must Remember, And Remain Prepared; Columns **A6**

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MILLERTON/AMENIA

Village Elections are Sept. 15

Hartzog, Sartori vie for second terms on Village Board

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILLERTON — Come Tuesday, Sept. 15, village residents will have their choice of two returning candidates to fill the two open seats on the Village Board for the next two years. Both running for a second term on the board, incumbent candidates Matthew Hartzog and Alicia Sartori, both Democrats, are looking forward to the opportunity to serve their community for another term and continue working on projects that will ultimately make the village of Millerton a better place to live.

While this year's Village Election was originally scheduled for in March, the coronavirus changed that, and then the Village Board voted to move the election to June, only to have the COVID-19 pandemic move the date once more to September.

So now, come next week, voters can finally cast their ballots at the Village Hall, located at 5933 North Elm Ave. (Route 22), from noon to 9 p.m.

When asked what motivated his campaign for a second term, Hartzog replied that there's still work that needs to be done, from administering the repainting of the village water tower to replacing the water meters and fire hydrants.

"Also I enjoy serving," Hartzog said, "and I think that the board is a good board and I think that we're getting a lot accomplished."

Coming up on the end of his first two-year term, Hartzog said he's learned that "every single nickel counts," especially this year.

"We don't know if there are going to be budget cuts coming from the county or the state," he said. "There's a lot of rumors about New York not having enough money, so we're not positive about getting the money that we normally depend on."

Running under the Demo-

cratic ticket, Hartzog said that, if elected, he'd like to finish up the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act grant, which the village received to repaint the interior and exterior of its water tower, set up a temporary water tank, install shut off valves on its fire hydrants and install the remaining water meters in the village. Among the other projects that the village is currently working on, Hartzog shared his interest in seeing the new shared highway garage between the village and the town of North East finished, and in watching the Eddie Collins Memorial Park Revitalization Committee begin the first phase of redesigning the park.

Endorsed by both the Democratic and Republican parties, Sartori has been on the board since 2018 and said she's enjoyed the experience so far.

"I feel like I'm there for the people of the village," she said. "I like to hear what we're doing right and what we're doing wrong. It makes me proud to live in the village and I'm willing and able to give my time to help the village run smoothly."

Reflecting on her first term on the board, Sartori said she feels like the first two years were a learning curve, given all that they learned about running a municipality.

"I feel like you've invested yourself in learning how things work," she said, "and I'd like to continue and see some projects through and continue to work and learn and make the village a great place for people to work and live."

Similar to Hartzog, Sartori expressed an interest in seeing work done at the Eddie Collins Memorial Park, though her focus is centered on redoing the park's playground and building new basketball courts.

She also wants to move forward with the wastewater project, and obtain critical funding, ideally through pursuing grant monies, to install a much-needed wastewater treatment system in the village.

97-year-old Mary Leitch makes masks with a little help from her friends

By KAITLIN LYLE
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AMENIA — Even as the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and its resulting stay at home orders have persuaded most seniors to self isolate to keep from contracting the deadly virus, Amenia resident Mary Leitch, 97, has been keeping herself busy by making face masks to give away to friends, neighbors and others in need of them in the local community and beyond.

Born and raised on Winchell Mountain in nearby Millerton, the compassion Leitch has for the local community and its residents stands out in both her native roots and the her dedication to making face masks since this past February.

Amazed by her friend's energy and know-how in taking on this task, JoAnn Parker, a Millbrook resident and friend of the Amenia senior, recalled the phone conversation she had with Leitch when she shared her thoughts about making masks. Leitch is familiar with how essential face masks are to keeping people safe around illnesses; she had previously worked



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Amenia resident Mary Leitch, left, has been making face masks to distribute to friends, neighbors and others in need of them with help from her friends, including Millbrook resident and Realtor Paula Redmond.

as an RN at Sharon Hospital many years ago. Even as Parker asked her how she'd go about getting the materials needed to make the masks, Leitch remained optimistic about the challenges of her impending project.

"Mary is the type of person in whatever she might suggest, you never give her an inkling that it

might not be a good idea," Parker said fondly.

As luck would have it, Leitch encountered no difficulties in recruiting help from her friends. Her landlord and neighbor, Antony "Toby" Collins, retrieved her sewing machine down from her attic while her friend Catherine Howard supplied her with a variety

of materials to make the masks. Once everything was in place, Leitch started making the masks with help from her friend, Millbrook Realtor Paula Redmond.

"I pictured them having a sewing bee and these masks were flying one by one," Collins said in reference to Leitch and Redmond, who happens to be his wife, working together, though he added that the work was all business between them.

Once an ample amount of face masks had been made, Leitch and her friends began distributing them through a network of friends, some taking dozens of masks to share. Along with their friends and neighbors, they began giving the masks away free of charge to local municipalities and businesses, including the Millbrook Library, the Millbrook Diner, Uncle Al's Thrift Shop and the Millbrook Hunt.

"I'm so happy I could do it," Leitch said when reflecting on her contribution to the local community during the pandemic. "I read in the paper that people are charging for masks — I think it's awful and I feel bad; it's much better to give them away."

Before long, Leitch's masks spread through the Collins' family through their local church as well as to the village of Millerton; the town of Canaan, N.Y.; Hudson River Healthcare Health Center in Amenia; and even to friends in Tennessee and Maine.

"We just started making them and they went like hotcakes," Leitch said with a laugh. "When the word got out, they went fast." "They flew away, you might say," Collins added. "It's almost as if the masks had spread themselves."

"She's amazing, she's really amazing and we gave them all away," Redmond said.

Since Leitch first started making masks in February, she's already produced around 400, sometimes making 16 masks a day. Even now, she is still hard at work making masks almost daily.

With dozens of masks at home just waiting to be sent out into the world, Leitch said she plans to take a short break and then start making more masks with new patterns in the coming weeks.

'Cheers' made at Lucky Orphans fundraiser

DOVER PLAINS — Excited to bring the community together to raise awareness for its mission, Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue, in partnership with Milea Estate Vineyard, invited residents and businesses to an evening of food, wine and music at the Hudson Valley vineyard on Thursday, Aug. 20. Located in nearby Staatsburg, around 20 attended, many of whom took the opportunity to chat with the Lucky Orphans staff about the equine sanctuary's work.

"It's a way to bring together the community that enables us to do everything that we do every day down to the supporters and the businesses," said KarissaLee Thompson, sanctuary manager.

For those who were unable to make it to the event, Lucky Orphans will be hosting similar events at the winery from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 17; Thursday, Oct. 15; and Thursday Nov. 19.

All proceeds and donations collected will go directly to the care of the 50 equine residents at Lucky Orphans, located at 2699 Route 22 in Dover Plains.

— Kaitlin Lyle



PHOTO SUBMITTED

As sanctuary manager of Lucky Orphans Horse Rescue, KarissaLee Thompson made herself available to talk about the equine sanctuary's mission of "People Helping Horses Heal People" at the fundraiser held at Milea Estate Vineyard on Thursday, Aug. 20.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

Composting trail toilets open once again

The village of Millerton recently reopened its composting toilets on the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, located behind the Irondale Schoolhouse near the Main Street trail entrance, with a street address of 57 South Center St., Millerton. The composting toilets will now be open in the morning and close at dusk. Visitors are asked to wear their face masks at all times when using the facilities. For more information on the environmentally friendly facilities, call Village Hall at 518-789-4489.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Correction

In the Aug. 27 edition of The Millerton News, it was incorrectly reported that Ken Thompson bought Family Fitness Factory from owner Maria Tamburrino, who recently shut down the gym in the town of North East due to COVID-19, and then opened his own gym, the Millerton Athletic Club. While Thompson did purchase the gym's equipment, Tamburrino clarified that Thompson did not purchase the business itself. We regret the error.

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PINE PLAINS/AREA

Eugenia Zukerman, facing Alzheimer's, reflects and inspires in her recent book

By KAITLIN LYLE
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ANCRAMDALDE — When presented with a life-altering diagnosis, there are many who can attest to the eddy of emotions felt and the fears that arise about the uncertain future before ultimately asking, "What happens now?"

In facing her Alzheimer's diagnosis, acclaimed flutist Eugenia Zukerman, an Ancramdale resident, tapered her answer down to two simple choices: to either give into despair or to remain upbeat.

In writing her memoir, "Like Falling Through a Cloud," Zukerman found a way to channel the concerns and confusion behind her diagnosis into an uplifting memoir that has since helped open the door for a discussion about Alzheimer's.

Recognized internationally, Zukerman has carved a name for herself in the art world as an accomplished flutist as well as an author, a journalist and an innovator. For more than 25 years, fans have watched her interview artists from different walks of life during her career as the arts correspondent on "CBS Sunday Morning." Along with her 13 years as the artistic director of



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Hailed for her remarkable career as an internationally acclaimed flutist, journalist and author, Eugenia Zukerman shared the story of her Alzheimer's diagnosis through pages of lyrical verse in her latest book, "Like Falling Through a Cloud," which was published in November 2019.

the Bravo! Vail Valley Musical Festival in Colorado, Zukerman has been praised for her work as the founder of the internet company, ClassicalGenie.

Yet even with her remarkable resume of accomplishments, Zukerman's focus doesn't lie in her achievements, but rather in her good fortune of being a musician and of having the opportunity to perform, whether as a soloist or in the company of other musicians. At the age of 75, she can still be found practicing the flute every day, a pursuit that has brought her unparalleled happiness throughout the years.

"Being a musician is a gift to anyone who does it and it's a gift because it gives the player enormous satisfaction," Zukerman said. "I am just very lucky that

I have been able to have a very busy career."

Recollecting the moments leading up to her diagnosis three years ago, Zukerman said her daughters noticed that she seemed baffled and was having difficulties with her memory. Upon their insistence that she get tested, Zukerman recalled her annoyance and refusal to get tested before finally agreeing to do so, an experience that was later captured in her deeply personal poem, "Marbles."

