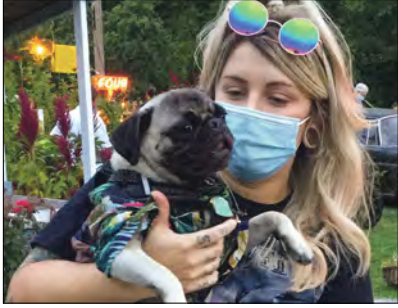


The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

Thursday, September 3, 2020

Volume 89 Number 32 • 10 Pages in 1 Section



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PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, Darlene Riemer of Darlene Riemer Architects, Mid-Hudson Library System Executive Director Rebekkah Smith Aldrich and Peter Ducillo of Ducillo Construction watched as Amelia Free Library Board of Trustees President Alan Gamble plunged his shovel into the ground to signify the start of the library's expansion and renovation. Amenia town Supervisor Victoria Perotti, representative from State Assemblymember Didi Barrett's (D-106) office Matthew Hartzog and Amenia Free Library Director Victoria Herow looked on.

Amenia Free Library to expand after 20 years of planning, saving

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Rain or shine, the Amenia Free Library was ready to break ground on its much-anticipated expansion with a ceremony attended by its Board of Trustees, volunteers, generous supporters and longtime patrons on Saturday morning, Aug. 29.

As the library began saving for the expansion in 1994 and planning around 2000, the groundbreaking represented an event 20-plus years in the making.

"I'm just excited that we finally were able to have our groundbreaking," said Amenia Free Library Director Victoria Herow days before the main event. "I'm very excited to look toward the future and what the library can do for our town and the opportunities we'll be able to hold here at the library."

Between the various modifications that have been made to the plans over the years, the approvals the library has sought from local and state agencies and the land purchased to make way for the expansion, the goal behind these plans has remained constant: to provide space for the library's materials, employees and patrons. With its current structure at 3309 Route 343 totaling a mere 880 square feet, the expansion entails the construction of a 68-foot long by 28-foot wide addition to the west side of the existing structure, adding a much-needed 1,904 square feet. In addition to providing appropriate storage for rare books and creating more flexibility for its computers and other technology, the expansion also includes adding a patio area at the rear of the property in a fenced area; installing new septic and heating systems; installing Americans

with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant restrooms; developing a new vestibule in the front of the library; and paving the parking lot and adding a parking space.

The library received the Planning Board's approval for the project during the fall of 2018 and the community's support during the past two decades. Working on the expansion project, Library Board of Trustees President Alan Gamble hired local architect Darlene Riemer from Darlene Riemer Architects and local engineer Rich Rennie of Rennie Engineering Design, with support from the other trustees.

Given the vast number of people who contributed to the project over 20 years, it came as no surprise that the groundbreaking was well-attended. Even as the

See LIBRARY, A7

FEMA kicks in an extra \$300/week in jobless benefits for New Yorkers

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

NEW YORK STATE — New Yorkers who are unemployed as a result of the coronavirus pandemic will soon be able to receive an additional \$300 per week on top of their regular unemployment benefits, thanks to a grant FEMA Administrator Pete Gaynor approved for the state under the Lost Wages Assistance program.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will work with Governor Andrew Cuomo to "implement a system to make this funding available to New York residents," ac-

ording to a recent release from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

"On Aug. 8, President Trump made available up to \$44 billion from FEMA's Disaster Relief Fund to provide financial assistance to Americans who have lost wages due to the COVID-19 pandemic," stated the release. "Today, the state of New York agreed to administer a lost wages program for its citizens who are unemployed due to COVID-19."

The announcement of the grant was made on Sunday, Aug. 23.

The governor reportedly applied for the grant Friday, Aug. 21.

Details of when the extra funds will be distributed among the unemployed have yet to be released.

According to FEMA, the agency "looks forward to working with the governors of additional states who agree to administer a lost wages program to bring financial relief to unemployed Americans."

FEMA noted on its website, www.fema.gov, that "The President's authorization for FEMA to use the Disaster Relief Fund to supplement the payment of lost wages as a result of COVID-19 is in addition to the \$8.8 billion FEMA has already obligated to date in the fight against COVID-19."

