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Wrestling at Webutuck **B5**

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Roosters Hardware is only human **A9**

COMPASS

ILSE coffee brewers, through the wardrobe, and more **B1-3**

The Millerton News will not publish Dec. 28, and will publish again Jan. 4, 2024.

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TRI CORNER REAL ESTATE
January 2024
www.tricornernews.com

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PHOTO BY MAUD DOYLE

A procession through Millbrook on Tuesday, Dec. 12, celebrated the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Father Hartley Bancroft of the St. Joseph/Immaculate Conception Church conducted the liturgy. It was one of many local events honoring the Virgin of Guadalupe.

County issues 3rd quarter report on ARPA spending

By JOHN COSTON
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POUGHKEEPSIE — Since receiving more than \$57 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, Dutchess County has to date spent under half its allotted amount.

The program, begun in March of 2021, distributes funds for state and local governments to cover expenditures related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including economic hardships that struck small businesses, households and nonprofits, and provided premium pay for essential workers. It also allowed for investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

ARPA can also provide aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality. In September, additional flexibility was granted by the U.S. Treasury allowing use of the funds to respond to natural disasters, build critical infrastructure, and support community development.

The federal money must be obligated by the end of 2024, and spent

by the end of 2026.

In a 3rd quarter update on the allocation of ARPA funding, County Comptroller Robin Lois reported earlier this month that as of Sept. 30, 2023, the County has spent \$25,111,702, including \$2,297,254 spent in the 3rd quarter of 2023.

According to Lois, the five largest expenditures from the third quarter were for:

- (1) County Payroll and Benefits – \$919,988;
- (2) Architectural planning and design of the Youth Opportunity Center in Poughkeepsie at the site of the former YMCA – \$304,943;
- (3) Mechatronics lab equipment at Dutchess County Community College – \$267,912;
- (4) Infrastructure improvements to Hillcrest and Hudson River Lodging homeless shelters in Poughkeepsie – \$197,339, and
- (5) Playground equipment for Hackett Hill playground in the Town of Hyde Park – \$170,000.

Under County Executive Wil-

See ARPA, PAGE A10

North East enters solar option agreement with AC Power

By MAUD DOYLE
maudd@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — On Thursday, Dec. 14, North East Town Board voted unanimously to enter an option agreement with solar developer AC Power, giving both parties two years to collect information and data needed to decide whether or not to pursue a small community solar array on the Town's closed landfill.

The agreement stipulates that for 24 months, AC Power, based in New York City, will pay the town \$1,250 per quarter — \$5,000 a year — to conduct investigations and surveys, get input from Central Hudson and the Department of Conservation (DEC), and draw up plans for a potential community solar project on the empty land to present to the Town at the end of the option period.

At a prior town board meeting held on Nov. 20, North East Town Supervisor Chris Kennan and, from AC Power, director of business development Brent

"The potential of this project is doing something good using land which is essentially useless."

Chris Kennan

McDevitt and CEO and founder Annika Colston presented the option agreement and the lease agreement that might follow.

"I see the potential of this project as doing something good using land which is essentially useless," said Kennan. "You can't sell anything that grows on it. You can't recreate on it. All you can do is mow."

The landfill constitutes 15 acres of Town land. Studies of the landfill, which has been closed for 29 years, show that it is no longer even producing enough methane to warrant any kind of methane capture, flaring, or other methane reduction method. But the proposed array, said Kennan, could turn that land into "a public benefit."

"If both the Town and community can derive an economic benefit" from an array, he said, "then

I think it really is something that we would be irresponsible not to look at."

The option agreement entered by the Town opens the door to a lease agreement between North East and AC Power down the road, according to the terms of which AC Power would lease the land from the town for 25 years, with two five-year option renewals, at a rate of \$8,000 per megawatt installed.

Assuming a five megawatt array, this would net the town an estimated \$40,000 in the first year, and approximately \$2 million over the course of the lease.

Solar farms do not make noise, light up, smell, or cause any pollution besides that of their unsightliness, which towns in the state are making progress on mitigating

See SOLAR, PAGE A10

Lukewarm climate deal at COP28

After two fraught weeks in Dubai, where government ministers from around the world haggled over how to confront climate change, the U.N. conference COP28 closed on Dec. 13 with a deal that calls on countries to move away from fossil fuels — the oil, gas and coal fueling the climate crisis — by 2050 and to triple the capacity for renewable energy by 2030.

While the U.N. hailed the agreement as the beginning of the end of the fossil-fuel era, skeptics, critics, cynics and climate scientists were less impressed. They had hoped for a deal that does more than tepidly call for the transition away from the fossil fuels but substantively halts investment in oil, coal and gas and that compels countries to take the urgent action needed to pre-

NEWS ANALYSIS

Carol Goodstein

vent runaway sea level rise, mass extinctions and other catastrophic, climate-induced events.

The inevitable conclusion: Though a step in the right direction, this new climate agreement is squishy, lacks teeth and a time-frame.

Was COP28 co-opted by oil interests?

The decision to hold the annual COP conference in the United Arab Emirates — one of the world's top oil producing countries — was certainly suspect. And the appoint-

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OPINION

Homelessness; Column, Letters **A5**



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OUR TOWNS

Millerton streetlight upgrade will save energy and money

By **DEBORAH MAIER**
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Millerton's Village Board unanimously approved a plan to convert all 138 of its streetlights to warmer-light, dimmable, energy- and money-saving LED fixtures on Monday, Dec. 11.

Currently, streetlights in the Village are owned and maintained, for steep fees, by Central Hudson. Sixty are LEDs which have been installed piecemeal as needed, and the remaining 78 are the older sodium vapor lights, a peachy-toned light that tends to reduce color vision at night.

In the new plan, Central Hudson will continue to own, and to be responsible for the lamp posts, and the village will purchase the LED lights and the "arms" that connect the fixtures to the poles.

A contract with RealTerm Energy, of Quebec, Canada, will reduce maintenance fees from over \$27.5k this year to just \$4,000 per year.

Apart from their longevity — LED lights boast a 15-20 year life span compared to the six to eight years that sodium vapor lights last — LEDs offer superior color rendition for the human eye, meaning that they enable us to see better at night. They also reduce energy use, leading to significant savings for the village in both monies paid out and greenhouse gases emitted.

The project will cost roughly \$175,000, according to the board's estimates. The village plans to pay for it by taking out a 10-year bond for no more than \$160,000 and to fund the rest out of its reserve.

Laurie Kerr, a local architect who, along with some others, has shepherded this project through its many stages, said, "it's a case of needing to spend money to save money."

Cash flow, including bond repayment, will be net positive starting year one, as compared to current payments. After the bond is paid off, the village will save over \$34,000 a year, with an estimated savings of over \$250,000 over 15 years, adjusting for inflation. This is a conservative estimate of savings, because the LEDs will likely last for more than 20 years.

"There aren't that many ways to cut expenses from a

small village's budget," Kerr said, "so this is a positive."

"This change also earns the Village 8 of the 120 points needed for Climate Smart Bronze," said Kathy Chow, the Climate Smart Communities Coordinator for North East and Millerton. This, among other actions, will bring the Village to a NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities threshold which will trigger a grant of at least \$5,000, said Chow.

To those who may have reservations about LED lighting, it is worth noting that older LEDs typically had high Kelvin numbers — the harsh bluish light noticeable in the over-4,000 range — but the newer installs will be 3,000 Kelvin lamps. The new

streetlights will also feature "comfort lenses" which will reduce glare.

Each fixture in the new generation of LEDs has "smart controls" that enable one or several of the fixtures to be dimmed as desired — for example, very late at night. Well-aimed downlights with partial cutoffs will also preserve more of the dark sky needed by birds and insects.

The vote concluded three years of discussion and debate among board members. Two more steps — approval by the Public Service Commission, and the securing of a bond — are needed before the project can move forward. A reasonably short installation period is anticipated.

North East Fire Commission

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
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MILLERTON — Incumbents held their seats on the North East Fire District Board of Commissioners in the election held Tuesday, Dec. 12.

The reelected fire commissioners, who will serve a term of five years, are Larry Selfridge, chairman, James Milton, and David VandeBogart.

Prior to the election, Milton and VandeBogart had been filling vacated seats. A fourth candidate, the only challenger, was Anthony Sarvis, another member of the volunteer fire department.

Elections took place at the new firehouse at 24 Century Blvd. on Dec. 12. Each voter filled out a ballot, then deposited it in the ballot box, which happened to be the shiny red box used to collect Santa Claus's letters from the village children.

Fire District secretary Katherine (Kaki) Schaefer-Reid said that 67 residents of North East/Millerton cast ballots this year. (In 2018 elec-

tions, there were 52 votes; in 2022, there were just 32.)

The positions on the board are volunteer positions, befitting an all-volunteer community fire department.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Wreaths honor veterans in Pine Plains

A large crowd laid 528 wreaths at veterans' graves at the Evergreen Cemetery in Pine Plains on Saturday, Dec. 16, as part of the Wreaths Across America ceremony. Carol Hart, who lost her son, Master Sgt. David Cookington Jr., in 2019, brought Wreaths Across America to Pine Plains when she realized that there was no local chapter.

The ceremony included recognition of the nine veterans from the town who died in 2023.

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PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Three incumbents were reelected on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

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AWCO to fundraise for Amenia parks design

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Responding to community enthusiasm for plans to design two town park areas, the Amenia Recreation Commission heard a proposal at its regular meeting Tuesday, Dec. 12, and voted unanimously to accept fundraising help offered by the Amenia Wassaic Community Organization (AWCO).

Leading off the discussion was Danielle Mollica, AWCO executive director, who spoke of collaboration among state and local officials to move the recreational enhancement projects ahead. One project titled Amenia Green would enhance the town property surrounding the Town Hall, making it a welcoming recreational draw for residents and visitors. The other project being discussed is the development of an area to be called Wassaic Park, which might include playground development, hiking trails, fishing in a nearby waterway, and other recreational improvements.

Amenia Green, Mollica explained, is ready for the creation of construction design documents, but such plans are estimated to cost around \$90,000.

To help the town pay architects' fees to prepare construction documents, Mollica

proposed that AWCO hold a series of fundraising events beginning in January. The first could be scheduled at a venue such as Troutbeck, she suggested; funds could be raised through ticket sales and donations.

Both projects could be presented together to the public at the January event and at subsequent similar events to be held over the next two years, said Mollica. She also spoke of the possibility of a second event to be scheduled in the spring, perhaps at Four Brothers.