"...my daughters tell me to get tested / tested for what I ask / even though I know for what / but it's for what I don't want to know."

Once she learned that she was in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, Zukerman returned home, where she picked up a

pen and began to write — thus "Like Falling Through a Cloud" was born.

The memoir was published in November 2019, coinciding with the national celebration of Alzheimer's Awareness Month. To Zukerman's own surprise, the book emerged as a positive memoir with its share of heartfelt, humorous and heartbreaking moments captured in lyrical verses.

"I didn't have an intention of how to write it," Zukerman said in a recent interview. "I just had it inside me. I had this knowledge given to me... I think I was able to find my own way and I don't think I've ever written anything so freely as I did writing this book."

"I don't know why, but writing the book made me happy, made me feel I had something to say, not just for the reader but for myself," she said.

What was even more uplifting, she recounted, were the encouraging responses and the signs of support she received from her readers, many of whom have come up to Zukerman after public engagements to continue the discussion about Alzheimer's.

Following her book talk sponsored by Oblong Books & Music last winter, just before COVID-19 caused such events to be canceled, she recalled a man who approached her to confess how her book helped him find the words to tell his family what he was experiencing with his own Alzheimer's diagnosis.

In reflection of her ability to connect with others through the telling of her story, Zukerman said, "I want them to take away a sense of joy, which may sound really strange because it is a death sentence... you can say it and you can absorb it and it becomes part of who you are."

Even in understanding her diagnosis as what she described as "a death sentence," Zukerman said, "It's a disease that allows you to stay alive for as much as you can and to make the most of it."

New emergency alert system: NY ALERT

COLUMBIA COUNTY — Effective Saturday, Aug. 29, Columbia County has changed its mass emergency alert system to the system provided by New York State known as NY ALERT.

CodeRed is no longer being used. All Columbia County residents are encouraged to enroll in the new emergency alert system by visiting www.alert.ny.gov/enroll. Existing landline telephones will be automatically subscribed to the new service.

AREA IN BRIEF

Pine Plains Cleanup Day Sept. 12

PINE PLAINS — The town of Pine Plains' Cleanup Day is Saturday, Sept. 12, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and the town needs volunteers with pickup trucks to help those who can't manage their items to get them to the recycling center at the Highway Department.

Items being accepted are listed on the town's website, www.pineplains-ny.gov.

There will be a charge for large items like tires and mattresses and sofas. Appliances with freon are also being accepted for a charge.

Stanford Grange Community Day, BBQ Sept. 19

STANFORDVILLE — Stanford Grange #808 will have its Annual Chicken Barbecue at the 62nd Annual Stanford Community Day on Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville.

Dinners are to-go only and will be ready at 4 p.m. Dinners will include barbecued chicken, potato salad, baked beans and dessert. Cost is \$15 per person. All CDC health guidelines will be followed including face masks, social distancing and gloves. For reservations, contact Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at 845-868-7869.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Pine Plains Platter employee Jordyn Funk, left, took Alabama resident Herndon Radcliff's order on Friday afternoon, Aug. 7.

Order's up

PINE PLAINS — After closing up shop in mid-March following Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order based on the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pine Plains Platter, located at 2987 Church St., relished its long-awaited reopening at the start of August.

During the time in which the popular restaurant was closed to the public, the Platter reorganized, redecorated and decluttered. Though its hours of operation and menu items are now reduced, it encountered

no difficulties drawing customers back to enjoy its fresh food, which can now be eaten either in its outdoor dining area or through contactless takeout.

Open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Fridays through Mondays, the Pine Plains Platter is currently allowing only a limited number of patrons at once and requiring everyone to wear masks.

For more information, go to the Pine Plains Platter website at www.pineplainsplatter.com.

— Kaitlin Lyle

BOE prepares for start of school year

By KAITLIN LYLE
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PINE PLAINS — In preparation for the start of the 2020-21 school year and the various details involved with reopening, members of the Pine Plains Board of Education (BOE) kept informed with the latest updates from the Pine Plains Central School District at its board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 2.

Beginning at 7 p.m., the entire BOE tuned in via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as did Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Michael Goldbeck.

Kicking off with a discussion on the start of the school year, Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler reported the district is in the final process of putting together an employee handbook for reopening. Going through the draft, he noted that the document covers health screenings for employees and other topics related to reopening procedures and precautions. Handler reported that the district planned a brief meeting with administrators on Thursday afternoon, Sept. 3, "just to make sure we have our ducks in a row" before schools reopen.

Schools will reopen in the district on Wednesday, Sept. 9. Handler said the district expects about 30 students to return in-person for the self-contained special education classes across the district's three school buildings.

Following a conversation with its shared School Food Service Director Larry Anthony, Handler said Anthony received good news from the state related to the meals the district delivers to its students. Handler was told that the meals (both breakfast and lunch) for all registered students will be free through December. With the district reopening this year under a remote learning model, he said it will be able to continue to feed students or their families at no charge. Considering how this might be tricky for the district, Handler said the kitchens in all three school buildings must remain open.

While the district will continue delivering the meals to families, he said parents who want to pick up meals for their children will be able to do so at

either Cold Spring Early Learning Center, Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center or Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, which would cut down on the district's deliveries. In the meantime, he shared his plan to send out an updated letter to parents about the food program.

As an update on the Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School auditorium, Handler reported that, for all intents and purposes, the auditorium is finished. He commended the Stissing Theatre Guild for its cooperation and for breaking down the sets of this year's planned spring musical, "Peter Pan," and putting them into storage and clearing the stage.

Lastly, Handler delivered a report on the different scenarios the district has looked into for school-sponsored sports this year. More on that subject will be covered in future issues of The Millerton News.

Delivering the district's COVID-19 financial report, Goldbeck explained that the report refers to all of the expenditures the district has identified as COVID-19 related, adding that he's trying specifically to focus on those expenditures that wouldn't have happened without the coronavirus pandemic. Up until this point, he said the district has identified \$66,000 in COVID-19 expenditures. On the upside, he said the district has \$160,000 in federal CARES Act money, noting that the CARES Act funding is designed to last through the early months of 2022. At this time, he said he isn't certain as to what money the district will have available to offset 2020-21 expenditures, though he assured the BOE the district will do its best.

In talking about identifying and ordering the personal protective equipment (PPE) necessary to supply the district staff this year, Goldbeck asked Handler if there have been any items that have been scarce or hard to get before school starts. Handler replied that there seemed to be a scarcity of Clorox disinfectant wipes. Apart from that, he said that while the district has ordered clear shields, or face guards, for its greeters' desk and the cashiers in the school cafeterias, those orders have been delayed.

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MILLBROOK



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Mike Polasek, left, owner of Simply Gourmet, presented a check to Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County 4-H Program Leader Jane Rodd after holding a three-day pop up sale with the proceeds going to the 4-H Club.

Local 4-H Club gets support from Simply Gourmet

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
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MILLBROOK — In this new world of pandemic and need, there are things people depend on: the generosity of others, kindness and caring from strangers, and the hope that the youth of today will help support a brighter tomorrow. This country's 4-H Clubs have long toiled to make that possible, and many of those young future farmers are more important than ever in helping to feed communities with healthy food choices at affordable prices. Jane Rodd is the 4-H program leader at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCEDC) in Millbrook. She was recently given a donation of an undisclosed amount from Mike Polasek, owner of the Poughkeepsie catering business Simply Gourmet, in support of healthy food and today's youth. Simply Gourmet held a food pop up sale for three days in June, with proceeds going to the CCEDC 4-H program. People came from around the region to purchase and enjoy some of the items Simply Gourmet is famous for, and, of course, to support the 4-H.

"We are all facing difficult times as individuals and as businesses," Polasek said. "But even in these adverse times we have to continue to support our communities and our nonprofit organizations. They need us more now than ever. We chose 4-H because of the incredible educational opportunities that it provides children."

4-H members learn to work with agricultural products and livestock, and then present what they have learned to the public. Some of those presentations, including their annual involvement in the Dutchess County Fair, will not take place this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The health crisis has also curtailed the club's fundraising efforts.

Polasek said that was one reason he wanted to contribute to the local 4-H Club.

"We hope that our donation brings joy to the membership by helping to continue their programs," he said.

Simply Gourmet opened in 2008 and tries to use mostly local ingredients, which means it works closely with local farms and other purveyors. It hopes to continue its relationship with the 4-H, and to celebrate farms, food and community long into the future.

Corcoran Country Living acquires Paula Redmond Real Estate, comes to Millbrook

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — With so many city dwellers looking to leave the city and find homes in smaller, possibly safer places during the coronavirus pandemic, or possibly to buy second homes, what better time is there for a well-known real estate company to take advantage of new opportunities in the heart of the Hudson Valley? Corcoran Country Living has come to Millbrook, aware of the pastoral allure of the area and its reputation as a quaint and quiet site.

Moving into the former Paula Redmond Real Estate office at 10 Front St. in Millbrook, this is the sixth Corcoran affiliate to launch since the beginning of 2020.

And while Redmond initially was not looking to sell, she said she realized that in Karadus and Gladstone, she found kindred spirits who would take good care



PHOTO SUBMITTED
From left, Marie-Claire Gladstone, Jason Karadus and Paula Redmond, have joined forces in Corcoran Country Living.

of her clients, who shared her same love for Dutchess County. Redmond remains with the office as a broker, along with most of her previous staff of roughly 20.

Redmond is a well-known name in local real estate, and her agency had a loyal following for years.

Seasoned Corcoran agents Jason Karadus and Marie-Claire

Gladstone are heading the new enterprise, announced by Pamela Liebman, president and CEO of the Corcoran Group. Karadus and Gladstone have expertise in the region, including Columbia and Ulster Counties as well as in Dutchess.

Having originated in New York State, Corcoran Country Living is a proud addition to the company. With one office in Rhinebeck and now the office in Millbrook, which opened July 1, there are 20 agents between the two offices, it looks like they'll be keeping busy with new clients and properties, said the agents, who expect to attract many city-based buyers.