'Jaws' benefit to help The Moviehouse

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Just as audiences were getting ready to leave the water in anticipation of fall, The Moviehouse will reel them back for Labor Day weekend with a special drive-in movie benefit featuring the 1975 classic "Jaws" at the Sharon Playhouse's new drive-in theater. Yet the upcoming showing of the ultimate shark tale on Sunday, Sept. 6, aims to do more than bid a final farewell to summer. Through their attendance, community members of all ages will be

able to show their support for The Moviehouse as one of many independent movie theaters that have struggled this year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

From a two-story historic Grange Hall to a boarded-up, single-screen porno house, The Moviehouse, located at 48 Main St. in Millerton, was given a new life when its co-founders and owners, Robert and Carol Sadlon of Lakeville, Conn., transformed the building into a landmark movie theater in 1977. Cher-

See MOVIEHOUSE, A7

Memories of V-J Day shared by WWII veteran

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — "It seems like only yesterday" may sound like a familiar refrain, but often times it is true, and Henry Cohen remembers very well the day of Sept. 2, 1945, when the Japanese formally surrendered to the Allies, ending World War II, after a naval blockade of Japan and bombings of Japanese cities. Further, the capture of the island of Okinawa made it possible to launch an attack on the Japanese mainland.

Prior to this, a major attack, nicknamed Operation Olympic and led by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, had been planned for November 1945, and the U.S. and its allies expected it to be horrendous, possibly the biggest and bloodiest battle of the war. Numerous veterans later recounted the many sea and air battles that had occurred, planes flying overhead, bombs dropping,

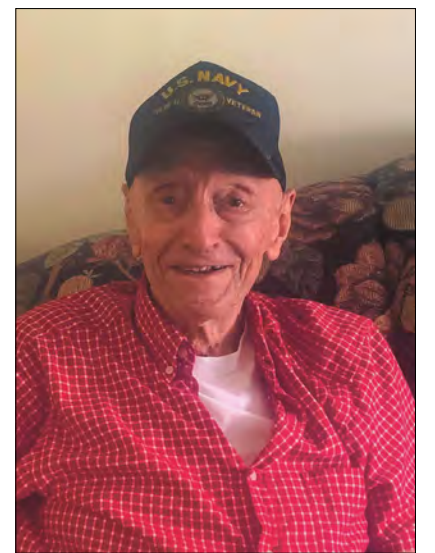


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Henry Cohen, 94, was on hand for V-J Day, or Victory Over Japan Day, in 1945. The Japanese surrendered 75 years ago, ending World War II; a ceremony and formal signing of the surrender was held in Tokyo Bay on Sept. 2.

See WWII, A7

Gov. Cuomo simplifies absentee ballot process

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

NEW YORK STATE — With the election looming and concerns about voting during the age of COVID-19, Dutchess County Board of Elections (BOE) Democratic Commissioner Elizabeth Soto spent mornings during her recent vacation in Maine monitoring developments that led to major changes in the absentee voting procedure.

Following her participation in a Thursday, Aug. 27, teleconference with the state's Election Board, Soto discussed the recent voting law and Executive Orders from Governor Andrew Cuomo, that were designed to make it easier for voters concerned about the virus to vote by absentee ballot and to request ballots without the need to sign the application.

Ballot requests may now be made

See BALLOT, A7



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OPINION

Community Support, That's The Ticket; Columns; Letter **A6**

INTERSECTIONS

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MILLERTON/AMENIA

Library prepares for Annual Craft Fair

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — At least one traditional celebration will arrive early this year in order to adjust to COVID-19 restrictions. The NorthEast-Millerton Library Holiday Craft Fair, usually held in the Annex just before Thanksgiving, will instead be held in the open air of the Library Memorial Garden on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson said the name of the event will also be changed to the Annual Craft Fair. She is hopeful the new identity will remind shoppers of the event now in its eighth year while showcasing the change being made. She is also hopeful the new name will emphasize the singular nature of

the event. "We know a lot of people come to do their holiday shopping, and we wouldn't want them to miss that, thinking that another fair would be coming in November," she said. "We will miss the holiday aspect of the fair, but we think this is the right thing to do for our patrons so that we can follow guidelines and keep them safe."

Leo-Jameson also feels that the earlier date will allow families who may be facing economic challenges brought on by the pandemic to take advantage of the many warm handmade items such as hats, mittens, scarves, cowls, socks and clothing for babies and young children that volunteers have been creating throughout the year.

As has been the case in the past few years, shoppers will also have

the opportunity to purchase items that will then be donated to local nonprofits.

She is hopeful the fair will again feature contributions by the several dozen artisans who have donated a wide variety of items, including woodworking, metal and glass creations, toys, sewn items, photography and artwork.

The fair is also expected to include the ever-popular raffle, featuring contributions from local merchants.

"I know it's been a tough year," Leo-Jameson said, "so I'm hesitant to even ask for those kind of contributions, but of course any will be greatly appreciated."

