



PINE PLAINS
Bicentennial
Event **A3**



NORTH EAST
Real Estate
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COMPASS
Children's tales, winter
night music, and more **B1-4**

Pulver appointed to comptroller post by O'Neil

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

PINE PLAINS — “Everybody has a ‘use by’ date, and apparently mine was up,” County Legislature Chairman Gregg Pulver (R-Pine Plains) said of his Nov. 7 failed bid for a sixth term representing New York’s 19th Legislative District.

His fellow Republican County Executive William F.X. O’Neil didn’t agree and so tapped Pulver to fill the spot left by County Comptroller Robin Lois, who has been named New York state deputy comptroller.

Noting that he lost the election to Democrat Chris Drago by 60 votes, Pulver said: “I don’t think it’s a mandate either way. I don’t think it’s a mandate that I did a bad

job or a mandate that I did a great job. I did a good job. It’s just things change.”

One pleasant change is a boost from the chairman’s salary of \$34,967 to \$112,480 as comptroller.

Referencing the election loss, Pulver chuckled and said: “That certainly wasn’t the intent. I served for a lot of years for a lot less money and it’s certainly not entered into the equation. It pays what it pays. And the county executive asked me if I’d be interested and I said, ‘Sure.’”

If the offer hadn’t come along, Pulver — who, in addition to running the family farm and trucking business, has been in public service since he was elected to the school board in 1994 and a member of ski

See **PULVER, PAGE A8**



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Rows of holiday greenery at Evergreen Christmas Tree Farm in Millbrook.

Christmas tree shortage looms

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Manhattan architect Richard Phillips owned 25 acres of land in Dutchess County and his sister, who was a Master Gardener in New Jersey, thought he should find something to grow.

He liked gardening — green thumbs grew in his family — so evidently the logical thing was for him and his wife, Wendy, to start a Christmas tree farm. In 1989, they started planting trees, and in

2001 they opened their farm for business, usually on three or four weekends per year. Thus was born Evergreen Christmas Tree Farm.

The couple lived in Manhattan, coming up to the Evergreen Farm on the weekends until the COVID-19 pandemic, then they moved here full-time. On a busy Saturday recently, they reminisced about the families who were coming to buy trees. “Some of them have been coming for years,” Richard Phillips said. “We’ve watched their children grow up,” Wendy

Phillips added.

The process is simple: A customer walks through the farm and pick their tree, which is cut down by a worker with a buzz saw who then carries it to the road on a tractor. Then another worker stuffs the tree, trunk-first, into a machine that enfolds it in netting. The customer then goes to the barn to pay, where there are also wreaths for sale, and bags in which to dispose of the tree once

See **TREES, PAGE A8**



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Lily Fallon, 5, who attends school in Red Hook, shows off a completed cookie Friday, Nov. 24, at the North East Community Center.

Millerton loves a festival

By **JOHN COSTON**
johnc@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The lights were strung, the fire trucks were manned and ready, festooned with lights, holiday decorations and blow-up Santas, and Main Street was cordoned off.

At a few minutes after 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 24, the village once again became energized with si-

rens and lights as the 2023 Festival of Lights got underway. Looking down the stretch of spectator-lined sidewalks, the big tree was lit and the long line of fire trucks, four-wheelers, floats and antique motor cars edged their way up Main Street.

Children ran to collect candy tossed from the passing armada as

See **PARADE, PAGE A6**

Reported to be closing, independent Winsted Citizen gets last-minute buyer

By **TERRY COWGILL**
Special to The Millerton News

WINSTED, Conn. — It’s been quite the rollercoaster ride for the fledgling Winsted Citizen, but Thanksgiving weekend brought news that fans of the independent community newspaper can be thankful for.

After its editor, Andy Thibault, had indicated that the monthly paper would cease publication, an announcement was quickly made that it had actually been bought out by a much larger media company.

See **NEWSPAPER, PAGE A8**



PHOTO BY RILEY KLEIN

Fall 2023 issue of The Winsted Citizen, a paper launched in January and initially backed by Ralph Nader, a Winsted native.



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OPINION

The Festival of Lights;
Column, Letter **A5**



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OUR TOWNS

Village of Millbrook

Bond for new fire vehicle, more talk about STRs

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
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MILLBROOK — Mayor Tim Collopy opened the Village of Millbrook's meeting Thursday, Nov. 9, by mentioning a request for a public assembly permit from St. Joseph Church and Immaculate Conception Church on Tuesday, Dec. 12, from 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. for a procession going up Franklin Avenue, down Merritt Avenue and back to the church, which was granted.

Collopy then discussed the need for taping off areas during the Parade of Lights set to take place Friday, Dec. 1, for safety of the children. Candy will be handed out, but should not be thrown from the floats and other vehicles. Volunteers are needed. He will see if the school can send out emails to the parents. He asked Chief Dominic Boscardin if the fire department will be delivering Santa; it will. Franklin Avenue will be shut down from 4:30 p.m. on for traffic. No inappropriate or political marchers will be allowed.

The village will be named the lead agency for the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) in acquiring a bond for \$77,000 for the new fire chief vehicle.

Sgt. Jared Witt of the Millbrook Police Department said the problem with staffing is being addressed. The force has had its second training of the year in firearms and safety, and all officers passed. He is currently working on updating the policies manual, which has 500 pages. He is doing it in increments and should have

some procedures completed by the end of the month.