According to Karadus, most properties in the area that sell to city buyers go for around \$750,000 or more. Karadus came to Redmond's office approximately six months before the actual takeover began, working with Redmond, a longtime Realtor in the Millbrook area, to get a feel for the market and what it has to offer. He said he's no stranger to the region, though, which he has known for more than 18 years.

Karadus said he believed that many of the urban dwellers interested in buying second homes in the Tri-state region would gravitate to Hudson Valley area, much as they had to the Hamptons and other locales during earlier times.

That's because the beauty of this area is legendary, said Gladstone, who added she is honored to be a part of Corcoran Country Living, and grateful that Redmond was willing to work with her and Karadus.

The Corcoran Group has more than 50 offices today throughout the U.S., including in New York, Florida, California, Nevada and Illinois. Known as a premier real estate group, the firm was started by Barbara Corcoran at the age of 23 in 1973, with seven agents and a \$1,000 loan on the Upper East Side.

Millbrook Library reopens with new director, new rules

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — With the Millbrook Library reopening on Monday, July 6, after being closed since mid-March due to the coronavirus pandemic, patrons will now be able to meet its new director, Courtney Wimmers.

"I've been at the Millbrook Library for about a month and every day I feel incredibly lucky to have been chosen for this position," she said. "The library members are a joy to work with. They have adapted to a lot of new procedures due to the pandemic, and have impressed me with their willingness to learn and adapt every step of the way."

Wimmers said she's thrilled with the community support.

"[It's] very apparent, and I cannot wait to start meeting even more people," she said, adding she wants to do more community outreach and create more partnerships with local organizations. "I'm not sure what that will look like in our strange new reality but I'm confident we can make it happen."

Wimmers grew up in Pleasant Valley and visited Millbrook often to pick up books at Merritt Bookstore. She even went to the midnight release parties for the Harry Potter books. She has two cats, Socks and Shirley, and loves to read, especially science fiction and fantasy. She also likes to hike.

Thomas Finnigan, who served as interim director while the search was conducted, has returned to his previous position as head of circulation.

"Serving as interim director was my privilege and pleasure," he said. "I assisted in the hiring of our new director, and it has been my honor to assist her in the acclimation process for the first few weeks and I look forward to continuing to serve with her in this capacity."

Finnigan, who has been employed at the library for more than three years, added, "My opinion is that the Millbrook Library is exceptionally fortunate to have Ms. Wimmers as director has increased each day we have worked together."

The Millbrook Library Board of Trustees appointed Wimmers as of June 1. She previously worked as the outreach and engagement specialist at the Mid-Hudson Library System and also served in the Pleasant Valley Free Library and the East Fishkill Community Library. Graduating from San Jose State University in 2016; she has been working in libraries since then.

The Millbrook Library hours are: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 1 to 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and closed on Saturday and Sunday. The first hour of each day its open is reserved for seniors and immunocompromised patrons.

New rules for library patrons include they must wear a mask while inside. Curbside pickup will continue, and computers are available for use, by appointment. All books should be dropped off at the book drop; they will be quarantined for three days before

being put back into circulation. Study areas are not available at this time, but patrons are welcome to come in and browse. The children's areas is limited to two families at a time to facilitate social distancing.

Wimmers said the library is seeking a part-time children's literary coordinator, someone who is enthusiastic, has an associates degree with one to three years of experience working with children in a library, preschool or similar setting. This position is for approximately 21 hours per week and can be viewed on the library website.

For more information on the library, located at 3 Friendly Lane, call 845-677-3611 or go to www.millbrooklibrary.org.



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Courtney Wimmers, the new director of the Millbrook Library, said she's happy the library is reopened and has enjoyed meeting its patrons.

From blind date to 70th wedding anniversary

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — When Marion and Albert Ratschki agreed to a blind date more than 70 years ago, little did they realize that they would get married, move from Queens, have three sons and ultimately spend their 70th wedding anniversary in quarantine at The Fountains in Millbrook.

June 3, 1950, may seem like a long time ago to some, but to the Ratschkis, there are times when it seems like just yesterday. As with most couples, there were good years and bad years. Together they weathered both good and bad, and now they can sit back and remember together all of the memories they created while they lived their lives and raised their family together.

Their momentous first date, of dining and dancing, took place in October. Albert was a young veteran at the time. By February, he had proposed, and the wedding took place at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Glendale, Queens. Raising their boys for 20 years in Ozone Park, Albert worked for the New York Transit Authority; Marion worked in a library. Visiting with friends in Dutchess County, they decided to move from the city and spent the next 47 years in Lagrangeville, moving just last year to The Fountains in Millbrook.

"It doesn't seem that long," said Marion, "but looking back at all the memories, life's been very good to us."

Asked what advice they



PHOTO SUBMITTED
Marion and Albert Ratschki were surprised by a celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary with family and staff at The Fountains.

would give to newlyweds, they agreed on the importance of learning to compromise. They also agreed that a sense of humor comes in handy.

Their 70th wedding anniversary, celebrated this summer on Wednesday, June 3, was quiet, they said, not surprising considering most of the country is on lockdown because of the coronavirus pandemic.

But on Friday, June 5, "Oh, that was a surprise," said Marion. "We knew some of our family was coming, and bringing us food from our favorite restaurant, but we didn't expect the staff, with balloons, signs and all kinds of well-wishing down-stairs by the lawn."

Somehow, given the circumstances, they might not have expected such a big event, but it's not everyday that a couple makes it to their 70th wedding anniversary. Everyone at The Fountains agreed, it just seemed right to make the Ratschkis' anniversary a special day.

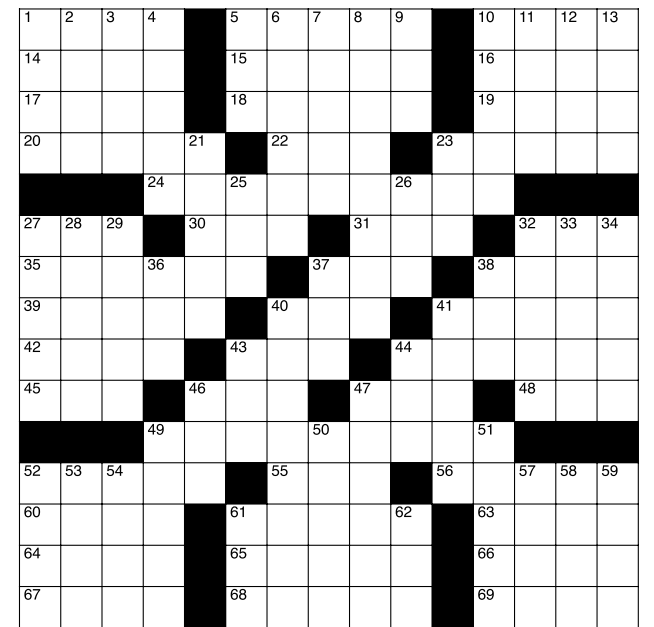
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Aurochs
5. Central Dravidian language
10. Split pulses in Indian cooking
14. Tropical starchy tuberous root
15. Well known constellation
16. About aviation
17. Bowfin genus
18. Proper
19. Expression of annoyance
20. Cabbies
22. Bro or sis
23. Spiritual leader
24. Where football coaches work
27. Old TV part
30. A way to color
31. Touch lightly
32. Surround
35. Breached
37. Aristocratic young woman
38. Dry ravine
39. Hebrew measurement units
40. Supporter
41. Type of sword
42. Influential Irish playwright
43. Witch
44. Flower cluster
45. Mark Wahlberg's animal friend
46. Psychedelic amphetamine
47. Actors' group
48. Cool!
49. Salts
52. Group of SE China
55. Illuminated
56. Semitic Sun god
60. Water (Spanish)
61. Employed
63. Japanese ankle sock
64. Fishing fly
65. Some pheasants are this
66. Literary name for Ireland
67. Must have
68. A way to write
69. One point east of southeast

CLUES DOWN

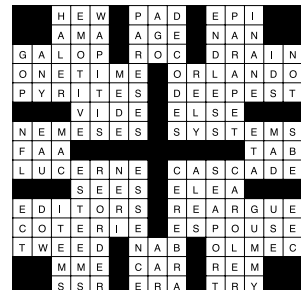
1. American state
2. Hindu model of ideal man
3. Type of acid
4. Drenches
5. "The Raven" writer
6. Emerged
7. Alpha Centauri: __ Centaurus
8. Democratic Presidential candidate
9. Hostelry
10. Fathers
11. Any plant with leaves used for flavoring
12. Member of a Semitic people
13. Lesotho monetary unit
21. Lots
23. Jewish address corresponding to "Sir"
25. Male parent
26. A way to get



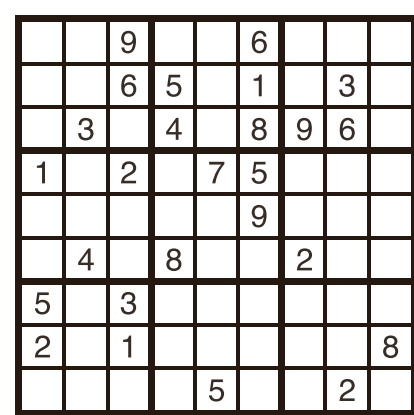
27. Body part
28. Seam in an organ
29. Landlocked African country
32. Process for producing ammonia
33. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues
34. Bugged down
36. Native American tribe
37. Unfashionable person
38. Female grunts
40. Well known
41. Gurus
43. Norse mythological site
44. Tell on
46. __ Farrow, actress
47. Cotton fabric
49. Reciter of Scandinavian poems
50. Clouds
51. Satisfies
52. Shuttered Air Force base in Germany

53. Phil __, former CIA
54. Japanese seaport
57. Female horse or zebra
58. First month of ancient Hebrew calendar
59. Trigonometric function
61. Fashionable knowledge (Slang)
62. Insecticide

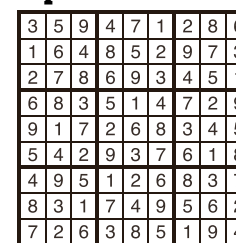
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OBITUARY

Joan C. Williams

MILLERTON — Joan C. Williams, 86, a 47-year resident of Millerton, died peacefully at her home on Sept. 1, 2020.