Recreation Commission Chair Paul Winters recalled that the idea of designing two parks for the town's recreational needs began 18 months ago; Jane Didona of Didona Associates began creating conceptual sketches for the town last year.

"If we can pull this off with spending only \$20,000 in taxpayers' money," Winters said, "then it will be amazing."

Setting a tight timetable, Winters said that the intent is to apply for a 2024 Parks and Recreation state grant for the park construction, for which detailed plans will be required.

Leo Blackman, Amenia Town Board liaison with the commission, urged the commission to prioritize and sequence pieces of the park en-

hancement project as the two park proposals move forward.

Beekman Park concession stand

Following a presentation by Tracey Salladay, architect, who had provided an estimate of costs to prepare plans for renovation of the concession stand at Beekman Park, the commission voted to approve the \$6,000 expenditure. The renovations are being undertaken to satisfy Dutchess County Department of Health regulations.

"This is one of the final improvements to Beekman Park," Winters said.

Salladay will prepare preliminary drawings and obtain estimates on equipment costs for various options before creating a final design. She will also be responsible for putting the project out for bid, receiving and assessing the bids before making a final recommendation.

Wanted: HVAC miracle

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLBROOK — While some are hoping a spiffy ski hat or a snugly handknit afghan will show up under their Christmas trees, Millbrook Library director Courtney Tsahalis's one and only wish is that Santa will drop a general contractor down the chimney so that critical repair work can be done and get the library's functioning back to normal.

Although the library's HVAC system, which has been in place for 20 years, has always had some difficulty, the problem became critical in 2021 when a refrigerant leak developed. The heating system was quickly replaced and staff and patrons are comfortably warm inside no matter what the winter days bring, but not so with the cooling portion of the system, which has been shut down since that time.

Tsahalis said that while the majority of funds needed to complete HVAC and roof

work is available, local contractors are busy and so the library has yet to find someone who is willing to take on the complex job. It will require a licensed general contractor with an HVAC electrical sub contractor and a roofing expert, because the flat, leaky roof with heavy AC units also needs attention.

She said board members are continuing to work hard to find someone local who can do the job and do have "a couple of leads," but so far no one has submitted a bid.

Fundraising for the project began in 2021, with approximately \$1.2 million now in hand. They may be able to raise the remaining \$500,000 needed through grants, but applications are on hold because they cannot be submitted without a contractor being listed.

About licensed contractors from outside the area, Tsahalis said, "At this point if they want it and give us a good bid," they would be welcome, adding, "We wanted to work with

local businesses, but we want the work to be done."

While they could try to track the leak, Tsahalis said, "there were some things that were never done properly, like the thermostat, so it makes sense to replace the whole system and make it more energy-efficient rather than try to put Band-Aids on it."

Since the problem began, there has been a major impact on the library's functioning. There is not an OSHA cutoff for temperatures, Tsahalis said, but "it just gets super uncomfortable... In 2022 we had to close early 35 times during the summer because it was just so hot."

In order to continue to serve the public and beat the heat, the library opened early on the days the staff knew it was going to be especially hot, with staff volunteering to stay and provide curbside pickup until the inside temperature reached 85 degrees.

Making the best of the situation, Tsahalis said: "This [past] summer we were pretty lucky. We put in window AC units and thankfully it wasn't as hot as the last summer, so we managed to get through without closing early," which they do when it get over 81 degrees in more than one room.

Despite the window units, it was nevertheless uncomfortable rather than being the cool oasis that some patrons, particularly the young and old, often seek. Because of the temperature issues, the library took itself off the list of county cooling centers, a designation Tsahalis hopes to regain once the work is complete.

Tsahalis concluded: "I really appreciate the community's patience on this so far. I know it looks like nothing is happening, but we really are working hard behind the scenes to try and get this fixed. And it will be fixed. It's just a matter of when at this point," Expressing both optimism and hope, she added that this is, after all, in "a season of miracles."



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Silent auction nets \$13,000 for Millbrook Library

The silent auction at Millbrook Library, organized by Friends of the Millbrook Library and concluded on Saturday, Dec. 16, raised \$13,924. Sam Falk, a spokesperson for the Friends, said, "we have some expenses, but that is an amazing amount. Our goal was to raise \$10,000, and we exceeded that. One hundred forty seven people signed up to place bids on our 150 items. We have a very generous community." - Judith O'Hara Balfe

Millbrook Village Board votes to limit speed on village roads

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Village of Millbrook Mayor Tim Collopy and the board have been working to reduce the speed limit in the village from 30 miles per hour to 25 miles per hour. At the meeting of the Village board on Wednesday, Dec. 13, board members unanimously passed

an amendment to do that. It will apply to village roads only; state and county roads, of which Franklin Avenue is one, will be unaffected. They introduced Local Law No. 4 of 2023, amending Chapter 220 of the Village Code titled "Vehicles and Traffic" to Reduce the Speed Limit on Certain Village Roads to 25 Miles Per Hour. All voted in favor, and a public hearing will be held Wednesday, Jan. 10.



Christmas Services



Falls Village Congregational Church



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Christmas Eve
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Christmas Day
December 25

10:00 AM Joyous Christmas
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December 31

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OBITUARIES

Gerry Holzman

AMENIA—Gerry Holzman, Creator of The Empire State Carousel, Author, Teacher, Graduate of Amenia High School.

Gerry Holzman, Master Carver, died on Dec. 8, 2023. He liked to say that his entry into the world in the early summer of 1933, as the first son of Solomon and Hazel Holzman, was a statement of optimism during the depths of the Great Depression. Gerry departed this life after a 90-year sojourn while still pondering Carl Sandburg's mystifying questions: "Where to? What next?"

His brother, Steven, of Hurley, New York, predeceased him. Gerry is survived by his always loving (and always loved) wife of 66 years, Arlene Davidson Holzman; his three daughters, three sons-in-law, Nancy Holzman (Jim Stegman), Jill Irving (Jeff), and Susan Gatti (Mark). Completing this highly cherished mishpocha are six grandchildren; Gregory Gatti, Jonathan Gatti, Liam Stegman, Devan Stegman, Joshua Irving, Julie Irving; a younger brother, Larry (Dottie Eckardt); two sisters-in-law, Margie Barrett Holzman and Claire Davidson Siegel, and nieces and nephews.

Gerry and Arlene lived for decades and raised a family on Long Island, in Islip, New York and later moved to Cambridge, New York before relocating to Brunswick, Maine.

A graduate of Amenia High School, Gerry received his teaching degree from SUNY Albany. As a student at Albany, he made many lifelong friends, and it is where he first heard the words that would become his mantra: Let each become all he was created capable of being. He did.

Following his college graduation, he served in the U.S. Army in Ethiopia, Africa. He went on to have two different careers: 25 years as a public school teacher/administrator on Long Island, where he taught English and Social Studies, followed by over 40 years as a professional wood-

carver/sculptor.

Trained in the United Kingdom by English Master Carver, Gino Masero, Gerry's diverse work can be found in museums, public libraries, churches and synagogues, educational institutions, commercial establishments, and private collections. But by far, his single most significant work is the Empire State Carousel, a full-size operating merry-go-round based entirely on the theme of New York State. Aply described by Arlene Holzman as a museum you can ride on, this revolving history lesson is Gerry's original design, made possible with the generous and enthusiastic contributions of more than 1,000 artists and volunteers. Gerry believed the process of establishing this creative interactive community was as important as the creation of the carousel itself. The carousel lives in merry motion at the Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown, New York, celebrating Gerry's lifelong love for New York State.

Gerry was a prolific author. He wrote dozens of articles for a variety of publications and three books about the art and culture of woodcarving, focusing on his gratitude for finding a profession that allowed him to bring joy and beauty into a world that is too often sad. His most recent publication, at the age of 89, is a memoir, "The Wanderings of a Wayward Woodcarver."

He aspired to live a Jewish life by studying Jewish history and memorializing Jewish culture in his carvings. He endeavored to follow Rabbi Hillel's simple admonition: "What is hateful to you, do not do to others." He will be deeply missed.

A memorial service may be held at a later date. Donations in Gerry's memory can be made to CHANS Hospice, 45 Baribeau Drive Brunswick, ME 04011, (<https://www.mainehealth.org/mainehealth-care-home/>) or your local hospice, food bank, or arts organization.



CORNWALL — On Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, John Kimberly Mumford Dutton quietly died in the same home in which he was raised in Cornwall. He was 93 years old. Born on Nov. 28, 1930, he was the third son of the late David Garland and Constance (Mumford) Dutton.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Yvonne, and their four children; Michael and his wife Karen, Seth and his wife Karen, Alison and her partner Jay, and Colin, as well as their grandchildren Lucas, Patrick, Caleb, and Meaghan. He is predeceased by his siblings David, Arthur, and Cynthia.

John was born in Springfield, Mass. and raised in Poughkeepsie, New York and Cornwall, Conn. He attended the Poughkeepsie Day School, the Hotchkiss School, Syracuse University and Babson College. After graduating from Babson, he worked briefly in the insurance business in New York City before heading west to Vancouver, British Columbia to start a long career in the

lumber industry.

While in Vancouver, he met the love of his life, Yvonne McKee from Northern Ireland. They married in 1961 in Poughkeepsie, New York and began their married life in Tarrytown, New York. Later, after moving to Toledo, Ohio, their first child was born. In 1963 they returned to New York where John joined the A.C. Dutton Lumber Company, the family wholesale lumber business started in 1887 by his grandfather Arthur C. Dutton. John spent the rest of his career in Poughkeepsie before retiring in 1995. He and Yvonne moved to Cornwall in 1996 where John felt truly at home.

He thrived on hard work, caring for others, and providing for his family. His many acts of quiet kindness may never be known to anyone other than the recipients, but he instilled in his children the same sense of charity toward others.



John was a longtime board member of the historic Poughkeepsie Rural Cemetery and the Dutchess County Chapter of the American Red Cross, as well as a long serving member of the vestry of the Christ Episcopal Church in Poughkeepsie. In 1970, President

Nixon appointed him to the Emergency Economic Stabilization Committee, a group of industry experts charged with protecting the economy against natural and man-made disasters.

More often than not, John could be found outdoors, often creating excuses to putter around his beloved Cornwall home, usually while his entire family waited in the car to travel back to Poughkeepsie.

For many decades, John cut cords of firewood to provide

cozy heat to his family, even when home heating oil prices bottomed out. He also spent many hours cutting hay and brush in the fields surrounding his home. His children continue to honor his legacy by cutting firewood and clearing brush for no apparent reason other than "that's the way we were raised."