She said the revised event, which was recently approved by the Library Board of Trustees, is the library's major fundraiser, with contributions totaling ap-

proximately \$20,000 since it began in 2012, with offerings from four members of the library's knitting group.

Leo-Jameson noted that the new venue in the Library Memorial Garden, with the potential for overflow spacing in the back lawn, will hopefully attract passers-by who are in town for the long weekend.

"We're so lucky to have this wonderful outdoor space so people can come and enjoy the fair and its offerings," she said. "Having it in the garden is a living reminder of the many ways in which so many generous donors have made such a difference for the library and the town over the years."

To contribute or for details, call 518-789-3340 or email rleo@nemilertonlibrary.org.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Ashton the pug cuddled up to his favorite human, Felicia Carlini, as they celebrated National Dog Day together at the Four Brothers Drive-In Theatre.

May Peace Prevail Gatherings at World Peace Sanctuary

WASSAIC — The World Peace Sanctuary will hold a USA Prayer Ceremony on Friday, Sept. 11, at 5:30 p.m. at 26 Benton Road.

It will be held outdoors and open to the public. Accommodations will include seating and social distancing. Please wear a face mask upon arrival.

The sanctuary won't be using flags or flag cards. Everyone will receive a paper list of the states and countries involved in the ceremony.

This is a sunshine-only event. It will not be held if rain is in the forecast. Participants are welcome to bring a poem to share.

Join the Peace Sanctuary for the International Day of Peace on Monday, Sept. 21, at the World Peace Prayer Ceremony at 5:30 p.m., at the Sanctuary.

The ceremony will be held outdoors, and offers the same accommodations and requires the same safety rules. It will also be weather permitting.

Then, on Saturday, Oct. 24, at 10 a.m., the public is invited to the Grand Opening of the Wisdom Walk Trail.

Join Michael Gulbrandsen as participants explore the magical forest at the World Peace Sanctuary on its newly constructed Wisdom Walk Trail.

Gulbrandsen will speak about walking the trail and all present will become one with nature by listening to nature's whispers, seeing the littlest details and feeling the magic of the forest. Then walk the trail at a social distance, celebrating the journey not the destination.

The same safety rules and regulations apply; it is also a weather-permitting event.

For more information on any of these events, contact Ann Marie Robustelli at annmarie@worldpeace.org or go to www.worldpeace.org.

Webutuck picks Music Warriors logo

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — Regardless of whether their passion comes alive in the songs they sing, the instruments they play or their hands-on exploration in the classroom,

Eric Wiener, a music teacher in the North East (Webutuck) Central School District, sought to create a symbol to represent the music department. Eager to see the Warriors' love of music represented visually, Wiener approached the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) via video conference on Monday, May 14, due to the COVID-19 pandemic forcing the board to hold virtual meetings, and suggested the department adopt an official logo.

Recognizing Wiener and the music department had been working on the project for some time, Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani lent his support.

"I think it's fantastic," Castellani said. "Many times, you have athletics and athletic teams where we think about team sports. Our music department is its own entity, and they are a team activity, and I thought it was great that Eric and Jay [Bradley] and the music department and Marie [Herow] thought about doing something that would be significant to the music program."

Casting his mind back a few years, Wiener explained that he branched out into using social media to help present what the music department was doing to a broader audience. Oftentimes, he shared how attendance was small at concerts, and people would use social media to watch them online.

This past year, Wiener said he had an opportunity to sell

T-shirts to help build the school community. Customizing the design, he selected a basic shield logo and added the tag-line, "United by Music," which he said was "the exact message that I was looking to present."

"The motto, 'United by Music' really speaks to its intent and I think that students and adults alike are excited to see it elevated to the official logo of the Webutuck Music Warriors," Wiener later said.

Wiener also shared later that he had both T-shirts and sweat-shirts made with the logo, and that the community's response was very enthusiastic.

"It really is amazing to see how people respond to a symbol that represents them," Wiener said, "and this logo is a good example of that."

Though he said the shirts themselves were great, they could be changed from year to year, if the district wants to do so. But, Wiener told the BOE, "We want to have a symbol that is going to go past that, and that's going to be used in our web presentation and print and any other kind of sort of swag or bling opportunities that might present themselves to promote the Webutuck Music Warriors and the Webutuck school in general."

Sharing her enthusiasm for the Webutuck Music Warriors

logo, BOE member Nikki Johnson said her children have the T-shirts and "wear them proudly all over the place. It's something so small, just a logo, you don't think very much of it, but they get asked about it... and they're very proud to show it off."

"It's nice that we have our athletes, who have their jerseys and they get jackets," she said, "and now our music program, our kids work so hard, so it's fantastic that they get a little bit of swag to walk around in."