Highway Superintendent Bob Collacola reported that Central Hudson is trimming trees and it isn't the village's decision. He also mentioned that many residents are abusing the services provided, and that he'd like to see fines being levied where needed. Some infractions involve leaf and brush removal, and parking during snowstorms. He'd like notices to go out noting infractions and fines, then actually follow through on them.

Collopy addressed the desire to reduce the speed limit throughout the village from 30 to 25 miles per hour. This would also reduce the number of signs needed, as the message would be uniform throughout. Millbrook resident Kevin McGrath mentioned that when Bennett Park is fully opened, it may be necessary to lower the speed limits in that area also. Collopy said he'll go forward with what he has already started and if more changes are needed later, they'll be dealt with.

Comments have been received from Dutchess County on the short-term rental (STR) documents submitted by the village for perusal. One change was made from October: lowering the number of occupants from eight to six, or two people per bedroom (adults). Village trustee Peter Doro has worked on this project for a long period of time; the board would like to vote on it during its December meeting and hold a public hearing in January.

There was still some discussion concerning the need

for the owner to be on the property, or if a property manager will be allowed. One person, who rents from a property that's been in her family since the 1930s felt she was being singled out because she doesn't live on the property; she lives within 15 minutes, and her property manager lives next door. The question arose of whether or not she could be "grandfathered in." The board does not like that term, although not all were against making an exception in her case. Some people feel that the village is putting in codes without really knowing all of the facts concerning the existing STRs.

One of the last items was the sale of a 2-acre piece of property: the old village dump site. Asked if it would have to go out to bid, Collopy was told no. The village is waiting on information and document from the state Department of Environmental Conservation and when it has them in hand, it will sell. Collopy said that may be through a public auction, but was reminded that, in that case it could go to almost anyone for any reason, and Doro stated that sometimes public interest should outweigh financial gain.

Collopy noted that in looking at the village financials, he saw some shares in a gold mine that the village could sell if it needed to; in the meantime, it can just keep an eye on their worth. He said that the village accrues about \$27,000 per year from fees paid by utility taxes, cable and Central Hudson, and noted that the state gets over 2%. The village will look into raising the rate.

Budget in, overlay delayed

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

WASHINGTON — In a well-attended meeting meeting on Thursday, Nov. 9, the Washington Town Board opened a public hearing on the proposed town 2024 budget and upon hearing no comments, closed it, took a vote and passed the budget.

A public hearing was opened on the creation of a hospitality overlay district, which encompasses three areas, including two parcels where the Cottonwood Motel sits. The main site in question at the meeting was the former Daytop structure, which has two addresses for one building: one on College Lane and the other on Ramble Hill. Councilman Joe Rochfort stated that the main change was the light allowance, and the county recommendation was to go from 4000 to 3000 kelvins.

The College Lane entrance to the property would be for emergency only and the question of deliveries arose: If an oil truck is delivering to College Lane and needs to go to the Daytop site, why couldn't it proceed from there? Why would it need to go the official entrance on Route 343?

One resident asked why College Lane couldn't be made a private road. If that happened, however, residents would be entirely responsible for its upkeep, including the bridge at the bottom that may need repairs at some point.

Enough questions arose pertaining to environmental impact, along with other concerns, that the vote was put off until some further research could be conducted,

and another public hearing will be called. One resident was unhappy that the inn, if it were to become an inn, has 37 bedrooms. The Daytop structure is an older structure, with that number of rooms, and so would be grandfathered in. The same question arose for the Cottonwood, but the Cottonwood is on two parcels of land. Because any parcel can have up to 10 rooms, the Cottonwood is covered. However, any changes the Cottonwood business wants to make must go through an environmental assessment.

It was pointed out that there is not at this time any application to the Planning

Board concerning the Daytop property; if and when there is, there will be a public hearing and the residents will have say in the proceedings.

The Short Term Rental Committee also met for a workshop meeting that was open to the public. The main topic was whether or not the resident of the rental had to be on the property, and what constitutes a primary resident and what type of resident the owner should be. More research will be done, and this may or may not be ready for discussion at the board's December meeting; it might not come up to the public until the January meeting.



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PHOTO COURTESY NORTH EAST COMMUNITY CENTER

Stuffing turkeys for the food pantry

Karen Santiago Lopez, left, and Gissel Oros, both members of North East Community Center's (NECC) Teen Program, volunteered Thursday, Nov. 16, preparing bread at NECC's holiday food pantry.

Millerton News plans Winter Craft Fair

MILLERTON — The Millerton News invites everyone to a Winter Craft Fair Sunday, Dec. 10, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Millerton United Methodist Church, 6 Dutchess Ave.

The event will feature

crafts for children of all ages, a wood-carving demonstration, ceramics and jewelry by local artists and makers, face painting, and a display of photos from the archives. Apple cider doughnuts, cof-

fee and cider will be served at the event.

Editors from the paper will be on hand to meet with visitors.

The event is free to the public.

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OUR TOWNS

From the Bronx to Pine Plains: How a war changed two lives

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
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PINE PLAINS — With Pine Plains being about a two-hour drive from the Bronx, one might wonder how there can be a connection between the two places.