He was able to regale friends and family with entertaining stories of his childhood and his experiences. He was truly interested in people and celebrated when others succeeded. His smile was infectious. His sense of humor was uplifting. His good nature and sense of social responsibility stood out in a world rapidly losing both.

No formal services are planned. His ashes will be buried at the convenience of his family at the North Cornwall Cemetery in Connecticut. A memorial gathering will be held at a later date.

Debra Stickle

MILLERTON — It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Debra S. Stickle, daughter of the late John and Mary (Finn) Gilbert, a devoted wife to John K. Stickle II, and a loving mother to Christy Hill (Michael) of Pine Plains, and Casey Stickle and John Stickle III, both of Millerton.



Debra departed from this world on Dec. 17, 2023, due to natural causes, leaving behind a legacy of compassion and selflessness. Debra worked as a certified nursing assistant in private practice for over 40 years.

Debra's unwavering commitment to others defined her character. She spent her life as a dedicated caregiver, extending her warmth to those around her — including animals which she found joy and solace in the company of.

Debra was a 65 year resident of Millerton, which was not just a place to live but a community she actively contributed to and cared for.

Above all, Debra's legacy will be her big heart and never-ending care for others. She leaves behind a trail of love and kindness that will continue to inspire and comfort those who were fortunate enough to know her. In her spare time she enjoyed traveling to Lake George, Florida, Arizona and summering on Cape Cod.

In this time of grief, let us remember Debra Stickle for

the love she gave, the lives she touched, and the indelible mark she left on the hearts of those who were blessed to call her wife, mother, friend, and neighbor. May her soul find eternal peace, and may her memory be a source of solace for those who mourn her passing.

In addition to her husband and children, Debra is survived by her sister, Lynn Swart and her husband Leroy of Millbrook; her nieces, Lori Cookingham (Mike) of Millerton and Jodi Swart (Bryan) of Pleasant Valley; her great niece and nephews, Andrew and Joseph Milano, Amber Gunn and Bryan Corns, Jr. and Troi Hunter (Jackie) and Cole Cookingham. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her sister, Nancy Gilbert of Millerton.

There will be no public calling hours or funeral. A Celebration of Life will be announced for family and friends at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dutchess County SPCA, 636 Violet Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY 12538. To send an online condolence to the family, plant a tree in Debra's honor or send flowers to the family home, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

Send obituaries to johnc@millertonnews.com

Sheet Metal Workers Union recruiting apprentices

BREWSTER — The Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee for Sheet Metal Workers will be recruiting for 20 new apprentice positions from Jan. 2 through Dec. 30, 2024.

Applications are available at Sheet Metal Worker's Local Union #38 Craft Training Fund, at 38 Starr Ridge Road in Brewster, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on weekdays.

The Committee requires that applicants are at least 18 years old; have a high school diploma or a high school equivalency diploma (such as TASC or GED); possess a valid driver's license; have reliable means of transportation to and from various job sites and required classes, and are willing and able to travel within the counties of Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester in New York and the counties of Fairfield and Litchfield in Connecticut.

For further information, contact Sheet Metal Worker's Local Union #38 Craft Training Fund at (845) 278-6983.

Additional job search assistance can be obtained at your local New York Department of Labor Career Center (see:

dol.ny.gov/career-centers).

In accordance with state law, apprentice programs registered with the Department of Labor cannot discriminate against applicants because of race, creed, color, national origin, age, sex, disability, or marital status. Women and minorities are encouraged to submit applications; sponsors of programs are required to adopt affirmative action plans for the recruitment of women and minorities.

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 Worship Services Week of December 24 & 31, 2023	
Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.	
Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	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! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290	St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links Rev. AJ Stack 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality
North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7252	Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org Misa en español a las 4 de la tarde el último domingo de mes The Revs. Heidi Truax & Felix Rivera trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627
The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net	Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, January 14 at 10:30 a.m. 2024 The Year Ahead For information, contact Jo Loi at joikauioloi@gmail.com All are Welcome
The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net	Chabad of Northwest CT On The Green 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759 Childrens Camp Shabbat Services Hebrew School Teen YIP Judaism With A Smile! chabadNW.org 860.567.3377 office@chabadNW.org
Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194	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 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., 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
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	UCC in CORNWALL Congregational Worship Sunday, 10 am Cornwall Village Meeting House 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
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 We hope you will join us!	Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org
The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall	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
Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org	All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us

EDITORIAL

Homeless Among Us

Last week, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Renewal released its 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, detailing a nationwide 12% increase in the number of people experiencing homelessness over the previous year.

Among the major findings: On a single night in 2023, some 653,104 people were unhoused, the highest number reported as experiencing homelessness since HUD's reporting first began in 2007. And while 59% of these people were unhoused in urban areas, 23% were in the suburbs, and 18% in rural areas like the ones we live in.

The HUD report indicates that the overall rise was due to a sharp increase in the number of people who became homeless for the first time during the pandemic and attributes this largely to soaring rents, housing stock shortages, and the winding down of the Biden Administration's American Rescue Plan Act, which contained protections against evictions and housing loss.

There is, however, still funding to be had, as you will see from John Coston's story on Dutchess County's ARPA spending in this week's paper (Page One). Although the county has received more than \$57 million dollars, it has spent less than half that amount to date — and the remaining amount has to be assigned to projects by the end of 2024. In its ARPA Update Special Report the county does describe, in the community investment section, monies allocated to Homeless Housing and Case Management, and Housing and Infrastructure, about \$14 million dollars. Projects on the table include rehabilitating an old jail to provide temporary emergency housing.

Temporary emergency housing centers and shelters provide crucial transitional services, but they are short-term solutions. As The Atlantic Magazine's staff writer Jerusalem Demsas has argued in her astute reporting on the homelessness crisis, an "obvious" solution is to create enough housing stock at affordable prices to keep people who may be "one paycheck away" from losing their homes, and to create the public/private sector systems that would make this possible.

While the people experiencing homelessness around us are not living in tent cities on Eddie Collins Field, they are here and need the help and creative support of our community. Homes make working in and belonging to a community possible. Ensuring that people can afford housing stability makes every community stronger.

As the Northwest CT Community Foundation wrote in its powerful, now almost 13-year-old Plan to End Homelessness in Northwest Connecticut: "No one should experience homelessness. No one should be without a safe, stable place to call home."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appoint Vicki Doyle

I understand that the Amenia Town Board has the prerogative of appointing someone for the now vacant seat.

There can only be the most cynical of justifications to appoint anyone other than Vicki Doyle. I cannot fathom any other choice because:

- She is still willing to serve!
- She was appointed and served as Deputy Supervisor

for many years in a row —She lost by 9 votes in this recent election.

—She has 20 years of stellar and generous work on the Amenia Town Board.

We are asking the Amenia Town Board to do what it knows is the right thing to do.

Edna McCown and Nancy Mckenzie
Amenia

Thanks to Amenia

To Town of Amenia residents,

Thank you for your votes and support in my Town of Amenia Supervisor campaign. In addition, a warm thank you to everyone who has wished

me well and thanked me for my years of service. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Town of Amenia Supervisor.

Victoria Perotti
Amenia



"What's most important is that you believe in yourself."

The views expressed here are not necessarily those of The Millerton News and the News does not support or oppose candidates for public office.

Accepting financial support does not mean we endorse donors or their products, services or opinions.

Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week's publication. No more than 500 words. Send to editor@millertonnews.com. Please include a phone number for confirmation.

A 'friendly call' for volunteers from Sue Serino

We turned over this week's column to Sue Serino, who becomes Dutchess County Executive next week.

GOLDEN LIVING

As the Program Manager of the Dutchess County Office for the Aging (OFA) this past year, I was able to help launch its "Friendly Calls" program.

"Friendly Calls" has since connected over 100 Dutchess County older adults at risk of loneliness and social isolation with OFA volunteer callers of all ages. I know that OFA will build on this success in 2024.

Sometimes the most valuable way of helping others is also the simplest, and it doesn't get much simpler than picking up the phone to talk to someone. That's one reason the Office for the Aging's "Friendly Calls" program has become so popular so quickly with older adults and volunteers alike.

For information on be-

coming a "Friendly Calls" volunteer, email bjoness@dutchessny.gov or call 845-486-2555.

For volunteers, especially recent retirees who are just beginning to explore what to do with their newfound free time, "Friendly Calls" is been a great start. It's a 20-30 minute, once-a-week commitment lasting eight weeks, and it's the kind of volunteering that can be done from home, on a lunch break, or from anywhere on earth with a good phone signal.

If you start as a "Friendly Calls" volunteer in February but you're going to Yankees spring training in March, keeping to a weekly call schedule is no problem whether you're here or in

Tampa. "Friendly Calls" participants are older adults living in Dutchess County who have an existing relationship with OFA. They've agreed to participate in the program, and callers and participants "meet up" before beginning the weekly calls, to agree on a time and date for the calls. (By sticking to a schedule, participants can also be assured that when their phone rings at that time, they don't have to worry that it's a telemarketer or a scammer.)

"Friendly Calls" volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.

Can the calls go on for longer or shorter than 20-30 minutes? Sure, if both parties agree on it.

What should we talk about? OFA arranges for "Friendly Calls" orientation sessions for just this purpose. The sessions last about 45 minutes and take place at OFA headquarters on Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie.

Volunteers learn how to follow up with OFA on any concerns a participant may express during a call, and OFA is just a call or email away if you have more questions. For example, if a participant mentions during a call that their roof leaks when it rains, OFA can help connect them with the appropriate resources to help.

We list "Friendly Calls" orientation sessions at www.dutchessny.gov/calendar, and publish them in OFA weekly email newsletters. And if you can't get to an orientation for any reason, we can work with you on setting up a remote orientation option.

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, 114 Delafield St., Poughkeepsie, New York 12601, telephone 845-486-2555, email: ofa@dutchessny.gov website: www.dutchessny.gov/aging

How to cope with holiday packaging waste

Dear EarthTalk, The holiday season brings so much food and packaging waste. What can I do to be part of the solution instead of part of the problem this year?

— Bridget Wilson, Philadelphia, PA

EARTHTALK From the Editors of E: The Environmental Magazine

We all love the holiday season for its traditions and gift-giving, but environmental advocates worry about the extra waste we generate between Thanksgiving and New Year's. Americans produce 25 percent more trash over the holidays than the rest of the year. So, what's an eco-conscious holiday lover to do?

Reducing waste over the holidays might seem like a lofty goal, yet it's certainly within reach. The most obvious way to reduce waste this year is to rethink gift giving. Instead of buying this year's fad toy or gadget for that loved one, how about giving them an experience, a homemade gift or something made

from recycled or upcycled materials? Or give the gift of time — help them reorganize their closet or kitchen, take them to the amusement park, help them set up a new website or teach them how to crochet.