Fellow BOE member Kristen Panzer agreed.

"It's a really nice-looking logo," she said. "I think it just ties in with the look of the school. I think it's wonderful; I'm so happy that you did this. It's a great gift to the school."

The BOE was quick to adopt the logo for the music department.

"I believe it will truly help to unite us, not just in the Webutuck music community but in the wider Webutuck community as well," Wiener said later on. "We are all Webutuck Warriors, after all."



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Every dog has its day, and night, at drive-in

AMENIA — In celebration of National Dog Day on Wednesday, Aug. 26, the Four Brothers Drive-In Theatre partnered with BARK, makers of BarkBox, to offer a special dog-themed night at the theater for spectators and their beloved canine companions.

With the gates opening at 5 p.m., dogs of all shapes and sizes were welcomed to the theater free of charge and offered a free BarkBox toy and a free bag of treats with each ticket. While their humans remained conscientious about social distancing, the dogs enthusiastically sought to make new friends and reconnect with old ones as they re-

lished a night on the town.

The scene surrounding the theater soon sprang to life with a mixed blend of yips, barks and howls from the four-legged spectators. In addition to free movie-themed toys, the theater offered raffle prizes with 100% of the proceeds going back to the Dutchess County Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DCSPCA).

By 7:30 p.m., the dogs were set to sit back and enjoy a canine-themed comedy set by Matt Richards with their families, followed by a showing of the movie "The Secret Life of Pets."

— Kaitlin Lyle

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com







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TACONIC LEARNING CENTER is pleased to announce the return to classes in September via Zoom. Classes will normally last one hour, although more time will be allowed if participants and instructor wish to continue. Zoom is easy and accessible and TLC will offer 2 short introductory sessions in early September for those who wish to preview the process.

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PINE PLAINS

Stissing Center's Summer Variety Show safely entertains audience virtually

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Rising to the challenge of producing an unforgettable night of talent from a distance, The Stissing Center successfully entertained the community with the Summer Variety Show virtual benefit on Saturday night, Aug. 29.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Brian Keeler, executive director of The Stissing Center (TSC), said they originally planned an entire series of events to be held inside before TSC was forced to close in response to the pandemic. After examining their options, he said it became clear that "going virtual and videoing performances inside the building was the way to go."

Between The Chair Series and the Live! From The Stissing Center! series, Keeler said the performing arts center decided to forge a path forward that ultimately led to Saturday's show.

"It soon became clear that the variety show format was the best way to present some of the talent that was supposed to appear at The Stissing Center," he said, "and it was also a way to engage our board and the local community."

Yet the TSC team had much to accomplish before it could get the

variety show on the road, from gathering video footage of performances from across the country and filming inside the center in the midst of the pandemic to handling the editing, sound, lighting and other production details. By Saturday night, TSC invited viewers to witness a show that featured more than a dozen performances from artists across the U.S., from music and vocals to dances and spoken word presentations.

Starting at 5 p.m., the show was live-streamed to its website at www.thestissingcenter.org/variety2020. Playing host to the summer variety show, Emmy Award-winning actress Margo Martindale ("Justified," "The Good Fight") was delighted to welcome everyone to the show.

"This has been a difficult time for everyone, and The Stissing Center is no exception," Martindale said. "However, they've changed course by going virtual."

Kicking off the night with a spellbinding rendition of "My Favorite Things," jazz harpist Edmar Castañeda and jazz harmonica artist Grégoire Maret transported their music as contralto Andrea Tierra provided the vocals. No matter their artistry, the performers held their audiences' attention throughout the course of the



From left, performing inside The Stissing Center building at 2950 Church St., soprano Chelsea Fingal DeSouza lent her vocals for the Summer Variety Show while Sophia Zhou accompanied her on piano.

night, delighting them with their talent.

"We were very proud of the amazing talent that appeared," Keeler said. "We will be asking these people to come back to Pine Plains and perform for the public once we are allowed to open. It should be something that we all can look forward to."

Between the performances, the show streamed well-wishes spoken by various board members and community members — all of

whom spoke highly about TSC's mission to positively impact the community "by partnering with arts, individuals and organizations to create meaningful programs, events and opportunities as a center for diversity, culture and civic life in a small town."

All donations received from the Summer Variety Show will be matched dollar for dollar. The show itself can be viewed online at www.thestissingcenter.org/variety2020.

Gallery & Goods opens in a pandemic reality

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Ready to awaken from its prolonged winter's nap, Gallery & Goods reopened to the public in early July this time with extensive safety protocols in place to keep visitors protected at all times. Now August, they say the decision to open when they did was a good one.