Born June 2, 1934, in Sharon, she was the daughter of the late Kenneth Harry and Margaret (Parsons) Card.

Joan grew up in Millerton and graduated from Millerton High School.

On Jan. 24, 1954, in Millerton she married Richard "Dick" Williams. Dick and Joan traveled the United States while Dick served in the United States Air Force for more than 20 years.

During his length of service, Joan was actively involved in volunteer services and supporting the troops, while raising their three children.

Dick and Joan moved back to Millerton in 1973 following Dick's retirement and together built their home on Sawchuck Road. Mr. Williams died on April 11, 1982.

Joan was an active member of the Lakeville United Methodist Church for more than 40 years. She worked for many years as the manager of the jewelry department for Ames department store in Amenia. Prior to that, she worked for Aperture Book and Photo in Millerton.

Joan had a zest for life. She loved traveling, dining out and most importantly spending time with her family.

Joan is survived by her three children and their spouses, Denise Geyer and her husband, Ste-

phen, of Copake, N.Y., Dennis L. Williams and his wife, Nancy, of Millerton and Jeffrey K. Williams and his wife, Marleny, of Stamford, Conn.; two granddaughters, Lauren Williams of Kent and Brielle Williams of Dover Plains; two sisters, Phoebe Joyce Kaestner and her husband, Gordon, of Warner Robins, Ga., and Margaret Elaine Colon and her husband, Tom, of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; her niece, Debra Middlebrook and her husband, Lance, of Millerton; her nephew, Stephen Kaestner and his wife, Jackie, of Warner Robins; her nephew, Howard Kaestner and his wife, Nikki, of Atlanta, Ga.; and many friends.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was also predeceased by her longtime companion, Marvin Van Benschoten.

Funeral services were on Sept. 5 at the Lakeville United Methodist Church, the Rev. Margaret Laemmel officiating. Burial was at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton. The committal service was at the Irondale Cemetery. A celebration of Joan's life will also take place in the near future.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Millerton Fire Company, P.O. Box 733, Millerton, NY 12546; or to the Lakeville United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 648, Lakeville, CT 06039.

Arrangements are under the care of the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. To send an online condolence, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

Tom Seaver: In memoriam

Tom Seaver's recent passing has occasioned a great outpouring of positive comment and remembrance about his career as well as his impact on the game, and deservedly so. For guys my age, declaring the closing of an era is a geriatric weakness, but the argument that we shall not soon see Seaver's equal is as much about how the game has changed than it is about how pitchers are not what they once were.

Seaver was what we used to call a horse, a player the rest of the team could ride for not just a game, but for an entire season. The mind boggling stat is not just the 311 games won, or the 3,640 strike-outs, but the 231 complete games. This was a horse who expected to get you safely into the barn every time out. Amazing! Compare that to today's pitchers who think six innings is a heavy day's work, and you can see why horses are a non commodity in the game nowadays.

Now it is true that Seaver was not a warm and fuzzy fellow. He was a competitor of the sort that would smile nicely at you while he walked off with your lunch, your homework and maybe your dog. All he wanted to do was win, and win and win. And he did.

BLEACHER VIEWS

Theodore Kneeland

He had a variety of pitches; more were added as he got older. Among them was a high powered four seam, rising fastball and a two seam, sinking fastball. Because his drop and drive technique put him down so low to the mound, his natural pitch was around the batter's knees. He would throw one four seamer that would start below the knees, the batter would give up on it, and it would rise for a low strike. The next pitch might look the same, so the batter would think, "I'd better get on this." When he did, it would sink out of sight, and the poor fellow would be left flailing at air.

The next time up, he would get another rising fastball, but this one up around the letters, good, at best, for a weak pop-up. And so it would go: batter after batter going back to the dugout, shaking their heads in disgust.

Seaver was a student of the game long before advanced analytics were anything but an unpopular college course. He knew

Meet Paula Moore, Orvis Sandanona's newest shooting instructor

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Paula Moore had a satisfying career showing horses, something that she loved to do. But accompanying her husband to a sporting clays shooting program one day eventually changed her life, and her career, which is why she is now the newest shooting instructor at Orvis Sandanona shooting grounds in Millbrook.

Born in Sheffield, Mass., and raised with three brothers, Moore said she has always loved competing, showing horses and shooting. Once she got into shooting, she trained extensively and she said she learned from some of the top shooting instructors in the United States as well as from experts in Europe.

After learning her craft, she started competing regularly, and for more than 20 years she has been a fierce competitor. As a five-year member of Team USA, she competed five times in international competitions. She was with the team for eight years. Moore's major accomplishments include being a nine-time National Sporting Clays Association (NSCA) All American; a five-time member of Team USA; a three-time World Side-By-Side Champion; a six-time New York State Champion; and a three-time Zone 1 Champion.

After years of competing, Moore became a NSCA certified instructor, starting her own busi-

ness and instructing students of all levels. She did this part time for three years while working as an emergency veterinarian technician. Moore then retired from being a vet tech and went into teaching full time and opening up Moore's Broken Clays in nearby Red Hook.

Her business venture took off, which meant constantly looking for new clients, marketing herself, scheduling appointments, book-keeping and keeping up with all of the other responsibilities that come with business ownership.

When she learned there was an opening for a shooting instructor at Orvis, however, she thought long and hard about making a change. As much as she loved having her own business, she weighed the pros and cons of doing all of the work to keep the business operating — in addition to shooting — which is where her heart is. When Orvis made her an offer, Moore accepted. Shortly thereafter, the country was hit with COVID-19 and her facility closed, but not before she realized the Orvis job would be a good fit, and that she and her expertise had found a good home.

Female shooting instructors are not all that common, but Moore said that those who know her are not surprised that she gave up horses for shooting, given her competitive nature. Some others are surprised, and it is not terribly unusual for men to tell her that they'd like her "to work with their wife," she said.

"Shooting is not gender specific, but we have to work twice as hard as a man," said Moore.

Although most events at Orvis have been canceled or postponed during the pandemic, as the state opens up, sporting events are starting to take place again. Orvis held a women's shooting clinic in June and a youth clinic was scheduled in July. The Orvis website, www.orvis.com, offers more information on upcoming events.

Orvis Sandanona, at 3047 Sharon Road, is a vital part of Millbrook's culture, bringing thousands to their two-day Orvis Game Fair each year. They offer sporting clays, wing shooting, fly fishing, lessons and workshops as well as offering excellent food, fine clothing and accessories, all nestled in a beautiful area of woods, streams and rolling green hills.

For more information, email sandanona@orvis.com or call 845-677-9701. Orvis is open seven days a week, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Shooting instructor Paula Moore, left, joined Orvis Sandanona in June, when the Millbrook shooting grounds re-opened amid the coronavirus pandemic. Here she is watching the form of student Felicia Mohr while she practiced her shooting.

Worship Services
Week of September 13, 2020

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

<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Online worship, Sundays at 10am www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>	<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship 11:00 a.m. Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all! 860-824-0194</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Marilyn Anderson Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICES 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite I) Said 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICE At Noon — with Eucharist www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 AM Rev. Dr. Martha Tucker All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people Pastor Savage Frieze 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am AT THE PILGRIM HOUSE 30 GRANITE AVE, CANAAN: FISHES & LOAVES Food Pantry and CLOSETS for clothing Tuesdays from 5 to 7 and Thursdays from noon to 2 www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational</p>	<p>Greenwoods Community Church 355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, MA Sunday Service 10:30 AM Kidz Connection K-6th grade (during Sun. Service) Nursery Care All Services Pastor Trip Weiler 413-229-8560 www.greenwoodchurch.com</p>
<p>North East Baptist Church Historic Meeting House, Main & Maple Millerton, NY God's word is always relevant! A Warm Welcome Awaits You SUNDAY SERVICES Family Bible School - 9:30 AM Morning Worship - 11:00 AM Evening Worship - 6:00 PM WEEKDAY MEETINGS Weds. Prayer Meeting 7:00 PM at Parsonage 33 S. Maple Ave. Sat. Bible Studies for Men & Women 3:00 PM FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON First Sunday of each month after AM services Pastor Henry A. Prause 518-789-4840</p>	<p>St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY VIRTUAL SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 Please go to www.stthomasamenia.com to log on. Followed by a virtual coffee hour Rev. AJ Stack www.stthomasamenia.com 845-373-9161</p>
<p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Steet, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:45 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd., Lime Rock Virtual Sunday service 10:30 AM Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page Virtual Coffee Hour & Bible Study Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627 www.trinitylimerock.org</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Join our virtual service on Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 a.m. "MATTERING" For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:30 a.m. Worship Service Sunday School 9:15 a.m. "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Margaret Laemmel 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>
<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9am Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mmgates125@gmail.com for an invitation to the Zoom service If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone. We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 am, Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 8 Bolton Hill Rd, Cornwall Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>Sharon Congregational Church 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for current online sermons. Bible Study Guides also available by request: info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org Or contact us at 860-364-5002</p>	<p>SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH 860-927-3003 The Churches of Sacred Heart, Kent St. Bernard, Sharon St. Bridget, Cornwall Bridge MASS SCHEDULE 9 AM - St. Bridget (indoors) Monday, Tuesday & First Friday 9 AM - St. Bernard (indoors) Wednesday SATURDAY VIGIL 4 PM - St. Bridget (outdoors) SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard (indoors) 10 AM - St. Bridget (outdoors) Face masks required Limited attendance indoors</p>
<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 9:30 A.M. 518-789-3138</p>	

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Take a swing for Salisbury Winter Sports Association and Jane Lloyd Fund

COPAKE — On Saturday, Sept. 19, take a swing for the 13th Annual Salisbury Winter Sports Associations (SWSA) Golf Benefit.