If you do give physical gifts, wrap them creatively with the planet in mind by utilizing reusable materials like fabric, scarves or old maps — or repurpose newspaper or brown paper decorated with natural elements like pine cones or dried flowers.

Another way to green this holiday season is to change up your holiday decor. For one, get a reusable tree if you're not able to compost a real one

when its usefulness is over. Select eco-friendly holiday lights that use LED bulbs, which use less energy, and make decorations with natural materials, like pinecones, branches or dried citrus slices.

Food waste is a big issue all year, but especially around the holidays. Plan your holiday meals so as to minimize food waste. Buy local, organic produce with minimal packaging. Make sure to compost food scraps and plant trimmings so such biodegradable items don't clog up landfills meant for garbage.

Another way we are wasteful over the holidays is all of the emissions-intensive air and road travel we indulge in to visit friends and fam-

ily. Reduce travel emissions by carpooling, using public transportation, or opting for virtual gatherings when feasible.

Yet another way to give without waste is by volunteering time and/or money to charitable causes on your own or on behalf of a loved one instead of a traditional physical gift. Supporting organizations that work toward environmental conservation or helping those in need can be a meaningful way to celebrate without contributing to waste.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)(3) nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at emagazine.com.

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Mission Statement

The Lakeville Journal Company, Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Rapids rage after heavy rain

Kent Falls was full to the brim after a stormy weekend, culminating with torrential rain and strong winds early in the morning on Monday, Dec. 18. Unseasonably high temperatures prevented the precipitation from turning into snow. On Dec. 18, temps were recorded around 60°F in the region with high winds.

OUR TOWNS

Holiday lights light holiday hearts

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Although the event was postponed twice in recent weeks due to rain, the third time was a charm for Amenia's annual Celebration of Lights, enjoying perfect weather Friday, Dec. 15, and attracting lots of residents to the town center to see the lighting of the town tree and the awarding of the 2023 Citizen of the Year certificate.

Activities included free hot chocolate provided by FreshTown and warm pizza donated and served by Four Brothers Pizza, where there was a big-screen showing of a fireplace image of a warming fire, and later a double feature of children's holiday programming.

The honor of 2023 Citizen of the Year was awarded to the late Cindy Dale Snow-Pitts of Wassaic, who died last summer. The posthumous award was given by Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti to Maryanne Pitts, surviving spouse of Snow-Pitts.

Perotti praised Snow-Pitts for her dedicated volunteer service to the town and to local organizations that assist residents when needs arise. In a brief statement, Pitts



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Free hot chocolate at Fountain Square provided by Fresh-town was a popular Celebration of Lights feature in advance of the traditional holiday parade organized by the Amenia Fire Department on Friday, Dec. 15.

said that she was accepting the award on behalf of her wife, as a great honor and with deep love.

"We hope to begin to fill the need that Cindy helped to fill throughout the valley," Pitts said, indicating the far-reaching extent of Snow-Pitts' work. Her Bonnie Boxes program, offering gift boxes and hope for those battling cancer, earned her a 2015 award from the Dutchess County Executive Arts Council.

More recently, Snow-Pitts was engaged with collecting and distributing school supplies and toys for children in the Northern Harlem Valley. Founder of Harlem Val-

ley Arts, foundational to Snow-Pitts' work in service to her wide community was to identify and fill a variety of needs.

Following the ceremony, the town Christmas tree was lit, soon followed by the annual Parade of Lights put on by the Amenia Fire Company, a procession of decorated fire trucks and all manner of decked-out vehicles.

Although this is a busy time of year for them, Santa and Mrs. Claus were able to appear in the parade, waving to their exuberant fans before returning to the North Pole to complete holiday preparations.

Millbrook Rotary Club to throw NYE Celebration

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Millbrook Rotary Club will host a year-end celebration at Lyall Memorial Church and Grace Episcopal Church on Sunday, Dec. 31, from 4 to 6 p.m.

The Hammerhead Horns will perform a blend of "Barrelhouse, Blues & Boogie

Woogie," while Art Lillard's On Time Band will play swing, jazz, and popular hits. Refreshments will be provided by VFW Post 9008.

A special children's festival coordinated by Cecelia Collopy will feature games, crafts and other activities as well as the Hudson Valley Large Scale Railroad Club display, and a performance by the Puppet People, Mark Carrigan and

Michelle Smith-Carrigan.

To attend, buy a sticker (designed by Millbrook Central School District art students, no less) for a suggested donation of \$5 at Merritt Bookstore, Reardon Briggs, or Village Wine & Spirits.

For more information about the event or how to volunteer, contact Ashley Lempka and Michelle Del Valle at nyemillbrook@gmail.com



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Volunteers at Willow Roots Food Pantry in Pine Plains gave out 60 holiday turkeys and trimmings on Saturday, Dec. 16. Started by Lisa and Nelson Zayas, Willow Roots serves all those who indicate that they have a need. The pantry is open on the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10 to 11 a.m. at 7730 South Main St. To contact Willow Roots, call or text 518-751-0164, or go to www.willowroots.org. - Judith O'Hara Balfe

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Hazy Rafa LLC filed Articles of Organization with the NY Department of State on November 14, 2023. Its office is located in Dutchess County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served, and a copy of any process shall be mailed to 55 Locust Grove Road, Apt 1, Rhinebeck, NY 12572.

12-07-23
12-14-23
12-21-23
12-28-23
01-04-24
01-11-24

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). The name of the LLC is: LQP CONSULTING, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: November 1, 2023. The County in which the Office is to be located: DUTCHESS. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: 20 LINDEN COURT, MILLBROOK, NY 12545. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

11-23-23
11-30-23
12-07-23
12-14-23
12-21-23
12-28-23

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Intricate Carpentry, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/13/23. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brandon Smith 124 Sharon Road, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

11-30-23
12-07-23
12-14-23
12-21-21
12-28-23
01-04-23

Legal Notice

Please be advised that the Town of Pine Plains Town Board will hold its Re-Organizational meeting on January 2, 2024 at 7:00pm. Said meeting will be held at the Pine Plains Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains NY 12567.

By order of the
Town Board
Madelin Dafeo
Town Clerk
12-21-23

Legal Notice

Reorganizational Meeting of the Town of Amenia, Town Board is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 4, 2024 at 7:00pm., at 4988 Route 22, Amenia NY.

Dawn Marie Klingner
Town Clerk
12-21-23

Legal Notice

Reorganizational Meeting of the Amenia Fire District #1 Board of Fire Commissioners is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 8, 2024 at 6:30pm., at the Amenia Fire House, 36B Mechanic Street, Amenia NY. 12-11-2023.

Dawn Marie Klingner
District Secretary
12-21-23

LEGAL NOTICE

West Main Street Apartments LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 5/30/2023. Office located in Dutchess Co. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful activity.

12-14-23
12-21-23
12-28-23
01-04-24
01-11-24
01-18-24

TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Annual Organizational Meeting of the North East Town Board for the year 2024 will be held on Monday, January 2, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Ave, Millerton, New York.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, in case of cancellation due to inclement weather, the Annual Organizational Meeting will be held on Wednesday January 3rd at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Millerton, New York.

The meeting will also be via "Zoom" and anyone wishing to attend should contact the Town Clerk at townclerk@townofnortheastny.gov to request the link and password.

The meeting will be recorded and a transcript of the meeting will be made available at a later date.

BY ORDER OF THE NORTH EAST TOWN BOARD

Dated: December 14, 2023.
Elizabeth Strauss, Town of North East Town Clerk
12-21-23

TOWN OF AMENIA TOWN BOARD REQUEST FOR THE FOLLOWING TOWN SERVICE: WATER OPERATOR

Proposals are sought and invited by the Town Board, Town of Amenia for a Water Operator for Town of Amenia Water District #1 as set forth herein.

Proposals will be received by the Town Clerk, Dawn Marie Klingner, of the Town of Amenia, until 1 PM on January 25, 2024. All proposals must be in a sealed envelope and clearly marked "Water Operator". The proposals will be opened on January 25, 2024 at 1:30 PM.

Copies of the RFP may be obtained from the Office of the Town Clerk:

4988 Route 22
Amenia, NY 12501
(845) 373-8118 ext.125
townclerk@ameniany.gov

The Town Board expressly reserved the right to waive any irregularities in a particular proposal, or to accept any proposal or reject any and all proposals, or to award on any or all items, as the interest of the Town of Amenia may require.

By order of the Town Board, Town of Amenia, New York. December 14, 2023.

By: Dawn Marie Klingner,
Town Clerk
Town of Amenia
12-21-23

TOWN OF PINE PLAINS DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Planning Board on the 10th day of January 2023, at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against a minor subdivision application submitted by David Birch for property located at 618 Bean River Road, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, State of New York, Tax Map No. 134200-7072-00.

Any resident of the Town of Pine Plains shall be entitled to be heard regarding said application. The application is available for review during regular business hours at the Pine Plains Town Hall.

By order of:
Town of Pine Plains
Planning Board
12-21-23

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Sharon, CT 06069
Phone: 860.364.5157
Fax: 860.364.6097
www.fchealth.org

Freund's Farm Market & Bakery, LLC
324 Norfolk Road (Rt 44) - East Canaan, CT 06024

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of Northwest Connecticut

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Roosters: hardware on a human scale

By J.R. TRACY
The New Pine Plains Herald

PINE PLAINS — In 2017 Jeff and Amy Como were a successful White Plains couple looking for a lifestyle change. Jeff was a former chief information officer running his own professional services firm, while Amy was an assistant deputy commissioner at the Administration for Children's Services in New York City.

Jeff said: "I would be traveling a lot, Amy would be staying very late at work. We'd come home at night, eat at 10, and fall asleep at 10:30 — it was getting old. We would never see each other. I thought, 'I can make it until retirement' but if I started thinking like that, I was going to hate the next 15 years of my life. But, what to do?"

Amy said: "I figured, 'Why don't we just do something really stupid? Why are we thinking within the confines of our current careers?'" That prompted Jeff to go online and search for potential businesses for sale.

Amy continued: "We thought of every kind of business, from laundromats to a bed and breakfast. Jeff then found a hardware store on the market but without a lot of information. He didn't even have the exact location, but from the context, he was able to home in on it with Google Earth. He thought it looked very familiar. So we drove up from White Plains [to Stanfordville] and we realized we'd actually been here antiquing."