"We've been really thrilled to share our space with so many old customers and new arrivals as well," said Josh Nathanson on Monday afternoon, Aug. 31, who owns the store along with his partner, Brett McCormack.

Located at 3007 Church St. in Pine Plains, Gallery & Goods closed for the winter at the end of December with plans to reopen at the start of April. However, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, their plans to reopen were postponed by several months. Deciding to reopen on July 3, Nathanson attributed the move to both following county guidelines and to waiting until they felt it was appropriate to do so.

"We also have the great fortune of having a very appropriate

space for safe social distancing and safe shopping," he said, calling attention to the gallery's high ceilings and well-ventilated open space.

Along with carrying out both the state and county's safety protocols — such as requiring face coverings and maintaining social distancing — Nathanson said they have a very strenuous cleaning regimen in place. On that note, he mentioned the space is laid out in a way that's conducive for people keeping their distance from one another.

"Thus far, everyone has really respected the parameters and we've been pleasantly surprised," Nathanson said.

The gallery's hours of operation have been slightly expanded so that it is now open Fridays from noon to 5 p.m., Saturdays from 10 to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The gallery currently offers local delivery to individuals interested in purchasing a particular piece in addition to private shopping by appointment and Smartphone check-out. Orders can be placed online at www.galleryandgoods.com or by contacting the gallery via email at info@galleryandgoods.com

goods.com or by phone at 845-635-0422.

The gallery is hoping to bring the community back into the space with a new exhibition from painter Michael Gallagher. Gallagher's work was previously featured last fall with his exhibition, "Michael Gallagher: Out of the Studio — En Plein Air in Dutchess County." This season's exhibition, "Finding the Light: Painting During the Pandemic" features a series of paintings Gallagher has done around the region during recent months. Stretching from this past March through the month of June, Gallagher's latest works of art are reflective of how his "proximity to nature has been a saving grace" in this time of uncertainty, according to the Gallery & Goods website.

With roughly 52 paintings in

the exhibit, the gallery has already sold around 13 pieces from Gallagher's latest collection.

"It's been a very strong response," Nathanson said. "People really love his work and I think there's the added element of these pieces being created in such a challenging and unique time. I think one of the wonderful things about this collection is that it stretches from March to June and you can see the changes as the paintings progress."

In terms of how he and McCormack have been able to keep moving forward in these trying times, Nathanson shared his joy in their being a part of the Pine Plains community.

"I think we've all appreciated each other a little more and see each other's humanity though all this," he said. "We definitely feel grateful to be part of this town."

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EDITORIAL

Community support, that's the ticket

It's great to see community take care of community — always — but especially at tumultuous times like these. That goes no matter what the cause, in any field. And with the upcoming JAWS: Special Drive-In Movie Benefit Event at the Sharon Playhouse planned for Sunday, Sept. 6, with gates opening at 6 p.m., an introduction by author Nat Benchley at 7:15 p.m. and the film beginning at 7:45 p.m., that's exactly what is happening. The drive-in movie benefit, which readers can learn all about in this week's front page article written by reporter Kaitlin Lyle, is the perfect example of a local business that is so much more, doing just that. The Sharon Playhouse is a regional, nonprofit theater that produces top-level performances with "Broadway caliber actors as well as talented local community members," according to its website. The Playhouse's mission is to entertain the region "while also serving as a teaching theater to encourage aspiring actors and other theater professionals of all ages to develop their craft." The Sharon Playhouse now is offering its help to a fellow community theater.

While pursuing its goals in this age of COVID-19, amid all the community shutdowns and business closures, the Sharon Playhouse has offered its hand to The Millerton Moviehouse, which has been shuttered since March 15, operating only virtually and earning just a fraction of its former income, suggesting the "Jaws" fundraiser. In fact, there will be a series of drive-in movie fundraisers throughout the month of September at the Sharon Playhouse, every Sunday, to benefit the Millerton movie theater.

The Moviehouse, which has described itself on its website as "independent cinema... and a vital economic anchor" in the community, also stated it is looking to "re-open as soon as our local and state health authorities say it is safe to do so, which hopefully, will be very soon." We hope this economic anchor will do so very soon, too. For that is exactly what it is — an economic anchor.

The Moviehouse is both a key business and a vital piece of architecture in the village of Millerton. The historic clocktower that sits atop the Moviehouse, which co-owners and founders Carol and the late Robert Sadlon worked so hard to raise money to rehabilitate back in 2005, is one of Main Street's most prized possessions. It's part of what gives the village its charm. The Sadlons, along with Townscape, fought to get that clocktower restored to its former glory and in proper working order again; they were instrumental in returning that piece of public architecture back to the community for its enjoyment. Now the community can reciprocate and attend the Sept. 6 "Jaws" showing.