For the answer to that, the Little Nine Partners Historical Society (LNPHS) invited Bill Jeffway, executive director of the Dutchess County Historical Society, to give a talk on the subject on Saturday, Nov. 18, in the Pine Plains Free Library's Community Room.

Introduced by LNPHS President Dyan Wapnik, Jeffway presented a treasure trove of slides containing pictures, documents and historical tidbits that gave the audience of more than 50 a look into how the Revolutionary War turned the fortunes of wealthy landowner Morris Graham and enslaved individual Andrew Frazier. The lecture was the final event in a



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left: Dyan Wapnik and Bill Jeffway at the final Pine Plains bicentennial event hosted by the Little Nine Partners Historical Society on Saturday, Nov. 18, at the Pine Plains Library. The program, "Reversal of Fortune," was about Morris Graham and Andrew Frazier, who were born in Morrisania and moved to Pine Plains before the Revolutionary War.

year-long celebration of Pine Plains' bicentenary.

The two men, instrumental in settling Pine Plains, were very different, but with the common denominator

of both having been born in Morrisania, or as it is known today, the Bronx. Frazier was born enslaved, possibly of European-African ancestry, and his birth was noted

in the Graham family Bible, as was often the case of slave births at that time. The Gramhams were known to be large slave owners, and may also have been in the slave trade.

Frazier became a wagoner during the Revolutionary War, serving with Morris Graham, whose family "owned" him. Frazier was a wagon team leader, and some of his duties entailed transporting prisoners, and delivering captured arms to the furnaces in Amenia to be melted down for reuse. The story that evolves from the time of the onset of the war, through the very long life of Frazier, who died at around the age of 103, was the tale that was told at the event. It is not only the story of two men, it is the story of the beginning of Pine Plains, of one man obtaining his freedom, and the legacy he left behind. It is also the tale of how fate plays a part in the important aspects of history, and determines the continuity and fortunes of a

family and a town.

Graham built a stone house, the first in Pine Plains, in 1772, which stands to this day, after his father, one of the original Nine Partners, died, leaving his holdings to his many children. His is not the famous Graham-Brush House we hear so much about — that house is associated with Graham's brother Lewis — but another one situated just off Route 82.

During the war, both men — Graham and Frazier — fought in the battles of Harlem and White Plains. Graham's funding of the militia he raised may have cost him much of his wealth; he was declared "insolvent" and his house was sold off in 1798. He died in 1804 at the age of 58, single and childless in Deerfield.

Frazier, on the other hand, lived to a ripe old age, married, bought land, settled and farmed in Milan, where he raised a family of 11 children.

He spoke often of the war, and recounted having met Gen. George Washington.

His great-granddaughter Susan Elizabeth Frazier was active on the issues of women's and African Americans' rights. She was a substitute teacher in New York City Public Schools when opportunities for African American women were extremely limited. Eventually, after going through the legal system and courts, she was appointed a teacher in the New York City schools. During World War I, she was president of the Women's Auxiliary of the Old Fifteenth National Guard, an African American troop; she continued to work with it after it became the 369th Infantry.

Jeffway lives in Milan and serves on the research committee of Celebrating the African Spirit in Poughkeepsie and the committee of the Vassar College Inclusive History Initiative.

SkyRise Farm to host Black Barn Winter Market

By **NATALIA ZUKERMAN**
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — On Saturday, Dec. 2, and Sunday, Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Black Barn Winter Market at SkyRise Farm will host an intimate, indoor/outdoor experience of craft, community and care.

The ticketed event promises to be a celebration of some of the Hudson Valley's finest artists, makers, chefs, bakers, and purveyors. Created with the hope of fostering a sense of wonder, discovery and connection, the

Black Barn Winter Market was born out of a conversation between friends Sarah Rigano of Form + Light, Erika DaSilva of Ten Mile Table, and Erica Recto of Erica Recto Art and BES.

"It came about so organically," said Rigano. "We celebrate cycles and seasons at the farm, so as the year comes to a close and winter arrives with the solstice, this felt like a beautiful way to honor that."

Artists included at the event will be Erica Recto Art, Foxtrot Farm and Flowers, Hort and Pott, OBSERVED, Ten Mile Table and

many others with nourishment for purchase by West-erly Canteen, warming drinks by Ilse Coffee, and sweets by Vitsky Bakery and Shared Goods. The feeling on the farm will be festive. DJs including Upstate Soul Club will be spinning fireside grooves. Craft stations featuring Roygbiv, BES, Thistlepass Farm and others will be open to guests.

Part of the proceeds from the event will go to benefit the Northeast Community Center (NECC). Said Rigano, "We are honored to support the good work of the NECC, to elevate these talented mak-

ers and to create openings for greater joy and connection amongst neighbors, positive momentum to carry us through the long winter."

Tickets are \$30 each and must be purchased in advance, at which time more information, including the address, will be provided. For tickets, go to <https://bit.ly/47GaECt>

Correction

In a story about Adopt-a-Family in the Nov. 30 issue, it should have been stated that all items distributed to children were new. In addition, while business owners were a source of items, the majority were donated by hundreds of families in the community as well as others from New York City and Connecticut. The list of community donors should have included Louise Meryman's "band of friends

and farms," who regularly managed the needs of entire families.

The photo accompanying the article was of the Web-tuck Teachers' Association's toy giveaway, which did include some items left over from the final Adopt-a-Family shop-by-appointment event.