Jeff had built up considerable hardware expertise while renovating their 1920s Colonial Revival home in Westchester County. "I was in a Home Depot or another hardware store almost every day for 10 years — it was a great experience, very hands-on, with woodworking, plumbing and the like. The idea of a hardware store wasn't far-fetched, and we liked the



PHOTOS BY J.R. TRACY

Amy, left, and Jeff Como became hardware store owners in Stanfordville in 2018.

challenge — we didn't want to do something boring, because we're 'Type A' people," he said, laughing.

"This place (formerly McKeough's Home and Hardware) didn't seem like much but once we looked past the facade, we were like, 'We can do something with this.' We felt if we were smart about it and patient, we had the runway to do it. Plus, we thought this was a great little community we fell in love with all those years ago — the people are a real eclectic mix."

With a business in mind and a location selected, the Comos just needed a name. Jeff said that was an easy decision: "You look at the top of the building, there's a cupola, and on top of that, a rooster. It's fun, a little quirky — a little different from just using the family name." Thus: Roosters Route 82 Home and Hardware Center.

In 2018, the Comos sold their house in Westchester

and moved to Milan, and a week later, closed on the hardware store property on Route 82 in Stanfordville.

The ordinary challenges of a new business were compounded when COVID-19 hit in 2020. Demand for hardware and renovation-related products skyrocketed, but the Comos found themselves nearly abandoned by their main distributor. They were forced to look elsewhere, which proved a blessing in disguise.

Jeff said: "We switched our allegiance to a co-op called Do It Best. We turned to them in the midst of a six-week crisis, and they came through, getting us up on their platform in two weeks. We like the co-op model because we have ownership, and have input at the co-op level."

The pandemic did not dent the Comos' long-term goals. Since the closing of Deuel's Home Center, Pine Plains had lacked a hardware store. The

Comos saw an opportunity and secured a site on Church Street in October 2020, set to open in March 2021. The move was a huge risk. As Amy said: "Were we robbing Peter to pay Paul? Would our Pine Plains customers just stop coming to Stanfordville, leaving us without any real growth?"

As it turned out, they needn't have worried. Amy continued: "We gained loyal followers in Pine Plains, and some of them even come to Stanfordville as well, for the things we just don't have the space to carry in Pine Plains. We have a strong contractor customer base in Pine Plains now, whereas Stanfordville serves a lot more lawn and garden and other outdoor needs." Roosters' contractor customers include Ginocchio Electric and Superior Sanitation, longtime local service providers.

Besides the Comos, Roosters has six employees, a mix of full- and part-time staff. Employee Jean Knapp was a real find, said Amy: "Jean is the perfect full-time person — she already had a background



The rooster-topped weathervane made choosing a name for the store simple.

in fasteners, has a vast knowledge of hardware — she was a linchpin in opening Pine Plains." Knapp is a steady presence behind the counter in the Pine Plains location.

Employees like Knapp have helped Roosters establish a distinct identity, a pressing need with Williams Lumber and Herrington's just a few miles away in sev-

eral nearby communities. Jeff said: "We focus on our brand, differentiating it from something like Williams, which is a little colder, a little more corporate. Our goal is neat, clean, organized stores, with a friendly, helpful staff that can solve problems."

This article appears courtesy of The New Pine Plains Herald.

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SOLAR *Continued from Page A1*

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AC Power currently estimates that the farm will contain about approximately five megawatts of solar panels, or enough to power some 1,000 homes. The array would “plug in” to the grid at the high-capacity power lines along Route 22, and provide power which would be made available to area residents at a discounted rate through a subscription.

A lease agreement will not be entered until the results of the two agreed-upon years of research and planning are in hand and a public hearing has been conducted, said Kennan.

Colston, responding to concerns, assured the town

board members that the surveys and research conducted over the course of the two-year option agreement will not require construction or disturbance of the land of any kind.

Now that the option agreement is in place, AC Power hopes to submit preliminary information to Central Hudson in four to six weeks. About four months after that, Central Hudson is expected to respond with a CESIR Study (pronounced like the Roman or the salad), which will offer feedback, and make clear whether or not the project is feasible. This process will also reserve the needed capacity in the grid, effectively getting the Millerton proposal

“in line” for interconnection. “So within the first six months, you know what you can actually interconnect” with the grid, at how many megawatts, and at what cost, explained Colston.

Throughout the process, all of the information collected by AC Power will be shared with the town at no cost.

The right time

Kennan noted that more than ten years have elapsed since the town first began considering a solar installation on the landfill; in fact, he said, former Town Supervisor Merwin first considered putting a solar array on the landfill in 2012.

Kennan and AC Power have been working on a concept since 2021.

Last December, Kennan met with a group of about 20 neighbors of the site.

“One of the things which I promised them was that the town was not going to rush into anything in terms of solar and wind. We were going to do our homework,” said Kennan. “The one thing that is indisputably true is that we have not rushed into anything — as our friends from AC Power are very well aware.”

On Thursday, the board apparently decided that the time was finally right to gather more information.

AC Power is set to begin its work with the DEC.

ARPA *Continued from Page A1*

liam F. X. O’Neil, the spending plan is organized into five major categories: youth; county parks; economy, community and county government.

Youth programs

More than \$13 million was assigned to funding youth programs in three categories. One, the “Learn, Play, Create” grant program “to enhance and provide opportunities for children to learn, play and create while fulfilling emotional, financial, and social voids caused by the pandemic.” The program focused on libraries, not-for-profit youth sports and arts organizations with awards totaling \$2,988,882.

A summer employment program for school-age children was budgeted at \$100,000.

The third component aims to build a youth center in Poughkeepsie, of which \$4.6 million “has been spent or encumbered for demolition of the old site, consulting fees and the planning and design for the new Dutchess County Youth Opportunity Center,” according to the 3rd quarter Comptroller’s report.

County parks

Nearly \$8 million was assigned for investment in county parks under O’Neil’s June 30 updated plan, and as of the end of the 3rd quarter some \$3 million has been expended or encumbered.

Economic investment

Another \$8.2 million has

been allocated for investments in the economy, such as jobs, infrastructure and public safety. As of Sept. 30, \$5.8 million has been spend or encumbered. One large expenditure in this category was \$3.7 million to develop, install and deploy a two-way radio system for emergency services.

Community spending

In terms of investing in the community, the ARPA plan calls for \$20.9 million to be divided in six categories. By the end of the third quarter, \$5.9 million has been spent or obligated. They include \$3 million in awards to nonprofits that provide services and programs to residents most in need; \$5.2 million to rehabilitate a wing in the old county jail to provide emergency housing for the homeless.

County government

An allocation of \$6.8 million targeted rehiring the public sector, which included funding to replace 96 of the vacant county positions; and monies in the amount of \$1.7 million for one-time payments to county employees who faced risk during the pandemic.

“The key outcomes for this funding include filling vacant positions, creating facilities and supporting infrastructure that has an impact on the community, and enabling the economy to come back stronger,” the Comptroller’s report states.

COP28 *Continued from Page A1*

ment of Sultan Al Jaber, chief executive of the state-owned oil company, as conference president, seemed to many, including former Vice President Al Gore, an outright conflict of interest.

“It’s not so much that it’s in a country that produces oil; it’s the appointment of the CEO of one the biggest and least responsible oil companies on the planet to be the head of the conference,” declared former Gore, arguing the fossil-fuel industry had “gone too far.”

Al Jaber’s claim in late November that there was “no science” behind the demand to phase out fossil fuel to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) only fueled charges that the conference had been corrupted.

That seemingly small temperature threshold that Jaber questioned was agreed to in 2015 when nearly every country in the world signed the Paris Climate Treaty. If temperatures climb much higher than that, climate scientists warn, the planet will face spiraling climate disaster.

Ending the fossil-fuel narrative

While fossil-fuel lobbyists were certainly well represented at COP28, with 2,700 or the 100,000 conference registrants working for the oil and gas industry, organizers categorically denied a report leaked to the nonprofit Center for Climate Reporting and the BBC alleging that briefing notes were prepared for UAE team meetings with “at least 27 foreign governments” ahead of the conference.

Whether the conference was ultimately a legitimate forum for working the world’s way toward a clean energy future, an opportunity for fossil fuel producers to cut profitable deals or some combination of both, the U.N. platform is for now, our best and only option to inspire climate action globally.

Bottom line: If demand for fossil fuels continues, production will climb. While under Biden, America passed the In-

flation Reduction Act — the most aggressive climate investment ever taken by Congress — that would funnel billions of dollars into programs designed to accelerate the country’s energy transition and slash emissions by about 40% this decade, oil production in the U.S. is at an all-time high. White House officials contend that increased domestic oil production serves as a bridge to help us transition to renewable energy sources. And the U.S. isn’t alone — Norway, Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada and France are all increasing fossil fuel production.

The fossil fuel industry has effectively been promulgating the narrative that the transition to clean energy will be long, costly and require gas, coal and oil. But as Al Gore recently contended: “Fossil-fuel producers have portrayed themselves as the source of trusted advice that we need to solve this crisis. But they are responding to powerful incentives to keep digging and drilling and pumping up the fossilized remains of dead animals and plants and burning them in ways that use the

atmosphere as an open sewer, threatening the future of humanity. It’s enough already.”

In our region

Here in our region, where warmer, wetter, wilder weather continues to intensify, the effects of climate change are increasingly palpable and undeniable. Weather extremes have alternately frozen, fried and drowned crops; caused smoke and asthma-irritating particulates from wildfires in Canada to waft down to our communities; overwhelmed riverbanks, flooded roads and homes; altered local landscapes; shifted habitat for wildlife and creating conditions for invasive species.

While the world is now off track to meet the 1.5°C temperature rise and on track for 2.5-2.9°C above pre-industrial levels this century, the average temperature in Connecticut has risen nearly 3.5 degrees Fahrenheit since 1895.

We live in one of the fastest-warming regions in the U.S. The Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation paints this picture: By 2050 the average annual temperature here is

predicted to increase by 5°F, heatwaves will increase from four days per year to more than 50 per year and frost days will decrease from 124 to 85.

What do we do to prepare for a climate changed future? While waiting for COP29 — slated for the petrostate of Azerbaijan — it’s clear that it will be up to state and local governments, businesses and communities to understand current climate change realities and find solutions to shape a changing future. How will climate change affect farmers and food? What does climate change mean for healthcare? What will we do about climate migrants — the thousands of people already leaving places like Texas and California where drought and wildfires are making conditions intolerable?