For many years, during every yuletide season, The Moviehouse has offered free screenings of holiday classics for families to enjoy, followed by complimentary horse-drawn carriage rides through the village. What an idyllic Christmastime memory to share with one's children or friends, especially while Main Street looks its best, bedazzled by thousands of glittering holiday lights and decorations. Those who were lucky might even have caught some carolers in one of the parks singing together. The Moviehouse helped sponsor those festivities.

The Moviehouse also offers the FilmWorks Forum, which was founded in 1997. It's a nonprofit community service program that presents independent and documentary films, followed by a discussion often led by community leaders, filmmakers, producers, screenwriters or actors "who share the experience of making the film and encourage active discourse on the topics presented," according to The Moviehouse website. The forums are always interesting and informative, often insightful, and the free program provides an opportunity for area residents to learn, grow and gain new perspectives.

Then there's The Moviehouse's support of the local arts community, which it does in so many ways, not the least of which is through its very own gallery, The Moviehouse Studio Gallery, which is quite excellent.

Through the years, The Moviehouse has been there for the village of Millerton. Even when the Sadlons first came to town, they renovated the old 1905 Grange Hall that had fallen into disrepair, and, well, become a theater of X-rated films that did little to uplift the community.

The Sadlons changed all that. They renovated the building, invested in their business, and spent the next four decades building up the Main Street commercial district into something that people want to visit and support. Millerton's renaissance is due, in large measure, to their vision, their devotion, their dedication, their investment and their sense of community. It's great to see others in the community now return the favor.

One last point worth noting: Throughout their many years operating The Moviehouse, the Sadlons have consistently employed many local residents, and supported many local causes; they've stepped forward to volunteer time and again throughout the years and have been stalwart supporters of the community. That means something to the people who live and work here.

To learn more about The Moviehouse, any of its programming or the Sept. 6 fundraiser, go to www.themoviehouse.net or call 518-789-0022 (though there will likely be no answer during the COVID-19 closure).



Less finger pointing and careful advice needed

Seventeen years ago, President Bush stood on Goree Island off the coast of Senegal and talked about slavery: "For hundreds of years on this island, peoples of different continents met in fear and cruelty. Today we gather in respect and friendship, mindful of past wrongs and dedicated to the advance of human liberty," said the president, who continued, "One of the largest migrations of history was also one of the greatest crimes of history."

That speech wasn't good enough for critics of America. The radio stations of the BBC, Deutsche Welle and Radio Holland all echoed the international call for America to apologize for slavery, and lamented our president missing his chance. Right or wrong, those critics missed the point we now see all too clearly: That kinder, more open, less racial, GOP has effectively allowed its very principles to be hijacked to a darker place in 2020.

Now, it is true that our practices of slavery continued beyond what could be seen as historical practice (as onerous as that may be), took a Civil War to outlaw and caused the deaths of hun-

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

dreds of thousands of our best men and women. And certainly, our practices of institutionalized racial inequality were then permitted to continue well into what was called an Age of Enlightenment (we stood on the moon before we outlawed racial discrimination). However, the truth is that the USA did not create slavery here or anywhere.

Never mind that some African nations still practiced legal slavery into the 1970s (Tunisia for one). Never mind that the Arab tribes had been capturing slaves along the east coast of Africa for millennia. Never mind that the very nations now calling for America to apologize continued slavery into the 1860s and were the original European slavers in the first place. If anybody should be apologizing it should be the remnants of the Dutch East India Company and the English East India Company. The Germans simply took slaves and used up

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Why isn't the Amenia Town Board standing up to Silo Ridge?

I have some questions for the Amenia Town Board regarding the illegal helicopter landings in our town by the Silo Ridge development. Has anyone from the board spoken to the developers about this dangerous activity that is clearly prohibited by the zoning code?

Does the board have no influence with the developers? Didn't the board just reduce the tax assessment of the multi-million dollar homes in that development by one-third transferring the tax burden on to the rest of the homeowners in Amenia? Doesn't the Silo Ridge sales office use the town parking lot for free?

Since everyone knows that the helicopters are landing on Silo Ridge property, what is delaying the building inspector from dealing with this problem?

If the existing law regulating helicopter landings does not have a penalty attached, is there some reason the board can't amend that law?

Isn't there anyone in power who can stand up to this group of millionaires and billionaires locked within their private gated community who have no respect for the rest of the citizens of this town and make them obey the law?