To donate to the program, checks can be sent to Adopt-a-Family c/o NECC, P.O. Box 35, Millerton, NY 12546.

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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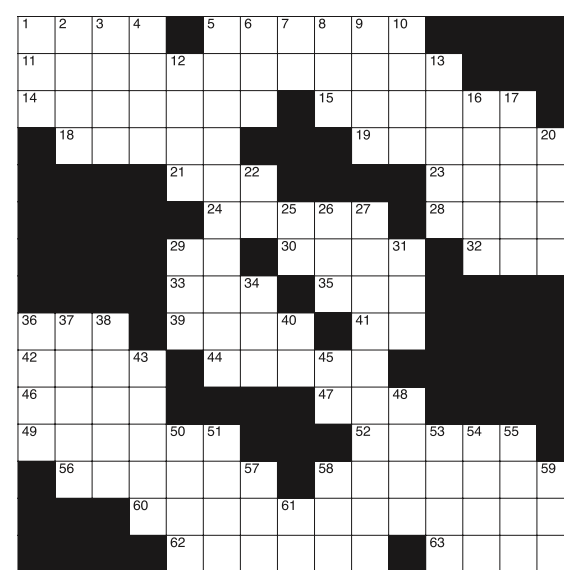
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Old English letters
5. Sculpture
11. Showing up again
14. Tie the knot again
15. Washington city
18. Stiff structures in invertebrates
19. Mark over a vowel
21. Explosive
23. Popular race: ___ 500
24. Pile up
28. Mint
29. Commercial
30. A minute amount (Scottish)
32. Small Eurasian deer
33. Baseball stat
35. Numbers cruncher
36. Japanese masked drama
39. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
41. Blood group
42. Assist in wrongdoing
44. Language spoken in Cameroon and Chad
46. Grayish-white
47. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
49. Microorganism
52. Place under prohibition
56. Calm, dependable
58. Congressman
60. Force
62. As a result of this document
63. One of two main branches of Islam

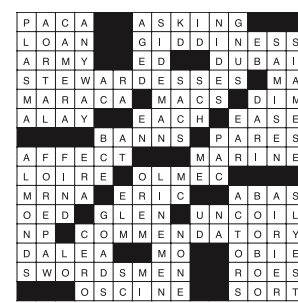
CLUES DOWN

1. Make a mistake
2. Gordon and Snider are two
3. Geographical region of Finland
4. Ejected saliva
5. A way of performing
6. Scotland's longest river
7. One of the six noble gases (abbr.)
8. Body art
9. Two-toed sloth
10. Electronic counter-countermeasures

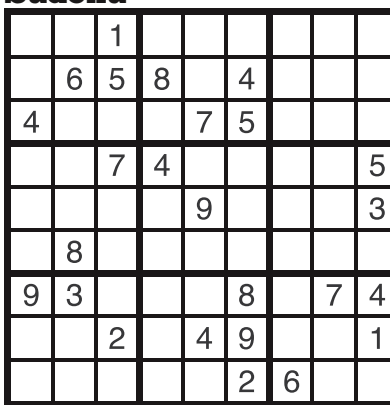


12. Foolish person (Brit.)
13. Of the wind
16. Grand home
17. Sound
20. English river
22. Symbol indicating ownership
25. Exclamation of surprise
26. Pouch
27. Apart from
29. Satisfaction
31. The bill in a restaurant
34. Sea bream
36. Port in southern Japan
37. Double-reed instruments
38. Center
40. South Dakota
43. An orderly crowd
45. Indicates position
48. ___-pedi
50. Nonsense (slang)
51. Republic of Ireland
53. Nocturnal flyers
54. American state
55. Clusters in fern fronds
57. Patriotic women
58. A person's brother or sister
59. Breed of sheep
61. Popular film "Despicable ___"

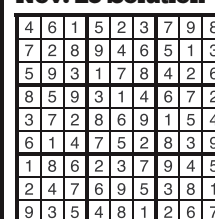
Nov. 23 Solution



Sudoku



Nov. 23 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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OBITUARIES

Jerry Doolittle

WEST CORNWALL — Jerry Doolittle, a writer and unusually well-informed amateur herpetologist who helped to resettle several Vietnamese and Lao families in the Northwest Corner of Connecticut in the 1970s, died on Nov. 19, 2023, at the age of 90, at Noble Horizons in Salisbury of complications of sepsis.

The 51-year resident of West Cornwall was well-known for his scathing wit. For instance, Elizabeth Kolbert of The New Yorker in 2004 wrote: "Jerome Doolittle, a White House speechwriter who sometimes composed funny lines for Carter, likened his role to that of Franklin Roosevelt's tap-dance coach."

He was born in Pittsburgh in 1933 to a socially prominent family. His father, the late William M. Doolittle, relocated the family to the Northwest Corner to assume the headmastership of Indian Mountain School in the late 1930s. His mother, Mary ("Sue") Hill Doolittle, struggled with alcoholism and addiction, and when Jerry's father volunteered for service in World War II, Jerry and his siblings were left largely to their own devices on the campus of Indian Mountain School. The fields, woods, hills and ponds of Indian Mountain were where Jerry spent hours alone, often reading books from the school library, and where he developed his lifelong love of nature, especially snakes. He became an expert downhill skier on Indian Mountain's old rope tow runs, a skill that served him well during his years at Middlebury College, where he was a member of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity. He was graduated from Middlebury in 1954, and remained an active skier into his 70s.