Communications consultant Carol Goodstein has written extensively about climate change, biodiversity loss, deforestation, and related subjects. For many years she was director of communications and marketing at the Rainforest Alliance. She lives in Norfolk.



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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

LIFESTYLE: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

North Canaan's Ilse coffee brewers

A very unique coffee experience is brewing at the Ilse coffeeshop on Railroad Street in North Canaan, Connecticut, in the old location of Jim's Garage.

The light-filled and airy space is a testament to the dedication of its founders, Rebecca Grossman and Lucas Smith. About five years ago, Smith, while working at Provisions, the café at the White Hart Inn in Salisbury, encountered a coffee that forever changed his perspective on the beverage.

"Until then," Smith explained, "coffee was just this harsh, bitter thing they put milk and sugar in just for caffeine. And then I had a cup of coffee that tasted kind of floral and tea-like, and it just blew my mind. I never knew coffee could taste like that. And then that was it."

Originally from the

Berkshires, Grossman was home on vacation from Holyoke when she and Smith met at the White Hart. Through Grossman, Smith connected with a coffee roasting company near her school and found himself learning the art of coffee roasting and the intricacies of the coffee world. When Grossman graduated, the couple moved back to Smith's hometown of Westport, Connecticut, to help his mother open a restaurant in nearby Fairfield.

There, they rented a roasting machine and started their company by buying coffee, paper bags, and a few stickers. "We were working full-time at his mom's restaurant," said Grossman. "We barely had a day off, so we would work after hours. It was just the two of us for the first maybe two and a half years of the business."

"We had \$1,000 and



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Owners Rebecca Grossman, left, and Lucas Smith of Ilse Coffee in North Canaan, Conn.

a credit card," laughed Smith.

"It was pretty naïve, honestly," added Grossman. "I think most people start companies

with a lot more money than we did. We just kind of went for it."

They went for it, and it began to work for them. Soon, Grossman

and Smith moved back to Canaan and opened Ilse, named after Smith's grandmother. "This is kind of where the journey started," Grossman

mused, "so it's a very cool coming home."

They started out with mostly a wholesale,

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISEY

The cast of "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" performed six shows at Sharon Playhouse Dec. 13-17.

THEATER: MATTHEW KRETA

Through the wardrobe

Last week the Sharon Playhouse presented "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," adapted by Don Quinn. The show followed four newly adopted siblings who are whisked into the fantasy world of Narnia when they walk through a wardrobe in their new home. The play opened Wednesday, Dec. 13 and closed Sunday, Dec. 17.

Every member of the cast brought a whimsy and charm to the show that kept the hour-long production fresh and enjoyable throughout. The four siblings, played by Carter McCabe, Kennadi Mitchell, Jasper Burger and Wild Handel had a believable sib-

ling bond among them, and each brought their character's personalities through very well.

McCabe, playing the older brother Peter, had a sense of leadership and was a focal point for his younger siblings. Mitchell, playing the older sister Susan, had a similar, though gentler approach to leading the siblings. Burger, playing the younger brother Edmund, brought a wide range of delightful childishness and high emotion as the ever-bullied younger sibling. Finally, Handel, playing the younger sister Lucy, showed the character's smarts and courage

Continued on next page

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48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY

COMPASS

...wardrobe

Continued from previous page



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISSEY

proudly for all to see. Every story needs its villain, and Tess Marks brought a haughty and intimidating royal flair to her role as the White Witch. As a queen of everlasting winter, Marks presented an appropriate chill to the role as a skillful manipulator and master of magic. The beaver couple, played by Alex Wilbur and Katelin Lopes, had many of the night's largest laughs, thanks in no small part to their excellent comedic timing. Andy Delgado, playing the Witch's right-hand man, also had his fair share of laughs from the audience, and fit his role wonderfully as a sometimes bumbling, sometimes serious lackey. The remainder of the company, though perhaps less at the forefront of the plot, brought an incredibly valued and impressively focused energy to the show that kept the whole thing exciting. Things like waving coats around the cast to symbolize them walking through the

wardrobe, large chorus and dance numbers, acting as living and listening trees and fighting as part of the Witch's army, the company of the production made the world of Narnia feel alive and exciting. Finally, the entire show was interspersed with selections of various carols sung by a trio comprised of C.C. Stevenson, Tyler Manning and Mollie Sosin. This mini chorus was absolutely delightful and navigated difficult polyphony, fast-paced and varied harmony together at a level far above what their ages would suggest. Their meticulously tight, three-part harmony was a standout of the show. Beyond the cast, much love was given to the set design, props, music and costuming of the show. The crew behind the show's many layers of decoration, lighting and stage direction had clearly felt a passion for the show and helped the building feel like a fantasy world.

BOOKS: JUDITH O'HARE BALFE

How a short story became a trilogy

Anna Magdalena" started out as a short story that grew into a trilogy, written by Maureen McNeil, who gave a lively talk at the Roeliff Jansen Community Library on Wednesday, Dec. 13. McNeil determined at an early age that she would become a writer. Even as a child, she had a vivid imagination, brought on by a kindergarten teacher's story of dinosaurs. She also told of going to church often as a child, before school, and the stained glass windows and other church art encouraged her to make up stories about what was pictured. Her sister taught her to read and write, and McNeil's course in life

was charted. Her sister, incidentally, became a teacher. A few years after telling her sister that she would be a writer, she told her mother, who found her a mentor with whom McNeil worked for over 20 years. Being open to other cultures, becoming immersed in them, McNeil was able to learn about people, feelings, conditions and causes that her own upbringing in the Pacific Northwest, as well as her traditional schooling, wouldn't have allowed. "Anna Magdalena" was originally a short story that begins in the Northwest. McNeil was working on it at a workshop at New York University. When someone



PHOTO BY TAMARA GASKELL

Maureen McNeil

remarked that they'd like to know what happened when one of the characters went to New York, the story grew into a novel. After talking to a publisher about the book, McNeil ended up with a contract for a three-book deal, so Anna Magdalena, who is a performance artist, became the catalyst for a trilogy.

Introduced by library director Tamara Gaskell, McNeil proved to be natural and charming. In reading the first two chapters from the book, she invited the audience into a world that enveloped freedom, imagination and life. The prose is descriptive and, while never too much, one can "see" each item, each scene, each person or thing, clearly, never cloying or rigid. The words flow in a steady stream of sight, sound, shapes and smell, all of the senses are touched as the reader becomes enmeshed in the story of this powerful contemporary woman. Life experiences have given birth to McNeil's

Continued on next page

...coffee

Continued from previous page

direct-to-consumer business on their website, opening the cafe space just eight months ago. They transformed the old garage into a bright and cozy spot for coffee lovers, an open concept space that showcases their entire production. This transparency also translates to their inspiring mission of quality and sustainability. Their approach is both global and personal, sourcing beans from countries such as Ethiopia, Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico, Kenya and Rwanda. Their focus is on supporting small farmers by establishing a practice of buying entire harvests. Grossman explained: "We buy from producers, and we really commit to them, which is a super important thing. We'll buy their coffee every harvest." Smith added: "Coffee farmers have one harvest a year, sometimes two. We've been in business for five years, and there's a number of producers that we've been working with for all of those five

years, which is really cool." Meeting and creating sustainable relationships with the coffee producers is a goal of their business. Smith said, "Our whole focus is really working to establish connections and relationships with all the countries we source." They explain that this connection has been easier in some countries than others. The couple was able to travel to Colombia last January, and plans to visit every year. "Other countries, it's a little bit harder to establish relationships," said Smith, "but it's a goal for us to have those relationships everywhere that we source." The couple has a clear passion for coffee, which extends to their passion for education. Each bag of coffee that they sell has the origin story on the back, showcasing the name of the grower and the farm. Everything from the altitude to the variety of the seed itself to the flavor profile is listed on the bag. There's also a cost breakdown,

which adds to the transparent approach. "We get asked all the time if our coffee is fair-trade, and we're actually paying far above fair trade," Smith explained. "Fair trade is a certification that provides the producer X amount above the stock market price for coffee. And so, we don't trade coffee based on the stock market. At any given time, we're paying usually about 200% above the fair-trade price for our coffee. So, you can look at any of our bags, you just turn it on the back, and you can see how much the producer got paid and how much we paid for the coffee." Grossman added: "A lot of the farmers that we're buying from are in producer-led initiatives. So the producers are setting the price, which is super important." Grossman and Smith's business practices are unique, and so too is their roasting style, which they describe as influenced by Nordic methods. There is a focus on bringing out

the natural flavors, showcasing the coffee's inherent qualities. Their favorite, preferred and recommended brewing method is a manual brew method using a Hario V60 pour-over that they sell in their shop. It brings out the flavors and "makes a really nice, clear cup," said Grossman. There's a bit more construction planned in the space to have it "exactly like we want it," said Smith, but once the renovation is complete, the couple wants to host events and coffee tastings, home brewing classes, and a "seed to cup" course. Said Smith, "Most people don't even know that coffee's a seed of a fruit. It's not a bean." He almost yells with wonder, "It's a seed!" Grossman added to his enthusiasm: "It's an agricultural, seasonal product, grown in a fruit. Our coffee is seasonal and rotates throughout the year. I don't think people are aware of that." She said, "I know I certainly wasn't before I got into coffee." Smith and Grossman's story is one of passion, dedication, and a deep respect for coffee and the people who grow it. Starting with minimal resources, they're excited to be able to grow alongside the small and supportive community of specialty coffee roasters in the area. "There've been hard moments, but it's been amazing," said Grossman. Smith added: "When we started the company, our big thing was helping people experience how great coffee can be. So if people actually want to see coffee in a different perspective rather than the way that they know it, then I think this would be a good place to come and check out."


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THEATER: LEE A. DAVIES

The healing power of live theater: Part 1

At its core, live theater is about (1) the escape and disconnect from daily life and the stress of our external environment and (2) the immersion into a new experience that requires our full attention. While these concepts are not unique to live theater (watching a movie or television program, listening to music, viewing art, reading literature), the immediacy and experience of being in the presence of live performers offers a specific set of health benefits — both mental and physical — that are not accessible in other media (certainly not in the digital age of streaming, email and social media) Nor will AI ever replace live actors.

A lighthearted romp that prompts a spon-

taneous eruption of laughter is therapeutic. The Mayo Clinic says that a good laugh can go a long way. Laughter makes you take in more oxygen, which stimulates the lungs as well as your heart. Positive emotions elicited from laughter and similar sources also trigger the brain to release what are known as happy chemicals: dopamine, serotonin, oxytocin, and endorphins. The immediacy of live theater is intended to transport us to another world and create a unique relationship between performers on the stage and those in the audience. A seething drama can pull you into a conflict, or an intellectual exercise can challenge us to consider (or reconsider) held beliefs. We in the audience are

not merely observers; we are participants in the creative process, as performers need us as much as need them.