Ken Monteiro
Wassaica

Mid-Hudson Valley Fall Prevention Week is Sept. 21 through Sept. 25

GOLDEN LIVING

Todd N. Tancredi

Myth 3: I won't fall if I limit my activity. Just the opposite is true.

A lack of physical activity will cause muscles to weaken through lack of use — and that increases your risk of falling. Physical activities help you stay independent, and will improve your strength and range of motion. Social activities are also good for overall health.

Myth 1: Falls will happen to other people — not me.

About one in three older adults will fall this year. That's about 20,000 Dutchess County seniors.

Myth 2: Falling is inevitable as you get older.

Falling is not a normal part of aging. Strength and balance exercises, managing medications and checking your home for fall hazards are all steps that you can take.

Myth 4: I'll just stay home and that'll keep me safe from falls.

Over half of all falls happen at home, so check your home for common fall risks like loose throw rugs, poor lighting and clutter. Adding grab bars and hand rails at strategic locations around the house will be helpful, along with non-slip paint or similar modifications to outdoor walking areas.

Myth 5: I'm only going to get weaker as I get older.

We do lose muscle as we age, but physical activity can slow that process greatly.

Myth 6: Using a cane or a walker will make me more dependent.

Used properly, canes and walkers are a great help for mobility. Have a physical therapist fit the walking aid to you, and instruct you on its safe use.

Myth 7: My mom or dad is at risk of falling, but if I talk to them about it I'll hurt their feelings.

Communicating your concerns thoughtfully will go a long way. As we've said in this column before, a big part of aging grace-

fully is accepting help gracefully. The goal is for your senior loved ones to be able to live independently and safely for as long as possible, and preventing falls is a key method of reaching that goal.

To find out more about Mid-Hudson Valley Fall Prevention Week, contact Jill Bubel at jubbubel@nlevancehealth.org or call 845-797-6768.

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

trapped in their addiction. They need to be weaned off, not told they are also evil.

So too with slavery. The evil of slavery was historic, generational and came from a pre-modern-civilized-past of all mankind. Some of those practices took far too long to fade out or be eradicated. Mamouka, a Tunisian slave, was rescued in 1972 by friends of ours living in Spain. They bought her for \$50 in Tunis and smuggled her back to their house in Estepona (south of Spain). It took them six years to get her a passport. When last we heard, Mamouka still couldn't grasp the idea of self-determination or freedom. Her "owner" Tera Davy persisted in her education, perhaps does still.

Stamping out slavery was achieved through international pressure. Britain had to stop being a slaver nation. So too, Spain, Portugal and Holland had to give up a lucrative practice. Once that cessation was achieved, the addicted had to go through withdrawal: The enormous bloodshed of the Civil War and the 150 years since continue a weaning process of wrong-headed institutionalized racist notions. And, like the addicted slave owners of the deep South, so too the ex-slaves and their families have had to grasp notions foreign to their millennia-old past: To learn what freedom really is. Now that they begin to see what are their rights, we need to stand by them more than ever before. Freedom is both liberating and scary, unfettered and fraught with responsibility. To wean a peoples off of both takes a community effort and education.

A little less finger pointing and a whole lot of careful advice might go a long way today — always coupled with true encouragement. For their lives do matter — at least as much as every free person in America.

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

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"But even when the moon looks like it's waning... it's actually never changing shape. Don't ever forget that."

- Ai Yazawa

PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

September 3-9, 2020

DAIRY: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

In a World Without Ag Fairs, Still There Is Thorncrest Farm

This is the time of year when, normally, we would head to the Goshen Fair in Connecticut or the Dutchess County Fair in New York and learn the differences between all those types of cows that we see in the fields as we drive around on our country roads.

This year there are no agricultural fairs. But you can still learn about dairy cows — and taste some exquisite handmade chocolates made from the milk of those same cows.

If you've lived here for a while, you've probably heard of Thorncrest Chocolate Shop and Farm in Goshen, Conn. Almost everyone with a sweet tooth knows this place — and raves about it.

The chocolate itself is silky, creamy, gorgeous, everything that chocolate ought to be.

It's fresh, so much so that it comes with a warning that these sweets are best eaten within two weeks of purchase (and you should store them in a cool, dark place — but not your refrigerator, where they're likely to get discolored).