Jerry in his youth traveled widely within the U.S., holding a number of blue-collar jobs including oil field roustabout. Upon graduation from college, he was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served at military bases in the U.S. His experience as an enlisted man instilled in him a lifelong skepticism of authority figures in general, and commissioned military officers in particular.

Also, during his military service in 1956, he was married to Gretchen Dewitt Rath, a Middlebury classmate formerly of Washington, D.C., and now of West Cornwall, who survives him. After Jerry completed his Army service, they settled in Arlington, Virginia, while Jerry began a career as a newspaper reporter and editor with newspapers there, including the Washington Post. This included assignments covering the Beatles' first American tour,

and Martin Luther King's "I Have A Dream" speech on the National Mall. Jerry also profiled Washington bigwig Leonard Marks, who soon thereafter was appointed director of the former United States Information Service (since merged with the State Department), and offered Jerry a diplomatic position as the Press Attaché, or spokesman, of the U.S. diplomatic mission in Morocco.

Jerry and Gretchen moved to Casablanca in 1966 for several years with their four sons, Tim, Ted, Jon and Mike. Mattew was born in Morocco. Jerry's second posting was to the U.S. embassy in Vientiane, Laos, in 1969, during the height of the U.S.'s secret air war in Laos. Since the U.S. at that time was denying its involvement in the bombing, the job of embassy spokesman required misleading the press on a daily basis. He ultimately quit this job as a matter of principle, but not before confidentially working with his former Washington Post colleague, Les Whitten, to help The Post prove U.S. involvement in the bombing of Laos. The story of how Jerry, Les and another American named Fred Branfman exposed the secret air war in Laos is told in a chapter of the 1979 book, "The Best of the Post." Jerry in 1973 published an influential anti-war op-ed in the New York Times about America's campaign of lies about U.S. involvement in Laos, later in large part reproduced in Howard Zinn's book, "A People's History of the United States."

When Jerry and Gretchen returned to the U.S. in 1972 with five young sons, they settled in West Cornwall, directly across the street from the red covered bridge. Jerry continued his career as a freelance writer, publishing extensively in national periodicals such as Esquire and Playboy. He self-published a volume called "Understanding Gum Disease," advertised in the classified section of Organic Gardening magazine, and over a period of years sold his full print run out of his home office via mail order. He also authored two non-fiction books in a Time-Life series on American wilderness areas: "Canyons and Mesas" (1974) and "The Southern Appalachians" (1975). For both books, Jerry and Gretchen packed the five boys up for extensive summer vacation research trips in their Chevy Suburban, sleeping together every night in a massive seven-person canvas tent in national parks and other campgrounds.

During this period, the Vietnam conflict was coming to a close, and Jerry, still feeling the weight of America's involvement in that misbegotten war, organized several Northwest Corner churches

to sponsor Vietnamese refugee families, including one family that lived for a period in an apartment in the Doolittle family home in West Cornwall. Jerry also personally sponsored a Laotian family, Khammone and Thongsai Mitsri and their children Pepe and Jojo, who thrived here and still live in Danbury.

Jerry had a lifelong intense interest in politics, and joined the Jimmy Carter presidential campaign as a speechwriter and spokesman in 1976. That led ultimately to two years in the Carter White House as a presidential speechwriter, then two years as the head of public affairs for the Federal Aviation Administration.

Jerry's first published novel, "The Bombing Officer," about a young American diplomat caught up in the secret air war in Laos, came out in 1982. Jerry taught expository writing at Harvard from 1985-1990. The Cambridge setting, combined with Jerry's many years watching various sons wrestle in high school, yielded the Tom Bethany novels — a series of six critically well-received murder mysteries featuring a Cambridge-based private investigator with progressive politics, an airplane pilot's license, Olympic-level wrestling skills and an ACLU litigator girlfriend. Starting with "Body Scissors" in 1990 and continuing annually thereafter, each volume was named after a different wrestling hold.

Post-Bethany, Jerry's writing started to focus on his blog, Bad Attitudes, where he and a few collaborators several times per week or more posted brilliant and often hilarious political and social commentary. Commercial publishers were not willing to take a chance on his masterpiece, "The Dead Zoo," a novel inspired by Ronald Reagan's boyhood interest in taxidermy, and which Jerry's "Tom Bethany" editor Bill Grose, by then retired, called the creepiest book he ever read.

Jerry had the true soul of an artist and creator, which in his case came with a strong sense that he actually had no option in life other than to pursue his craft as a writer, even when other easier routes were available, such as the lucrative communications position with a large New York bank that he turned down after serving in the Carter Administration. Having been functionally abandoned by his parents as a boy gave him a fierceness in his convictions and a survival-driven complete lack of interest in what others around him wanted or expected him to do. He had a single-minded dedication to excellence in whatever he deemed to be important — and if his list of what was important coincided with yours, then great; if not...still okay.