Undermountain Golf Course is accepting 36 players for the 8 a.m. tee off and 36 players for the 1 p.m. shotgun start on a first come basis. A portion of each entry fee will be donated to SWSA, with an additional donation from SWSA to the Jane Lloyd Fund.

All entry fees must be prepaid; no onsite registration.

The Orvis Cup Sept. 20 at Sandanona

MILLBROOK — The Orvis Cup will be held at Orvis Sandanona on Sunday, Sept. 20, with 100 targets, four boxes of Winchester target loads, ball cap, tote and boxed lunches.

The fee is \$180/shooter; golf carts need to be reserved separately and paid for by Friday, Sept. 11.

Squads or groups are strictly limited to four shoot-

The rules: Masks must be worn in the parking lot, in the pro-shop, on the patio and around the tent areas. Masks must be worn when purchasing beverages from the beverage cart. Loitering/tailgating in the parking lot is forbidden. Those who do not comply will be asked to leave.

Call 518-329-4444 or email service@undermountaingolf.com to sign up. Undermountain Golf Course is located at 274 Undermountain Road in Copake.

ers. Those who register as a single shooter will be squaded into a group up to four. Please be aware of social distancing mandates.

In lieu of an awards ceremony, prizes will be mailed. Results and winners will be posted on the Orvis website as soon as possible, at www.orvis.com.

For more information, go online.

the "cold spots" in every batter's swing, and he knew just how to set them up. The batter never knew when or how Seaver would hit that spot, but hit it he would.

Later in his career he used the movement on his pitches to set up location. Something would look like it was coming down main street, but it would veer off to a corner of the plate or maybe down in the dirt. The batter might think he had a good shot at it, only to find that, once again, he had been out thought.

Some might point to some horses in today's game, but compared to Tom Seaver, they are just ponies. Rest in Peace, Tom. You made it home to the barn.

Millerton resident Theodore Kneeland is a former teacher and coach — and athlete.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
Please take notice that pursuant to a resolution of the Town Board of the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, sealed bids for the purchase of the following items will be received at the Office of Town Clerk, Town of North East, 19 North Maple Avenue, PO Box 516, Millerton, New York 12546 until 10:00 AM. on the 24th day of September 2020.
On Road Diesel Fuel Delivered
89 Octane Gasoline Delivered
#2 Fuel Heating Oil Delivered
Run Of The Bank Gravel Processed Gravel
Screened Topsoil
Screened Ice Control Sand
Washed Ice Control Sand
Tailings
Crushed Stone
Washed Crushed Stone
Bituminous Mix (Cold Patch)
Bituminous Mix (Hot Mix All Types)

Latex Emulsions
Latex Primer & Sealers
Latex MP Materials
Base Conditioners
Liquid Calcium Chloride (Spread On Road By Gallon)
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The Town Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Information may be obtained by calling the Superintendent of Highways at 518-789-4850.
Robert D. Stevens
Superintendent of Highways
Town of North East
09-10-20

EDITORIAL

We must remember, and remain prepared

This week, on Friday, in the year 2020, we remember September 11, 2001 — 19 years ago to the day. On that bright, clear September morning, 2,606 unsuspecting New Yorkers (and others) working in the World Trade Center — a quintessential Manhattan skyscraper in America's quintessential city, in its quintessential financial district — was hit by terrorists bent on destruction.

On that fatal morning, 19 hijackers commandeered four planes and proceeded to kill not only themselves, but 2,997 others, and injure 6,000 more. There were 265 people who died aboard those aircraft, including the terrorists; 2,606 who died in the Twin Towers and its environs; and 125 who were killed at the Pentagon. It was a day filled with unimaginable tragedy.

Now, as we approach next year's 20th anniversary of the most deadly terror attack ever on American soil, we've been dealing with a brand new catastrophe: the coronavirus pandemic, which is killing legions more people with deadly viral particles. But the 896,086-plus deaths counted thus far across the globe, and the 27,465,135 confirmed cases in 213 countries and territories as of Monday, Sept. 7, doesn't diminish the lives lost on 9-11.

That day we, as Americans, were shaken to our core. It was our emergency workers, then, as it is today with this global health crisis, who responded. Of the nearly 3,000 who were killed when the Twin Towers were struck, 412 were emergency workers who ran directly into the line of fire to respond, including 343 New York City Fire Department (FDNY) firefighters (including a chaplain and two paramedics from the department).

A 2018 report from the medical director of the World Trade Center Health Program at Mount Sinai Hospital stated that out of the roughly 10,000 first responders and others at Ground Zero who have developed cancer as a result of their heroic actions, "more than 2,000 have died due to 9-11 related illnesses."

The Uniformed Firefighters Association (UFA) estimates that roughly 1 in 8 firefighters who went through the rubble where the Twin Towers fell have since come down with cancer.

In July of 2019, President Trump rightly signed a law to permanently extend aid to first responders who fell ill after working at Ground Zero following the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, ensuring compensation for victims through 2090.

Now, though, first responders in New York City, the very place they helped out following 9-11 and have been helping again in our current crisis, are now at risk of losing their livelihoods, thanks to the gargantuan, but unforeseen, budget shortfalls caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

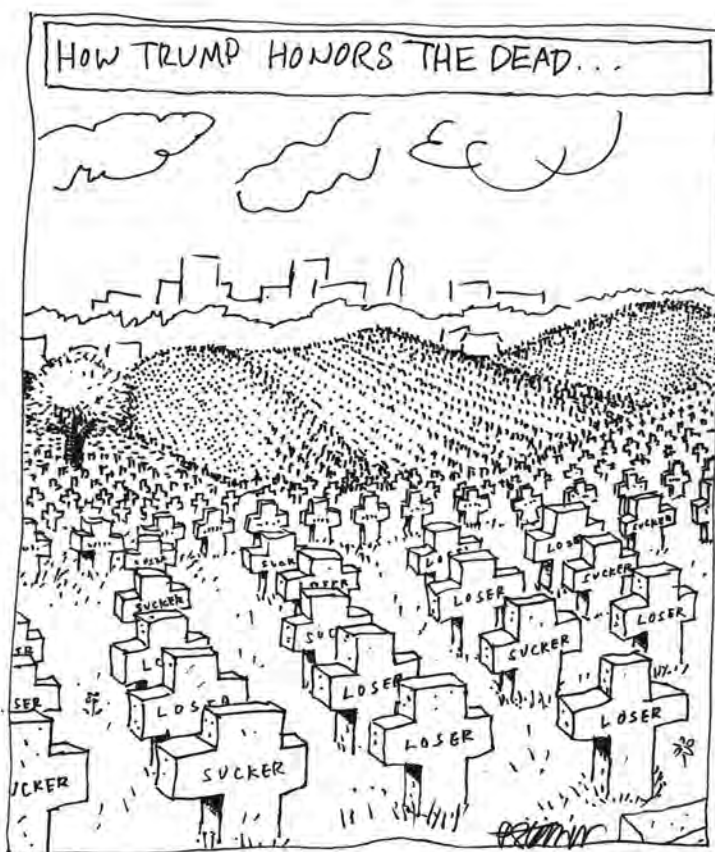
New York State itself is facing about a \$14 billion deficit due to COVID-19, with a \$1 billion loss affecting New York City. That's why city Mayor Bill de Blasio is considering laying off first responders, including 400 EMTs, paramedics and fire inspectors with the FDNY. He's hoping — as are we — the federal government will provide critical stimulus funding for the state and the city, or that state lawmakers will allow the city to take out a loan so the firings won't be necessary. But if there's no relief, 22,000 city jobs will probably be cut on Oct. 1.

And in the era of COVID-19, first responders are needed now more than ever — especially in NYC — once the virus' epicenter. We can't allow ourselves to slack off, even though our state leaders have done an incredible job bringing New York back to health, driving infection numbers down low.

On Friday, Sept. 4, Gov. Andrew Cuomo gave an update via email.

"The total number of hospitalizations remains low," he stated. "Yesterday, there were 428 total hospitalizations. Of the 93,395 tests reported yesterday, 864, or 0.92%, were positive. Sadly, we lost five New Yorkers to the virus."

There is still work to be done to keep everyone safe, to keep everyone healthy. Whether it be battling the coronavirus or terrorists, locally or globally, we must always remain vigilant. We need to continue to support those who can support us on the home front and abroad, be it our military, our police, our firefighters, our EMTs, any and all of our health care workers and our front line workers — they're all essential at times like these — when we're fighting for our health and our safety. And as we've hopefully learned since that bright, clear September morning 19 years ago in Lower Manhattan, and as we were again reminded this March in Wuhan, China, times like these can happen at any moment.



Honoring supreme sacrifice

VETERAN'S CORNER

Larry Conklin

There are a number of civilian and military oriented organizations out there soliciting funds for various causes. My choice organization is the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, created by Frank Siller to honor his brother Stephen, an off duty FDNY (Fire Department of New York) firefighter who on Sept. 11, 2001, donned his 60-pound personal equipment and ran through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to the Twin Towers where he gave up his life, saving many of those trapped within, after the terrorist attacks.

Tragically, almost 3,000 working within and too many first responders died that day — first responders going above and beyond the call of duty — constantly re-entering the inferno of the World Trade Center towers to save numerous lives. It was selfless heroism. The towers eventually imploded, killing nearly all in the immediate vicinity. Many FDNY and NYPD were still in there, doing their jobs — even the FDNY chaplain died that day.

I recall that morning vividly: I was departing Millerton for Brewster when the initial jet impaled the first tower. I tuned in my car radio, hearing mayhem being reported on the radio news. Shortly thereafter I heard of the strike on the second tower. Later,

there were reports of the Pentagon being attacked and then the news of the plane going down in Shanksville, Pa., a strike intended for the White House that was thwarted by heroic passengers who gave up their lives to save countless others.

All air traffic in the U.S. was suspended. Commercial planes were ordered to ground at the nearest airports. F15 and F16 fighter jets flew high cover with orders to shoot down any commercial plane not complying, according to the news reports.