There are pre-made assortments but why bother



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

To accommodate shopping in an age of social distancing, there is a new retail shack at Thorncrest Chocolate Shop and Farm in Goshen, Conn. Through the back window, visitors can see Pretty Lady, a Texas longhorn, and her new calf.

when there is the temptation of the daily menu, which includes almost 30 different specialty items, including (for example) Madras Curry Dark Chocolate, Lavender Dark Chocolate and Lemon Mint Dark Chocolate — in addition to more traditional favorites such as caramels;

chocolate bark with granola or trail mix; chocolate with peanut butter (called Tali's Delights); or citrus peel, apricots or candied ginger dipped in chocolate.

And then of course there are the cows, who lounge around in their stalls eating hay, steps away from the newly built retail shack.

The chocolate master is Kimberly Thorn. The masters of the cows are her husband, Clint, and sons Garrett and Lyndon, who are generally out and about working on the farm and are happy to answer questions about their "girls," the dairy cows.

Like the farm they live on, the cows are lovely and clean. The barn is open for visits; often one of the family farmers is there, ready to answer questions and introduce "the ladies" — and explain which cow's milk produces which chocolates, caramels, yogurts and cheeses.

You can phone in your order (sometimes there is a long line). You can also

phone ahead to arrange a more deluxe tour of the barn.

The dairy barn is open for visits from Thursday to Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Private group tours are offered at 9:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thursday through Monday from May to October; there is a fee for these group visits, which can accommodate up to 35 people (the fee is between \$50 and \$85 depending on the size of the group; there is no charge for individual informal visits to the barn).

There are also (in a non-quarantine time) chocolate tastings and talks at \$10 per person; and there are cheese-making classes.

The farm's website warns that sometimes circumstances will arise that will keep visitors out of the barn.

"We are a working dairy farm and occasionally these hours will need to be flexible for the stable, as well as weather dependent," the website warns. "This is to ensure the safety, health and comfort of our cows."

The chocolate shop is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To learn more about Thorncrest Chocolate Shop and Farm, go to www.milk-housechocolates.net, where you can see the daily menu, arrange a group tour and get directions; or call 860-309-2545.



PHOTOS COURTESY KENT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

A show of sea-themed works by Christine Lombardi at the Kent, Conn., library is on display until Oct. 30.

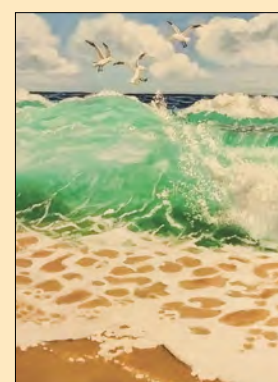
DREAMING OF A SEASIDE VACATION

Despite the COVID-19 quarantine, many people did answer the annual call of the sea and took long-planned vacations at the Jersey Shore or Cape Cod.

For those who dream of oceans but weren't able to go to one this year, some sea-themed solace can be found in a show of work by Kent, Conn., artist Christine Lombardi on display at the Kent Memorial Library through Oct. 30.

The show is called "By the Sea," and features paintings inspired by memories of childhood vacations at the shore.

Lombardi is a professional illustrator who returned to painting after a many-year hiatus — and discovered that the sea was her favorite subject. The paintings vary in size from very small (5-by-7 inches) to moderately large (22-by-28 inches). They are, mostly, acrylic on canvas.



There will be an artist reception in front of the library in the Chess Court on Saturday, Sept. 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. (the rain date is Saturday, Sept. 19).

Refreshments will be served and visitors can get a private tour of the show. Adults must wear a face mask or shield.

The library is open for anyone who wants to browse the gallery. Call ahead to make an appointment between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. (with a short option at 5 p.m.). Appointments can be made by phone 860-927-3761 or email at kmlinfo@biblio.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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WORK THAT IS DEEPLY GROUNDED IN NATURE

The inspiration for Donald Bracken's paintings made a 360 degree turn when he lost his studio on the 91st floor of the World Trade Center (where he was an artist in residence) and he came home to West Cornwall, Conn.

He had been painting New York City from hundreds of feet in the air, and studying the clouds that were sometimes below his feet. Now he is literally creating work from the ground up, and using dirt, stone and river sand from Litchfield County, mixed with acrylic gels.

The resulting paintings are, of course, earthy — fea-

turing trees and ponds and fields.

The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Conn., has a show of his work that opens with an artist reception on the lawn on Saturday, Sept. 5, from 4 to 6 p.m. Small groups may enter to see the work inside.

The show will remain up until Oct. 31. Call the library at 860-364-5041 or email request@hotchkisslibrary.org to make an appointment to come in and see the show.

To see a broad view of Bracken's work, including his sculptures, go to www.donaldbracken.com.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Work by Don Bracken, including *Out of the Ashes* will be featured in a show at the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, Conn.

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