His pursuit of excellence in things he thought were important was relentless. In addition to his craft as a writer, he was a skillful whistler, a very able sketch artist, a photographer with an uncanny knack for capturing the explosiveness of plants, particularly in blossom, and later in life became one of the best sourdough bread bakers in the state. This came, quite typically, after he determined that good sourdough bread was unavailable in Northwest Connecticut, which to him just meant he would have to make his own. He thereupon

set forth on a project of trial-and-error experimentation which in a year or so took him to near perfection — a steady supply of chewy but tender, delicately spiced or flavored loaves with a deep, rich sourness, all produced in a modestly appointed home kitchen.

He not only supplied himself and his family and friends with this superior bread, but also decided to sell loaves at the local farmer's market until he had enough money to buy a new, high-end Apple computer for his wife Gretchen.

He and Gretchen loved to have the house full over the holidays and in the summer. Jerry typically spent the weeks leading up to Easter recruiting every family with young children in the village of West Cornwall to come to Jerry and Gretchen's house for a massive Easter party and Easter egg hunt. Decades ago, he helped launch a series of extended family reunions where his own family got together with the families of his sister, Patsy and brother Billy, the latest of which took place in July and included a joyful celebration of his 90th birthday.

He loved nothing better than playing with his many grandchildren when they were very small; when they got bigger, he didn't take them to the movies, ballgames or for ice cream like the other grandpas, but rather loaded them into his old Honda Element (which he would pull the back seat out of to sleep in Walmart parking lots during his book research trips), and took off for adventures like meeting the cows and exploring the barn at the tiny Cornwall dairy farm where he picked up his raw milk every week, or driving them into remote wild corners of the Berkshires where he had located south-facing slopes with rattlesnake hangouts. Jerry would carefully — slowly and gently — lift up the pieces of corrugated tin, plywood or old carpet he had pre-positioned in the hope, often fulfilled, that the snakes would be waiting for him.

He is survived by his loving wife of nearly 68 years, Gretchen Doolittle of West Cornwall; his sister, Patricia Shure of Ann Arbor, Michigan, two brothers, William Doolittle, Jr. of East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, and Mickey Doolittle of Colebrook, and a step-brother, Ian Ingersoll of Cornwall. Also surviving are five sons; Timothy and wife Colleen Doolittle of Oakdale, Minnesota, Theodore Doolittle and wife Kathryn Engstian of West Hartford, Jonathan Doolittle and wife Blair McElroy of Greenbrae, California, Michael and wife Amity Doolittle of New Haven, and Matthew Doolittle of New York, New York; as well as grandchildren Nick Hanzalik, Eliza Doolittle, Lauren Hanzalik, Bethany Doolittle, Sam Doolittle, Tessa Doolittle, Anayis Doolittle, Hannah Doolittle, Georgia Doolittle, Eve Doolittle, Wyatt Doolittle, and Brooks Doolittle.

Funeral services will be held at the North Cornwall Meeting House (United Church of Christ) on Cogswell Road in West Cornwall on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 12:30 p.m. A celebration of life for family and friends will also take place in 2024 at a time and place to be determined.



NBT donates to NECC
From left: Lenny Sutton, chef at North East Community Center (NECC); Jennie Poidamani, NECC's finance director; Jessica Elliott, NBT Bank of Millerton branch manager; Rick Cantele, NBT executive vice president; Andreas Kapetanopoulos, NBT Connecticut regional president; Irene Banning, chair of NECC's board of directors; Michael Hogan, NBT business banking officer; and NECC development associate Jennifer Kronholm Clark on Thursday, Nov. 16, during NBT's presentation of a check representing its donation of \$22,000 to NECC. The ceremony took place Thursday, Nov. 16, at NECC's headquarters at 51 S. Center St. "As a community organization, we are incredibly grateful to receive this kind of support from the local business community," said Banning.

Advertisement for 'Worship Services' for the week of December 3, 2023. It includes a list of church services across various denominations, such as Christ Church Episcopal, St. John's Episcopal, North Canaan Congregational, The Sharon United Methodist, Falls Village Congregational, The Smithfield Presbyterian, Canaan United Methodist, The Chapel of All Saints, Congregation Beth David, All Saints of America Orthodox, Millerton United Methodist, The Congregational Church of Salisbury, St. Thomas Episcopal, Trinity Episcopal, Unitarian Fellowship, Chabad of Northwest CT, St. Martin of Tours Parish, UCC in Cornwall, and Promised Land Baptist Church. Each entry provides details on service times and locations.

James Edwin Morehouse

SHARON — James Edwin Morehouse, age 90, of 44 Jackson Road passed away Nov. 18, 2023, at his home. He was predeceased by his wife, Avis E. Morehouse, of 66 years on April 10, 2022.

James was born Dec. 13, 1932, in Sharon, the son of the late William and Sophia (Aakkar) Morehouse. James was a Korean War Veteran. He was self-employed as a welder, mechanic, equipment fabricator and forester.

James is survived by his daughters Kathleen Visconti and Diane James and his son-in-law Mark Visconti; his

grandchildren Darren, Nathan, and Bradley Visconti, Dylan, Will, Elizabeth and Lyndon Morehouse; his great-grandchildren Scarlett and Sienna Visconti and Odin Arancibia. James was predeceased by three sons Gary, Peder and William Morehouse.

Calling hours will be held at the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon on Saturday, Dec. 9, from noon to 2 p.m. with a service to follow in his memory at 2 p.m.