"I sure wouldn't want to be a pilot with that responsibility," I thought.

I was told to shut down operations at work, send employees home and await further instructions.

It was an eerie trip home, the weather beautiful, in the upper 50s, a sunlit September morning. Traffic was almost non-existent. A couple of cars were on the roads — there were no trucks at all. A 747 jetliner made an extremely low pass over Amenia. It was a terrible awakening to the evil of terrorism and our own complacency.

How seniors can safely walk the streets of Dutchess County

This is one of a series of pedestrian safety columns, prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) in conjunction with Emily Dozier, senior planner with the Dutchess County Transportation Council; and Aisha Phillips, senior public health education coordinator with the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health.

Did you know that older adults (age 65-plus) are more likely to die as pedestrians than they are being in a vehicle? Our bodies are much more vulnerable when we're walking; we aren't protected by steel, seat belts and air bags. Older adults are particularly vulnerable because their bones are more brittle, eyesight is typically weaker and reaction time is longer.

None of that indicates that we shouldn't walk; in fact, regular weight-bearing exercise such as walking is critical to building bone

GOLDEN LIVING

Todd N. Tancredi

density and maintaining fitness and health.

Dutchess County's Complete Streets Committee (www.dutchessny.gov/CompleteStreets) is working to make it safer to walk, bicycle, drive and ride the bus in Dutchess County. The "Watch Out For Me" campaign (www.dutchessny.gov/WatchOutForMe) includes tips and resources to help you be safer when driving, bicycling or walking.

Walking can be a very different experience depending on where in the county you're doing it. In the City of Poughkeepsie, two-thirds of pedestrian-vehicle crashes occur at intersections. In suburban and rural areas, the percentage is lower, but it's important to know how to cross an intersection safely.

As a rule, intersections are a good place to cross because they often have crosswalks and sometimes have pedestrian signals. But drivers may also be turning, so keep your eyes out: Always watch for turning vehicles, especially those turning left, as the driver may not be looking and may not see you.

Before you step off a curb, look left, right and left again. That second look left helps in the event of a vehicle pulling into traffic that wasn't there the first time you looked. These drivers may be looking for other vehicles and not watching for you.

Take care stepping off the curb into the street. There may be potholes or uneven pavement. Avoid stepping into puddles. Just as drivers are advised not to attempt traveling flooded roads, you shouldn't step into a puddle where you can't see how deep it is.

If there is a pedestrian signal, use it to your advantage. Push the button and wait for the Walk signal (walking person). If the Don't Walk (red hand) is flashing, don't start to cross. Push the button again and wait for the next Walk signal.

Some pedestrian signals have a countdown timer. This tells you how many seconds are left to cross. Learn how much time you need to cross the streets you use most often.

Even when you have the Walk signal, check left, right and left again, and watch for turning vehicles.

If there is an intersection that needs pedestrian safety improvements, let your local officials know. Depending on who's responsible for maintenance on any given roadway, they may need to coordinate with New York State or Dutchess County to make improvements.

Back to Tunnel to Towers: It represents the military, firefighters, police officers and now front-line health workers, many who gave their lives or were wounded in the noble cause of saving and protecting others. Tunnel to Towers builds customized, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, adaptable, mortgage-free homes for the immediate family of those who are severely wounded or who have perished fighting to keep this nation safe.

Their honorable contract states: "If you don't return home from duty, your family will be taken care of." I was honored to attend a ceremony of a wounded veteran in Millerton who was on the receiving end of this generosity. Nothing like this existed in the past. It's heartening to see the patriotic private sector stepping up and offering such enormous support. It is so important to preserving the honor and integrity of those who have served our nation so valiantly.

Consider making a donation to www.tunnel2towers.org, or call 1-844-BRAVEST. Now we have Patriot Day on Sept. 11, declared a holiday to commemorate the lives of those who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks. It is a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

God bless you, patriotic readers, and your families. These times, they are a changin'. Stay safe and healthy, enjoy the great outdoors, practice social distancing and take care of one another. Till next time...

Millerton resident Larry Conklin is a Vietnam veteran and a member of both the Millerton American Legion Post 178 in Millerton, N.Y., and the Couch-Pipa VFW Post 6851 in North Canaan, Conn.

Golden Living is prepared by Dutchess County Office for the Aging Director Todd N. Tancredi; he can be reached at 845-486-2555, via email at ofa@dutchessny.gov, or online, at www.dutchessny.gov/aging.

Planes, planes and na'er a one flying

Out here in the West, in the dry climate (although baking in the sun), there are multiple graveyards for planes long retired from commercial use as well as mothballed planes ready to re-enter service for the military should the need (regrettably) return in case of war. In Mojave, Tucson, Roswell, Phoenix, Marana, Kingman, Victorville, and a host of 23 other places, these "boneyards" as they are called, are both eerie and visually enticing. The problem is, these vast depots are about to explode with more aircraft, some of them current, flyable, in perfect working order.

Let's take one airline for example. Qantas is the Australian flag carrier. For their long-haul flights, they fly Airbus A380s and Boeing 747s. This August, Qantas has mothballed (while they try and sell) all 12 of their A380s. To make matters worse, they have sold or mothballed all their 747 fleet. All the aircraft they have taken off line were flying currently and are perfectly serviceable. The A380s, in fact, are almost brand new in aircraft terms. In all, Qantas has dumped 100 aircraft out of 126 aircraft. What remains? Smaller Boeing 737s, 787s and Airbus A330s. To say they have reduced their fleet is an understatement.

So, what are the other airlines doing?

The answer may be in the sud-

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

den growth of the "aircraft recycling" industries. Wall Street is investing heavily in these wreckers. For example, Baird Capital has plunged cash into eCube, which is based in Wales (UK) and Castellon, Spain. They are not handling Qantas... they have plenty of other customers.

Meanwhile, many airlines appear content to pay parking fees as they wait to see how the crisis unfolds and how quickly — and reliably — passenger demand will return. My feeling? Don't hold your breath for a quick recovery since many airlines are making impairment charges on annual reports or planning to. Qantas' contribution is a \$787,000,000 charge.

Wait a moment... on the other hand you should plan to hold your breath! You'll need to when you fly in 2021, as there will be fewer aircraft and with every possible seat crammed into the fuselage with reduced legroom... you'll have to suck in your stomach to squeeze into your so-called seat.

Writer Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, now calls New Mexico home.



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

An American Egret in Kent

THE MILLERTON NEWS
(USPS 384600)
An Independent New York Newspaper
Official Newspaper of the Village of Millerton, Town of North East, Town of Washington, Town of Amenia, Town of Pine Plains, North East (Webutuck) Central School District and Millbrook Central School District
Published Weekly by The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC
16 Century Blvd, P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546
Tel. (518) 789-4401
www.tricornnews.com • editor@millertonnews.com

Volume 89, Number 33 **Thursday, September 10, 2020**

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The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, Publishers of **The Lakeville Journal** and **The Millerton News**
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Subscription Rates - One Year:
\$53.00 in Dutchess and Columbia Counties, \$60.00 Outside Counties
Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Millerton, NY 12546. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

BROADBAND *Continued from Page A1*

Cloud said it's up to congressional leaders, both on the state and federal levels, to pass a law to upgrade local municipal service and treat internet as a necessity for every household. In the meantime, the Broadband Committee has created a survey on Survey Monkey to determine which Pine Plains households don't have internet access or can't afford the internet. Open through Tuesday, Sept. 22, the survey is online at www.pineplains-nj.gov; on the "Pine Plains Town Hall" Facebook page; and at the library and Town Hall.

In terms of what the town of Amenia is doing to address rural broadband, Amenia town Supervisor Victoria Perotti reported it is negotiating its franchise agree-

ment with Optimum for more high-quality internet access to its residents.

"They're the only broadband provider we have now, which is a problem for rural areas," Perotti said, "not only for watching your favorite television shows but also for schoolwork and communication."

Perotti said, "[Broadband has] a big impact on them; if they can't depend on the one cable service provider that we have here, it's very difficult for them to run a business or attend school or do what they need to."

Sparsely-populated, rural areas have their disadvantages, Perotti said, as service providers don't want invest money on infrastructure for broadband.

With classes scheduled to start this week, Harlem Valley school districts have been dealing with the challenges of securing high-quality internet service for students. Given that many schools have opted to reopen using a remote instruction or hybrid model, having reliable internet is critical for students to keep up with their studies.

"There are definitely concerns," Webutuck Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani said. "It's a challenge for us, it becomes an equity issue that students that don't have the internet access."

Castellani added that the North East (Webutuck) Central School District has been fortunate to provide families with mo-

bile hot spots to connect online, but it gets costly and has put the equity issue at the forefront.

Mentors have been assigned to students and their families to check on their progress, and the district is bringing in students who have been identified as high-risk, such as the English as a Second Language students and students with disabilities.

In the Pine Plains Central School District, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Brian Timm conducted a survey this spring to learn the number of families with internet access. Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler reported that about 20 or so households are without adequate internet access.

Handler remarked that "each

residence requires a different solution," and "if the family has financial need, the district will pay for basic internet service."

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, Cloud said the town's college students — many of whom don't have internet access at home — have been using the local library to connect to WiFi. When the library closed due to the pandemic, students were left with few alternatives; some Cloud saw sitting in their cars writing papers with their cell phones.

"It's an absolute necessity, especially during a pandemic when the only way kids can do their schoolwork is on the internet," she said, "so the FCC and all the internet companies have really failed us... I'm furious at internet companies and I'm furious at Congress for not figuring it out a long time ago."

It seems state officials are

starting to recognize the adverse impact that poor internet access has on local students who need to learn — especially now, during the pandemic. In her fight to increase access to reliable internet service, New York State Senator Sue Serino (R-41) stated her intention last week to call on Governor Andrew Cuomo to immediately suspend the fiber optic tax in high-need rural communities, which she claims significantly increases costs and disincentivizes broadband development.