“Attending a live performance creates a special bond between the performers and the audience,” says Lakeville and New York City resident Astrid Baumgardner, JD. She’s the author of “Creative Success Now: How Creatives Can Thrive in the 21st Century,” a lecturer at Yale University’s School of Music, and a TEDx 2020 speaker, Cracking the Code on Creativity. “My students at Yale — all professional musicians — feel inspired by the presence of the audience. This, in turn, fuels their desire to make great art and to provide the audience with the transformative power of live, communal

performance, to elevate us from our day-to-day lives, to inspire us with the beauty and power of music and to comfort us in challenging times.”

In his book “All the Beauty in the World: The Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me,” author Patrick Bringley describes his transition from a publishing job to a becoming a guard at the Met, following the death of his brother, as a coping mechanism. Unfettered by other responsibilities, he spent his days steeped in works of art, both famous and obscure. He considered in a way not possible when one is rushing through the museum.

Much has been written about the use of art and drama therapy in treating people with anxiety disorders. Yet surprisingly little exists about the therapeutic value of attending live theater as a member of the audience.

“When we’re absorbed in a situation that is created on the stage by talented performers, we can become a part of it, sometimes forgetting time and our surroundings, and losing ourselves in the creative process. This state has been referred to as ‘flow.’ It is a feeling that allows us to focus on the pres-



PHOTO BY ALY MORRISEY

ent moment and moves us away from current anxieties in our lives. The experience can expand our own world, facilitate empathy, take us out of our habitual way of thinking, and allow us to discover new ideas and sometimes new ways of coping.

All of these developments are expressions of a creative process that allows us to shift from current anxieties into areas that bring us to a more hopeful place,” writes clinical psychologist Sophia Richman, Ph.D., author of “Mended by the Muse: Creative Transformations of Trauma.”

Richman adds: “The experience of good theater is also one that is shared with others and can provide a sense of community. Often when we go to the theater with friends, we have an opportunity to discuss our experiences and reactions to the show. This can expand our

perspective and encourage us to look at things in a new way. Discovery, curiosity, surprise are the hallmarks of the creative process. As we watch this taking place on the stage, we experience our own version of the creative process within ourselves.”

Thank you all for your patronage of The Sharon Playhouse’s record-breaking 2023 season. And stay tuned for announcements about upcoming productions and the 2024 season. For more information — and to make a donation to help us keep you mentally and physically fit healthy — please go to www.sharonplayhouse.org.

Lee A. Davies is a Member of the Board of Directors of The Sharon Playhouse and a resident of Cornwall Bridge

Next Part: Eight Health Benefits of Attending Live Theater.

...short story

Continued from previous page

writings; she also uses historical references in a gentle fashion. A restaurant she opened with a college friend in Washington shaped some early writings. Work at the Lee Strasberg Theater and Film Institute found her reading the diary of the last seven months of Marilyn Monroe’s life. Her book “Dear Red: The Lost Diary of Marilyn Monroe” was written at that time. McNeil stated that without her intimate knowledge of Monroe, she could not have written as she did about Anna Magdalena.

After leaving the West Coast, McNeil has spent her time in Brooklyn and Woodstock, New York. The second novel of the trilogy, “Tinker Street,” is the story of Anna Magdalena as a teen coming of age in Woodstock, and the evolution of a performance artist’s life. That book is due out January

2024. The third book, “Clover Road,” is expected in 2025, and described by McNeil as utopian or dystopian, she’s not sure which.

Following the reading, questions were asked. Asked if any of her writings are autobiographical, McNeil noted that all writers write about what they know, but her stories are not autobiographical. She also said that writers create communities in their writings. As for performance artists, she thinks we are all performers, but asserts that you need to be who you are. Writing, she feels, gives you an opportunity to free yourself. She also said that, for her, writing nonfiction is harder than writing fiction.

Other works by McNeil include “Red Hook Stories,” from the beginning of her days in Brooklyn; and a collection of short

stories, “Wild Blueberries.” She was a finalist for the Tiferet Fiction Prize in 2021 and won second place in the 2021 Barry Lopez Nonfiction Prize. She is a lecturer, teaches writing workshops, and is an activist who still splits her time between Woodstock and Brooklyn. She has worked with the Anne Frank Center USA, PEN America’s prison program, and the Prison Public Memory Project. In addition, she has designed and taught workshops for Yad Vashem, the Woodstock Day School, the Morgan Library and Skidmore College.

Next in the library’s author series is author and chef Julie Gale, who will discuss her new memoir “The View From My Kitchen Window,” a chronological journey of the kitchens in the author’s life, on Wednesday, Jan. 10, at 5:30 p.m.

The Lakeville Journal FOUNDATION

Dear Friends and Readers,

There is GOOD NEWS to report about The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News! We have added more journalists to our staff, expanded our news coverage and we are about to launch new websites for both papers with seven-day-a-week news coverage.

Like many newspapers across the country, we face financial pressures that threaten our ability to continue this vital work. Even after a successful matching campaign, we still need your help. As a non-profit news organization, we must close the gap between what we earn by selling newspapers and ads and our operating expenses. That’s why we are reaching out to you, our loyal readers and community members.

The papers led the way this year in reporting on important issues to our community: Sharon Hospital, affordable housing, and environmental challenges to our lakes and state parks. And, of course, we remain the place to catch up on the police blotter, town meetings, local elections, local sports, festivals, movies, and the latest bear and wildlife sightings.

Since The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News were converted to non-profit status last year, you have kept us in business with your generous contributions. We are asking you once again to consider a tax-deductible contribution as part of your year-end giving. Every donation goes to support our journalists and the mission to deliver the stories that matter to you.

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COMPASS TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

ART: DEBORAH MAIER

Lacke Studio duo show

Suzanne Lacke (pronounced “lake”) and Scott Culbreth presented landscapes and other paintings on the ground floor of the Music Cellar, the pink building just off Main Street toward Amenia, on Saturday, Dec. 16, and Sunday, Dec. 17.

Lacke, a recent transplant to Salisbury, Connecticut, from California, grew up in Westchester County and completed her art studies on both the East and West coasts. She spoke movingly of teacher Marshall Glasier at the Art Students League, who “...set me on a path of an art practice. He helped liberate us through working large” and imparting the wisdom of his mentor, George Grosz. Over the years, Lacke has returned the favor to her many and varied students.

As in the work of her long-ago mentor, there was a visceral quality to Lacke’s landscapes with their saturated jewel tones and an interplay between modernist flatness and sensuous, almost expressionist

brushwork. Many reflect her time as a Californian, while some seem at home in the Litchfield Hills. She foresees more landscapes from this region soon.

Lacke’s “Dresses” series, once exhibited as “Disembodied Robes,” are larger vertical compositions with unusual qualities of liveliness and, at a distance, even photorealistic effects, though they share a painterly quality with her other works.

Her urban scenes have the air of an updated Edward Hopper, with their glimpses into people caught in their reveries while waiting for a green light or crossing a street. Rich, brushy color treatments and close attention to body language and the vagaries of light make for satisfying viewing experiences.

Culbreth was raised in southern Connecticut and moved to Millerton 45 years ago with his artist wife Karen, desiring closeness to family and this area’s natural beauty. The son of two artists himself, he grew up in a home “steeped in the practice of transcribing and producing visual imagery,” the smell of turpentine and the clink of brush ferrules against the mouths of jars.

In his half of the show, Culbreth offered a dozen mid-sized canvases, including landscapes noted for their subtle yet lively colors and poetic realism, as well as some richly textured still life paintings; and some recent abstractions, revisiting an idiom he explored deeply in the past.

Widely exhibited in this region over many years, from the Re Institute to museums in Connecticut, Culbreth, like Lacke, shows no sign of abating in the exploration of the creative life.

Lacke Studio is currently a thriving presence in the community, with an ongoing Saturday studio experience/workshop for young artists, figure drawing sessions for adults with various live models, and plans for daylong or weekend workshops on color theory and use starting in January, at 14 Main St. in Millerton. For more information, see suzannelacke.com

Items are printed as space permits. All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar. To submit calendar items, email editor@lakevillejournal.com

DECEMBER 22

Free Community Yoga Nidra and Sound Healing Bath

Kent Memorial Library, 32 North Main St., Kent, Conn. kentmemoriallibrary.org

On Friday, Dec. 22 at 6 p.m. in the Kent Memorial Library reading room, join Lisa Shea, LCSW RYT RMT, for a free community yoga nidra and sound healing bath. All are welcome. RSVP by email: kla-bmcallister@biblio.org

DECEMBER 23

The Audubon Presents: Birds of Prey!

Kent Memorial Library, 32 North Main St., Kent, Conn. kentmemoriallibrary.org

On Dec. 23, at 11 a.m., in Kent Memorial Library’s Junior Room, learn all about bird biology, conservation, ecology, and adaptations for survival through the use of live birds of prey and bird-related props. Various species of live hawks and owls will accompany Sharon Audubon Center Staff to demonstrate their beauty, power, and connection with the natural world. Similarities and differences of these amazing birds of prey will be discussed and several props will also be on hand for viewing.

Kent Memorial Library is located at 32 North Main Street, Kent, Connecticut, 860-927-3761. Visit kentmemoriallibrary.org for more information.

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve Service at Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls

Church of St. John in the Wilderness, 261 NY-344, Copake Falls, N.Y.

On Sunday, Dec. 24, there will be a candlelight Christmas Eve Service at the Church of St. John in the Wilderness in Copake Falls, N.Y., with carols at 7 p.m and service at 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 28

Hidden Treasures: A Storytelling Tour of Scoville Library Secrets

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

Did you ever wonder about the story behind the many stories collected at the Scoville Memorial Library? Would you like to explore secret staircases, unseen book stacks, and discover what lurks in the concealed chambers of our iconic 130-year-old building? Join SML staff and volunteers on Thursday, Dec. 28 from 5 to 7 p.m. for a magical evening as we share hidden gems and stories of auld langsyne that have been passed down, helping to make the library the community treasure it is today. Enjoy hot cocoa and refreshments at the end of the tour as we play a game of answering riddles based on the stories shared! This event is open to all ages.

ayne that have been passed down, helping to make the library the community treasure it is today. Enjoy hot cocoa and refreshments at the end of the tour as we play a game of answering riddles based on the stories shared! This event is open to all ages.