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

For more obituaries, see page A6

EDITORIAL

The Festival of Lights

Over the past weekend Millerton's community celebrated another Festival of Lights during the Thanksgiving holiday. Like a magnet drawing townspeople and visitors to the center of the Village, the yearly event once again became a unifying experience. The daylong activities served to entertain people of all ages — from toddlers hermetically wrapped in winter coats and hats and blankets to senior citizens cautiously navigating the sidewalk after dark, some with adult children and grandchildren on their flank.

The chatter in Veterans Park, in the coffee house, in the shops, at the Oakhurst Diner and pretty much anywhere people congregated was an affirmation of our values, traditions and local pride. Main Street was lit up, spreading a holiday glow as paradegoers lined sidewalks and spaces between parked cars to get a "best position" to watch the fire trucks, antique cars, ATVs and floats pass by.

The Festival of Lights is a cultural gem for the Village — an annual ritual allowing us to celebrate something together in a festive setting. Families and friends stood in the cold night, sharing the anticipation. Strangers shared conversation as everyone waited for the Big Tree to be lit, marking the start of the cavalcade of parade vehicles.

The Festival of Lights is plain, old-fashioned fun. For children, it rains candy. Treats are tossed from big red fire engines bedecked in lights and inflatable Santas and snowmen, sirens blaring. Not to mention that Mr. and Mrs. Claus make their appearance.

Festivals bring everyone together. Fire companies from all around join in the celebration. And together, we have unity and common purpose. Seeing the Millerton Police Department, led by Chief Joe Olenik, managing traffic at Main and Dutchess, waving pedestrians to and fro, was more evidence that the weekend events had created a buzz in town. And in Veterans Park, the Salisbury Brass Band played on...

The steady stream of strollers through the afternoon boosted sales on the Black Friday, though such a sense of commercial frenzy didn't hang in the air. Festivals in general typically are known to result in a positive economic impact. We salute the businesses and organizations that sponsored the Festival of Lights. They are: The Moviehouse, Millerton Business Alliance, North East Ford, Millerton Fire Company, NBT Bank, BES Shop, Designer Finds of Millerton, Montage Antiques, Moore and More Printing, the North East Community Center, NorthEast-Millerton Library and Stonefield Properties.

The Festival of Lights instructs us once again that we are all neighbors. That we share something important, and that is pride in Millerton — and belonging here.

Afterward, walking back home, or back in their warm cars, the parade-goers are homeward bound, filled with a good mix of communal spirit, unity and pride — all thanks to those who keep the Festival of Lights tradition alive.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Main Street post-Thanksgiving

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

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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sad to lose Vicki Doyle on Town Board

We were saddened to learn that Vicki Doyle lost her race for re-election to the Amenia Town Board by a razor thin margin. During her nineteen years on the Board Vicki has been a sane, steadying presence, particularly at times of controversy and division.

She has shown unstinting generosity, honesty, and

integrity in ways large and small, from her expertise in the difficult art of grant writing, to her organization of annual litter pick-ups, to the construction of the Rail Trail extension that connects the Metro North station to the hamlet of Wassaic (a project realized almost entirely through her tireless efforts).

Motorists passing the juncture of Routes 22 and 343 can often see Vicki planting flowers and tending the beds in front of the bank. For over two decades she has worked consistently to promote environmental consciousness, to foster a sense of community, and to uphold the town's zoning codes while also serv-

ing as an articulate advocate for affordable housing. With two freshly elected members and a new incoming supervisor the Amenia Town Board will assuredly miss Vicki's matchless wisdom and experience.

Philip Sicker and Diane Zahler

Wassaic

First Lady Rosalynn Carter's powerful legacy

"To kindness and love, the things we need most."

The Grinch

In the era of Jimmy Carter's presidency, the media was accustomed to covering First Ladies on the Women's pages of their publication. Yes, Jacqueline Kennedy was a three-year headline, stealing JFK's charismatic thunder and establishing a historically rich, renovated White House. But it was Rosalynn Carter, the Steel Magnolia from Georgia, who, like Hillary and Eleanor, was a politician in her own right, loved campaigning, drove mental health policies, solo visited heads of states, was a lifelong advocate and on-the-ground champion for human

GUEST COMMENTARY

Kathy Herald-Marlowe

rights and alleviating human suffering.

Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter founded the Carter Center in 1982 and spent over 40 years actively engaged (being there, traveling the world, wielding a hammer, overseeing an election) to eradicate disease, build democratic states, resolve conflicts, and strengthen the treatment of mental health. Small and rather soft spoken, Rosalynn always walked visitors to the door — savoring that last moment to influence, position, gain an ally.

Rosalynn Carter lived a superbly useful and powerful life. She was a role model for the world. We heard far too little about this tenacious mover during Carter's presidency and after as he with the Carter Center was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2002.

Following Rosalynn, Barbara and Laura Bush championed childhood literacy, Hillary Clinton health care, Michelle Obama childhood obesity and girl education.