"Access to high-speed broadband has never been more essential," Serino stated on Thursday, Sept. 3. "Now, more than ever, we have to do all that we can to swiftly get high-speed broadband to these underserved areas to ensure students can effectively participate in remote learning and workers can participate in a remote economy."

CARY INSTITUTE *Continued from Page A1*

safety features, and is highly energy efficient."

Some have asked why the original building isn't being torn down, and an entirely new building constructed, but Ginsberg pointed out that the original building was built in 1974 to last, using sustainable products, and it remains sound. It was also noted for its energy efficient design and original saw-tooth roof that allows natural lighting. This original design will be reinstated, and the solar field adjacent to the property will be used as an energy source.

"We are focusing on updating the mechanicals and the way

space is used," he said. "Renovating the space is greener, cheaper, takes less time and is far less disruptive to our campus."

Becker and Becker, architects from Westport, Conn., are doing the work. The pandemic has had some influence on their redesign; separate air handling systems will be used so that all indoor spaces will have their own filtered outdoor air, not recirculated air. They are also observing the need for social distancing and will be using low-VOC products. Hands-free doors and fixtures are also being used, as well as a design that will keep a connection to

nature. A recent renovation provided added community space, which will also be updated with health and safety in mind.

While about 570-square feet will be added, allowing the scientists 1,200 additional square feet of space, the return to the saw-tooth roof will lower the height of the building by approximately 5 feet, the berms that cover part of the building will be removed and an old squash court currently being used for storage will be reclaimed.

Consigli Construction Company of Pleasant Valley will be the construction managers, and a number of local vendors will also

be tapped for work, providing local jobs.

The project is expected to get underway just after Labor Day, according to Cary Communications Assistant Erin Frick. The new design "prioritizes energy efficiency, sustainable materials and features that support health," she added, noting some traffic disruptions may occur periodically, but nothing dramatic is expected.

"The modernized facilities will help us to advance the science needed for environmental solutions," concluded Ginsberg.

For more on the Cary Institute, go to www.caryinstitute.org.

REOPENING SCHOOLS *Continued from Page A1*

outlined the three distinct panels featured in the program, starting with a discussion of the legal issues and concerns for reopening schools, followed by a panel on special education and ending the webinar with a panel on the laws, regulations and court decisions that have surfaced this year in regard to public education.

Featuring Beth Bourassa, Esq., from Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP, and Lawrence Tenenbaum, Esq., from Jaspán Schlesinger, LLP, as the panel's speakers and Donald Budmen, Esq., from Ferrara Fiorenza P.C. as the panel's facilitator, the webinar's first panel offered an exploration of the standards that apply to reopening during a pandemic.

Following the guidance

Budmen explained that, from a legal perspective, their main concern is liability and making sure schools live up to reopening standards. As far as preventing the concerns that COVID-19 raises, Tenenbaum said the most straightforward way to go about this is to follow the guidance that has been issued. Seeing as there's been no shortage of guidance, he said it boils down to a manageable number of general principles that need to be followed and that will go a long way toward minimizing risk, minimizing spread and transmission and maintaining a safe learning environment. As far as mitigating the risks for students and staff alike, Tenenbaum emphasized the need to practice social distancing and respiratory etiquette, maintaining proper hygiene, wearing face coverings and conducting temperature checks.

Daily health checks

Regarding employee safety

and prevention of injury, Bourassa said there will be a requirement for staff for both daily temperature checks and daily health screening questionnaires to be completed either on paper or electronically. With respect to record maintenance, the temperature recorded each day from staff should reflect a general statement along the lines of pass/fail or cleared/not cleared, and should be confidential. Tenenbaum added that daily temperature checks should be done for students, noting that if someone has a temperature of more than 100 degree Fahrenheit, they're likely positive. Students should also be subject to daily temperature checks and periodic health screening questionnaires.

Wearing masks

Answering Budmen's question about whether students can refuse to wear masks, Tenenbaum said no, noting that they are subject to student disciplinary procedure if they refuse. However, he said students who are unable to tolerate it, who have health issues, have difficulty breathing or have other medical issues, may be exempt. In such cases, Tenenbaum said they still need to be socially distanced and measures must be put in place to help prevent them from potentially spreading the virus. The same goes for staff.

When asked whether masks need to be worn in the classroom if desks are 6-feet apart and students are socially distanced, Tenenbaum replied that while it's not mandated, it's strongly recommended. Regarding students who receive services (such as speech and occupational therapy) that are difficult to carry out while social distancing, Bourassa

said it will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Additionally, she recommended a variety of additional personal protection equipment (PPE) options and precautions "to accommodate the effective and appropriate delivery of related services and/or instructional services."

Visitors on campus

Regarding school visitors, Bourassa said visitors will have to wear masks and will be subject to daily or on-arrival temperature checks and health screening questionnaires. She added it's critical for schools to minimize the number of visitors allowed — including parents — and that it's important for visitors to contain their movements and for schools to know where they've been.

Contact tracing

Bourassa said that while much of the responsibility for contact tracing will be carried out by local health departments, it will be done in partnership and consultation with school districts and will be important, in respect to visitors, for school districts to know and notify health departments of where the visitor has been.

As far as students taking ill with COVID-19 symptoms in school, Tenenbaum said schools would first need to separate the student from everyone else and contact the Department of Health. The student would need to be sent home and stay out of school until they're cleared to return. Ideally, Tenenbaum said, school buildings will have two rooms for health-related issues: one would be used for issues such as getting medication or Band Aids, while the other would be used for when students are sick.

Local feedback

Harlem Valley administrators take these challenges and concerns seriously and have been working to address them. Pine Plains Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler reported that the his district answered emailed questions from parents during its three required meetings with parents and staff.

"As far as lingering concerns, I cannot generalize," Handler said when asked what still has parents anxious. "Different people have different concerns. We remain available to answer questions."

Webutuck Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani said he, too, has stayed in contact with his students and their parents — all of whom have expressed concern and a certain level of confusion.

"That's one of the reasons why we decided to go remote," Castellani said, "because the lack of guidance from the governor, the Department of Health and the CDC make it almost impossible for a school district to open up fully or even in a hybrid model, because of the exposure to those types of legalities. Those are things we have to make sure we protect against it."

Students return in person

Though most Harlem Valley schools have opted for remote instruction this fall, some districts are welcoming back students in person in a limited capacity. Webutuck, Pine Plains and Millbrook will instruct their special education students in person, if deemed necessary. And the Dover district is opting for a "Slow Start" model, a blend of in-person/hybrid/remote learning.

GEER ADULT DAY *Continued from Page A1*

reduce their ability to understand and follow social distancing and hygiene instructions."

Seeking alternatives

O'Connell noted that the decision to close the Adult Day Center, which was the second oldest continuously operating adult day center in Connecticut and one of the oldest in the country, does not mean that Geer is giving up on adult day services entirely.

"Going forward, we are focusing on new ways to help those who need support at home," said O'Connell, by creating an entirely new division at Geer called Community Services, focused on safe, alternative programming for seniors.

Geer has hired Lenore Consiglio as its new Senior Director of Community Services to lead this new division, which is in preliminary planning stages.

In a telephone interview Sept. 2, Consiglio, who lives in Meriden, Conn., and formerly served as vice president of admissions at Waveny Care Center in New Canaan before

joining Geer about two months ago, said she is looking forward to implementing electronically based programming as well as activities and services focusing on health and wellness for seniors.

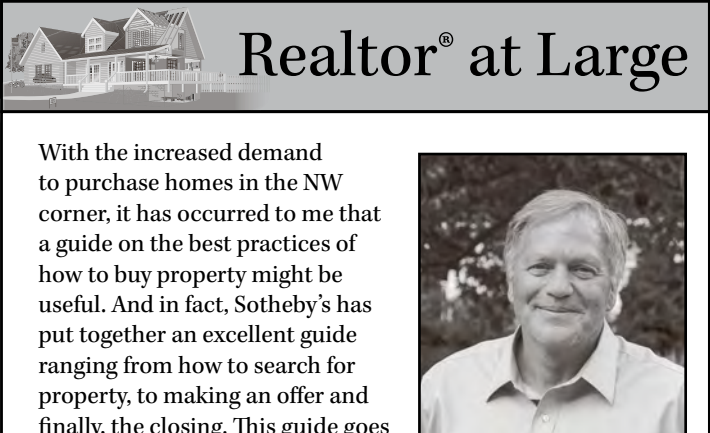
In addition to virtual visits and wellness checks, "We could be delivering lunches, bringing people to appointments, and acting as a liaison between caregivers in the community," said Consiglio, a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) with more than 40 years of experience in the health care industry.

"We are saddened by all that has occurred, but take some comfort in knowing that no one at Geer has become ill due to COVID-19. That said, we cannot escape the fact that this virus remains dangerous for the people we care for and we cannot find a safe way to resume ADC operations," O'Connell said.

Despite the closing of its Adult Day Center, Geer's multi-million dollar expansion project is going "gung ho," and has not been impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, said Nicholas.



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With the increased demand to purchase homes in the NW corner, it has occurred to me that a guide on the best practices of how to buy property might be useful. And in fact, Sotheby's has put together an excellent guide ranging from how to search for property, to making an offer and finally, the closing. This guide goes into detail of what elements an offer should have, when to retain a lawyer and mortgage broker, what issues to be aware of for due diligence in the contingency period of the deal and finally what to do on the day of closing. If this would be useful, please let me know and happy to email a copy to you! Happy house hunting!

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Dutchess County creates police reform website, holds forums

DUTCHESS COUNTY — Dutchess County's Police Reform & Modernization Collaborative has a new website and will hold a series of community forums. The website, www.DutchessNY.gov/PoliceReform, provides information and updates about the ongoing work of the collaborative and opportunities for community input, including several upcoming virtual forums that will be moderated by the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights.

There will be six community forums, organized by geographic area, where com-

munity members can speak about police reform issues. Forums will be held via Zoom, will be two hours long and American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters will be available for the hearing impaired. Registration is required to participate.