JANUARY 6

Cool & Collected 2024

Kenise Barnes Fine Art, 7 Fulling Lane, Kent, Conn.

Kenise Barnes Fine Art is pleased to present the tenth iteration of our exhibition series “Cool & Collected” featuring work by Matt Barter, Joan Linder, Mary Tooley Parker and Polly Shindler. The opening reception will be held Jan. 6 from 4 to 6 p.m. Carefully observed with affection these subjects capture feelings that tug just a tiny bit on our heartstrings and brings a smile of recognition to the viewer.

Cornwall Landscapes

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org

In his upcoming show at The Cornwall Library, artist Robert Adzema presents energetic watercolors that capture his love of the Cornwall landscape. The show runs from Jan. 6 through Feb. 17. Opening reception is Saturday, Jan. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. Registration for the reception and more information about the show is at: cornwalllibrary.org/events/

Book Talk with Author Peter Kaufman

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

On Saturday, Jan. 6, from 4 to 5 p.m., Peter Kaufman will discuss the award-winning book *Overreach, The Inside Story of Putin and Russia’s War Against Ukraine*, by journalist Owen Matthews. This fascinating investigation into the start of the Russo-Ukrainian war takes readers from the corridors of the Kremlin to the trenches of Mariupol. Drawing on over 25 years of experience as a correspondent in Moscow, and his family ties to Russia and Ukraine, Matthews provides an authoritative, poignant account of history, personalities, and politics. Presenter Peter B. Kaufman is a writer, teacher, and documentary producer, and works at MIT Open Learning and the Knowledge Futures Group. He is the author of *The New Enlightenment and the Fight to Free Knowledge* (Seven Stories

Press, 2021). Registration is required. Please visit scovillelibrary.libcal.com/calendar.

JANUARY 7

Sophisticated Snowflakes

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

On Sunday, Jan. 7, 2 to 4 p.m., join us to learn the art of fine-cut snowflakes with Shepherd Myers, taking the art of paper snowflakes to the next level. Entomologist and illustrator Shepherd Myers brings science to paper craft in this workshop. Myers has spent a decade at Bishop Museum in Honolulu managing one of the largest insect collections, combining scientific outreach and exhibit design.

This event is for teens, with limited seats also reserved for adults. Please email Scovilleteens@biblio.org to register.

Reading and Book Signing

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibrary.org

The New Detective has just been published to rave reviews. Join the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon for a reading with author Peter Steiner. His first three Willi Geismeier novels tell Willi’s story from the 1920s through World War II. This program is free but registration is required. Books will be for sale. For more information and to register: hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/11674791

JANUARY 9

Winter Drawing Workshop with Artist Pieter Lefferts

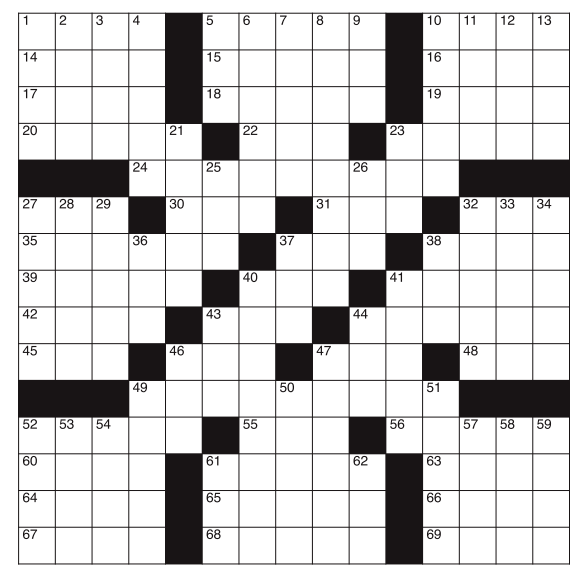
Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

On Jan. 9 and 23, Feb. 6 and 20, from 2 to 4 p.m., improve your drawing skills with artist and art educator Pieter Lefferts. This class provides instruction for adults of all levels, from beginner to expert. Draw from a photo or still life or bring in a drawing project of your own. Drawing materials will be provided. Pieter Lefferts is a professional artist working in oils, acrylics, and pastels. His specialties include landscape paintings of the Adirondacks, the Hudson Valley, and New England. He is a 2023 Nautilus Book Awards Gold Winner and the founder of Northlight Art Center in Amenia, where he conducts art classes. To register, please visit scovillelibrary.libcal.com/calendar.

Brain Teasers

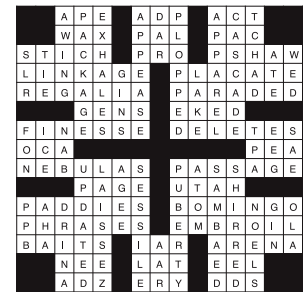
CLUES ACROSS

1. Droops
5. Subatomic particle
10. Not in danger
14. Nursemaid
15. Black band worn in mourning
16. Long song in opera
17. Edible seed of a Philippine tree
18. Chicago political family
19. Pursues pleasure from one place to another
20. Appetizer
22. Hill (Celtic)
23. Simple shoe
24. Songs to one you love
27. Secret activities
30. Upset
31. Popular hot drink
32. Body art (slang)
35. Fired
37. Blood relation
38. Identical
39. Porticos
40. Partner to cheese
41. Type of sword
42. Enough (archaic)
43. Surface layer of ground
44. Cotton fabric woven like satin
45. Choose for a post
46. Father
47. Tell on
48. Indian title of respect
49. Fonts
52. Fencing sword
55. Mock
56. Vaccine developer
60. Atmosphere surrounding a person or place
61. Marten with a short tail
63. Chinese temple
64. Invests in little enterprises
65. Popular cut of meat
66. Charity
67. Iron-containing compound
68. River in Northern Europe
69. One point east of southeast

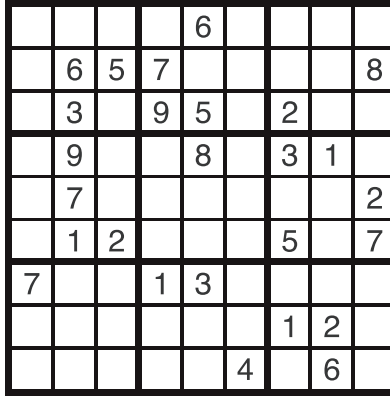


9. End-blown flute
10. Heroic tales
11. Member of a Semitic people
12. Dog’s name
13. Opposite of west
21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
23. Ocean
25. Cool!
26. Young woman about to enter society
27. One from central Caucasus
28. Indian city
29. A way to serve ice cream
32. Emaciation
33. Escort aircraft carrier
34. Italian city
36. Mythical settler of Kansas
37. Unhappy
38. High schoolers’ test
40. Measured in pace
41. Satisfies
43. Gullible person
44. Enclosed space
46. Substance used to color something
47. Shirt type
49. Discover by investigation
50. —Castell, makers of pens
51. Semitic Sun god
52. Gradus wear one
53. French river
54. Part of a cap
57. Digestive fluid
58. Metrical foot
59. Body part
61. Very fast airplane
62. Supplement with difficulty

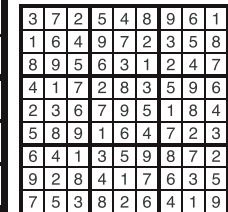
Dec. 14 Solution



Sudoku



Dec. 14 Solution



Level: Intermediate

CLUES DOWN

1. Exhausts
2. Genus of fish related to gars
3. Impudent behavior
4. Adherents to Islam
5. They come after A
6. Spoke
7. Room to receive guests
8. About opera

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OUR TOWNS

Wrestling comes to Webutuck Central School District

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — On a recent Monday at 2:15 p.m., three high school students and a high school science teacher met in the middle school cafeteria of the Webutuck Central School District for wrestling practice.

The school established the wrestling club earlier this year in response to a proposal from Coach Thomas Monteverde and the interest of several students; the first meeting took place in late November.

Monteverde, who has been teaching high school science at Webutuck for six years, now runs and coaches the club.

Lucas Vallely, 15, Michael Johnson, 16 and Degan Bracey, 16, are just three of the 14 boys who have already joined the team (the boys rotate through sessions on Mondays,



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Webutuck high schoolers Michael Johnson, left, and Lucas Vallely, right, watched their classmate Degan Bracey grapple with coach Thomas Monteverde at a recent practice session of the school's new wrestling club.

Wednesdays and Fridays so that everyone gets a chance to practice).

Johnson said he'd been doing some wrestling before the club started. He rounded up

a few fellow students to join, he said.

Vallely said that he decided to check it out because he's watched wrestling on television.

"It's more fun than it looks," Vallely observed.

The boys look forward to these sessions, where they learn moves and get to try them out on each other and

the coach.

Wrestling is a very precise and deliberate sport, Monteverde explained. At first, he said, the boys were surprised that wrestling wasn't just getting down and dirty and rolling around in weird positions.

The moves you see, the ones that look swift and deadly and bring an opponent to the ground, he explained, don't come through luck or from strength, but through smart technical, almost scientific, motions.

"It's really an individual sport rather than a team sport," Monteverde said.

Monteverde, who had been a wrestler when he was in high school, loves the sport, and loves teaching it.

"It's a really great sport for small school districts because it works with small numbers

of students," said Monteverde. "And it's not expensive. It doesn't cost much to start out, just the shoes, the mouth guard and the head guard."

The school district paid for the mats, the headgear and some of the other materials; the boys supplied their own shoes and mouth pieces.

He also noted that wrestling teaches transferable skills, citing law enforcement, military training and other careers.

"It requires effort but not great physical strength, as matches are based on weight classes. It does take great skill to be successful, however," said Monteverde. "It's fun for an individual with a competitive spirit."

Bracey grinned and quipped, "I just wanted to throw people."

SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for Dec. 7-14.

Dec. 7 — Deputies arrested Kasimer J. Koehring, 27, for driving while intoxicated subsequent to a traffic stop on Nine Partners Lane in Millbrook. Subject to appear in the Town of Washington Court at a later date.

Dec. 7 — Deputies investigated a car versus bear property damage automobile accident that occurred on State Route 44 in the Town of Amenia. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation was also notified.

Dec. 9 — Deputies responded to 18 Sinpatch Road in the Town of Amenia to investigate a reported distur-

bance between two females. Matter resolved without further police intervention.

Dec. 11 — Deputies responded to the area of 3322 Route 343 in the Town of Amenia for a car versus pedestrian accident resulting in minor injury. Matter investigated and documented.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned

cases or any other suspected criminal activity, please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office tip line at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

All persons arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in local courts later.

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