To register, go to www.DutchessNY.gov/PoliceReform.

The local forum for the Harlem Valley is on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 3 to 5 p.m. for the town of Washington, including the village of Millbrook; towns of Stanford, Pine Plains and Amenia; and the town of North East, including the village of Millerton.

To participate in the forum,

either by listening or offering commentary and feedback, register prior to the start time. Speakers will be given three minutes (priority will be given to those who live, work, volunteer, worship in or have a direct connection to the municipality being discussed). Elected officials and police agency chiefs from across Dutchess County will listen to commentary being shared.

Individuals who are unable to attend the forum will be able to watch recordings after the event on the County's Police Reform & Modernization webpage.

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Your Guide to Tri-State Events

September 10-16, 2020

BOOKS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Who Was That Man We All Know as Shakespeare?

It's a question that's almost theological: Was the man who wrote the greatest plays in the English language actually William Shakespeare, or was it someone else?

It's highly unlikely that we will ever know the answer to that question, but that doesn't stop scholars from ruminating endlessly over the possibility that someone else wrote the plays and used Shakespeare's name as a nom de plume: Apparently, being involved with The Theater back in the 1500s and 1600s was considered career-ending bad form.

There are a couple of famous theories for who might have actually been "William Shakespeare." Perhaps it was Sir Francis Bacon (not the modern painter but the 16th-century English philosopher/scientist/writer), working with his friends Sir Walter Raleigh and Edmund Spenser. Perhaps it was Shakespeare's rival, Christopher Marlowe — who is now credited by Oxford University Press with co-writing the three history plays about Henry VI.

There is also a contingent that believes the True Bard was Edward de Vere; there is even a film called



PHOTO COURTESY NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY

Was Edward de Vere the man who wrote the plays we now attribute to William Shakespeare?

"Anonymous" that presents the de Vere theory. It stars Mark Rylance (a famed Shakespearean actor, also beloved for his role as Thomas Cromwell in the BBC production of Hilary Mantel's "Wolf Hall").

Rylance is himself what is known as an "Oxfordian," or someone who believes de Vere was the "real" Shakespeare.

Another Oxfordian, here in the Tri-state Region, is Kent, Conn., resident John Milnes Baker.

Baker is an award-winning architect and a man who loves to unknit sticky problems. The question of Shakespeare's identity has kept his nimble mind active for decades now. This year, he decided to finally write down a short-sweet summary of his studies in a little book intended originally for his grandchildren. The idea was not so much that the youngsters are deeply

invested in learning about Shakespeare's identity, but more that this scholarly exercise would help train them to eventually be skeptical and independent thinkers.

Baker self-published the slim tome (available in paperback and hardcover) this year and will give a free Zoom talk about it and the Oxfordian Theory on Thursday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m.

The author's goal, he says, is simply to explain what he thinks and why, and to expand the minds of readers and his audience.

"I'm not trying to convince anyone of anything," he said. "I just want to explain why I think the man who wrote the plays was Edward de Vere."

Baker loves to tell stories and is easily tempted into tangents. To learn more and to register for his Zoom talk, go to the Kent Memorial Library website at www.kentmemoriallibrary.org/john-milnes-baker. Copies of the book are available on Amazon and at Kent's own bookstore, the House of Books on Main Street. All proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit the library.

POETRY:
CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Auroras, Change And the Poetry of Wallace Stevens

*The season changes.
A cold wind chills the beach.
The long lines of it
grow longer, emptier,
A darkness gathers
though it does not fall*

*And the whiteness
grows less vivid on the wall.
The man who is walking
turns blankly on the sand.
He observes how the
north is always enlarging
the change,*

*With its frigid
brilliances, its blue-red
sweeps
And gusts of great
enkindlings, its polar green,
The color of ice and
fire and solitude.*

The lines above are from "Auroras of Autumn," a later-in-life poem by Connecticut's own Wallace Stevens, man of many contrasts, a successful insurance executive who

was also one of the most innovative and important poets of the 20th century. The Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn., is presenting an eight-session special class (on Zoom) about Stevens, led by beloved book group leader Mark Scarbrough (of Colebrook, Conn., and also the author with his partner, Bruce Weinstein, of dozens of extremely popular cookbooks).

Scarbrough, who has a cult following among Tri-state region readers, describes Stevens as "the business executive

as poet, the metaphysician as Hartford Insurance VP, the hulking wallflower, the shy brawler, the last Romantic, the first post-modern, the father of self-referentiality, the heir to John Keats, the foil to Robert Frost, the Republican Marxist, the quiet anarchist, the gawdy Puritan, the would-be sensualist in New England, the would-be prude in Key West. Stevens is all of these — and none. His poetry is arresting, mind-bending and gorgeous. Its images are haunting; its philosophy, disconcerting; its structure, impeccable."

Even people who don't love poetry love the poetry of Wallace Stevens. It is easy to read yet profound, complex and challenging.

To learn more about the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, sign up for the class (you don't have to be a resident of Cornwall), which will meet on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon on Zoom beginning Sept. 16 and ending Nov. 4. There is no fee to participate; donations are welcomed.

Information including the class syllabus and the specific poetry collection that will be used — as well as the registration form — can be found at the library website, www.cornwalllibrary.org.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

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FILM: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

They've Got a Barn and They're Putting on Some Shows!

In a world where you can't go to a theater to see films or plays, now there is another option: Drive-ins. The Four Brothers Drive-In Theatre in Amenia, N.Y., was a regional pioneer, and continues to show first-run and classic films.

The Mahaiwe in Great Barrington, Mass., has been screening music documentaries in partnership with Bard College at Simon's Rock.

The Copake Grange in Copake, N.Y., will continue to show old favorites through September, with "The Princess Bride" on Friday, Sept. 4, and "Night at the Museum" on Saturday, Sept. 12 (www.copakegrange.org/events).

And now the Millerton, N.Y., Moviehouse and the Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn., have teamed up to present films with an extra helping of local color and personalities.

This Sunday, Sept. 13, internationally acclaimed silent film accompanists Donald Sosin and Joanna Seaton of Lakeville, Conn. will enliven two classic comic silents with keyboard, vocals and percussion. The films are "Grandma's Boy" starring Harold Lloyd and "The Blacksmith" starring Buster Keaton (both films were released in 1922).

On Sunday, Sept. 20, Academy-Award-winning screenwriter Charles Randolph will introduce his 2016 film "The Big Short," about the economic crash of 2008. The film stars Christian Bale, Brad Pitt, Ryan Gosling, Steve Carell and cameos by everyone from behavioral economics expert Richard Thaler to Academy Award-nominated actress Margot Robbie (sitting in a bubble bath and explaining mortgage-backed securities).

On Sunday, Sept. 27, the

featured film is new work by Salisbury, Conn., native Keith Boynton, who is writer and director of the film "The Scottish Play," in which a successful actress performing Lady Macbeth in a small New England theater has visitations from William Shakespeare — and he wants to do some rewrites.

These films (shown in the parking lot beside the barn-like Sharon Playhouse) will benefit The Moviehouse. Tickets are \$50 per car and should be ordered in advance; parking is limited. The gates open at 6 p.m. for drinks at the socially distant patio bar. The film introductions begin at 7:15 p.m., the films begin at 7:45 p.m.

Dinner can be ordered from JP Gifford in Sharon, Conn., and picked up on the night of the film.

For more information on meals, COVID-19 safety protocols and tickets, go to www.sharonplayhouse.org.

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ARTISANS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Time To Start Bringing Plants Indoors

Ben Wolff has continued the tradition of exquisite and understated pottery and "horticultureware" that was begun by his father, Guy Wolff.

The senior Wolff, who has just turned 70, continues to live and work (and sell his pottery) at his studio in Bantam, Conn. The younger Wolff (who is about to turn 40) is working from his home studio in Goshen, Conn.

Ben Wolff describes his father's style as more historically inspired, with clay pots that feel like they could have come from a Jane Austen novel or someone's 18th century Grand Tour visit to Italy. Ben's work is similarly un-



PHOTO COURTESY 100 MAIN

derstated and elegant, but is, he says, more contemporary. The demand this year is unusually high for the work of both Wolffs.

"Everybody was home this year because of the quarantine, everybody was thinking about plants and wanted to have a garden," Ben said. "But people who live in cities are stuck; they

Pottery for the home and garden by Ben Wolff (and his father, Guy Wolff) can now be found at 100 Main in Falls Village, Conn. The Milton Pot 4, shown in photo, costs \$40.

can't go outside to their gardens, they have to instead do something inside."

Wolff has been throwing pots and firing them as fast as he can, to keep up with orders from his many retail clients across the country.

And in the middle of all that, he's added a new shop, here in the Northwest Corner: 100 Main in Falls

Village, Conn., the shop conceived by New York City interior designer Bunny Williams and curated by herself and Christina Van Hengel.

The shop's focus is work by artisans in the Tri-state region, with everything from candles to furniture.

Prices range from \$10 for the smallest pots to about \$100 for the largest but vary from shop to shop.

To learn more about Guy Wolff, go to www.guywolff.com; to learn more about Ben Wolff, go to www.benwolffpottery.com; and for information on purchasing horticultureware and more from the Falls Village shop, go to www.100mainst.com.

A TRIBUTE IN WORDS AND MUSIC TO PETER SERKIN

Live From Music Mountain, based in Falls Village, Conn., in partnership with Carnegie Hall in New York City, presents a Peter Serkin Tribute, a program including highlights of performances by Peter Serkin and original conversations with artists who were close to him, including Emanuel Ax, Jaime Laredo, Jeremy Denk and Benjamin Hochman; Tashi members Fred

Sherry, Ida Kavafian and Richard Stoltzman; producer Marty Krystall; Milena Pajaro-van de Stadt of the Dover Quartet; composers Derek Bermel and Andrea Pinto-Correia; and one of his last students, Tomoki Park.

The performances and program can be seen Sunday, Sept. 13, beginning at 3 p.m. at www.musicmountain.org, on YouTube and on Facebook Live.

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