More recently, Melania Trump has seemingly endured being First Lady — dragged into a position she never sought, pressed into a



PHOTO BY RICK DIAMOND

Rosalynn Carter

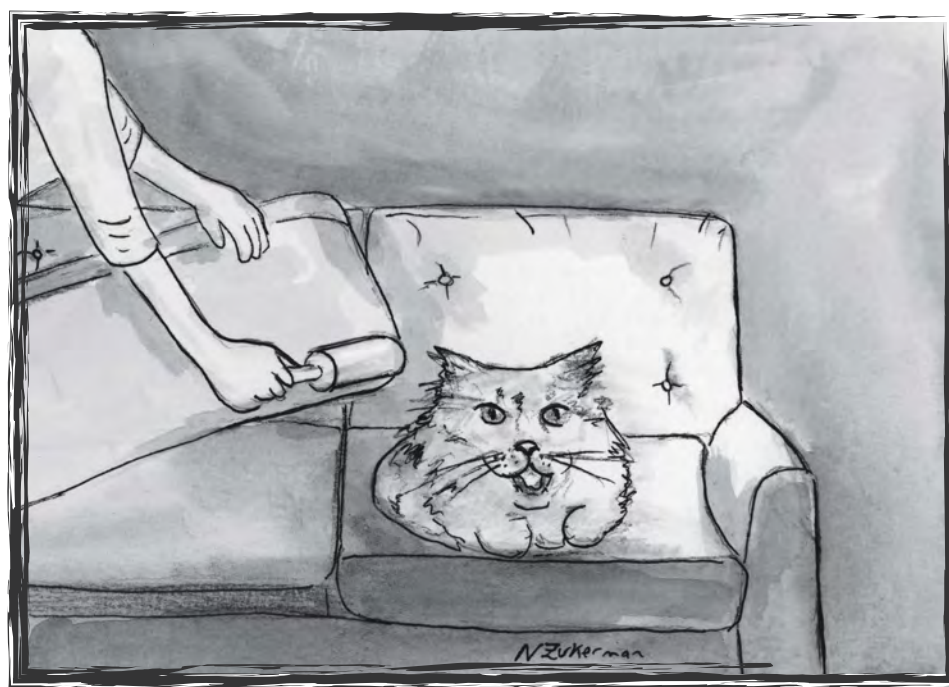
costume that didn't fit. Melania's official initiative, Be Best, was aimed at eradicating cyberbullying — increasing the "well-being" of children. Be Best was announced in the Rose Garden in May 2018, and immediately followed by Trump's presidential proclamation of Be Best Day, May 7. The effort fully reproduced an Obama-era guide developed for teenagers regarding the internet — reprinted the guide with a new name on the cover and all the original's ty-

pos within.

Be Best goals were outlined — not advanced. Cyberbullying was a peculiar choice for Donald Trump's First Lady — who, when boarding a plane to visit immigrant children separated from their parents and held in cages at the U.S. border, wore a jacket with "I Really Don't Care — Do You?" in bold white letters across the back. Cyberbullying? Caring?

The "Bully Pulpit" Franklin Roosevelt coined in the 1930s was a terrific platform for presidential advocacy of a national agenda — "bully" as in wonderful or superb — "bully" good. Mangled now, Trump's bully pulpit is that which Melania's Be Best initiative targets for prevention: venomous hurled words to abuse, violate, endanger others. Donald Trump endlessly bullies from his self-preservation pulpit — not a shred of decency, not a trace of innocence.

Enter, please, better angels: Rosalynn Carters to bless the world, to champion human rights and alleviate suffering. Come soon a silencing of violent threats/abusive barbs robbing us of unity and peace.



"I mean it's called FUR-niture!"



PHOTO BY WENDY HILL

Sundog (glow above the silos) on Sawchuk Road, Millerton on Saturday, Nov. 25

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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Thursday, November 30, 2023

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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Susan Hassler
Publisher and CEO
James H. Clark
Chief Operating Officer

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Janet Manko
Publisher Emeritus
A. Whitney Ellsworth
1936-2011
Managing Partner
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1918-2011
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COMPOSING DEPARTMENT: Caitlin Hanlon, graphic designer; Olivia Montoya, graphic designer.

DRIVERS: Brian Murphy; Geoffrey Olans; Adam Williams.

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OUR TOWNS

PARADE *Continued from Page A1*

their parents hovered close behind ready for any overly eager move.

This year's parade was extensive, drawing fire companies from across Dutchess County and Connecticut. Revelers called out to the crowd, cheering everyone on in high holiday spirit.

The parade wound its way through some village streets and back along Century Boulevard before eventually dispersing into the night.

Friday was a daylong festival that began at 10 a.m. with a free screening of "The Grinch" at The Moviehouse. Approximately 300 children received free popcorn and soda.

By the time they poured out of the cinema, Main Street was coming alive with parents, some with strollers, couples walking their dogs and cupping Irving Farm coffee cups, and clusters of adults showing off their town to Thanksgiving visitors.

Shops sometimes have their best day of the year, offering seasonal sales and discounts.

At Veterans Park, Jeff Scarpa was busy turning a block of clear ice into a stunning, glistening moose sculpture. And just as he put the finishing touches on his work of art, a brass band was setting up. The Salisbury Band's Christmas Brass & Hot Chocolate Society filled the scene with traditional holiday favorites — "Jingle Bells" put just the right accent on the street scene.

As the afternoon stretched out and the temperature fell into the low 30s, the line for a hot drink at Irving Farm stretched out, too.

There were hayrides, a children's raffle, and a snowman scavenger hunt sponsored by the Millerton Business Alliance. There was a woodworking expo at the Irondale Schoolhouse.

The North East Community Center hosted a cookie-decorating party with music from Roger and Lenny (Roger Cohn and Lenny Sutton, of rogerandlenny-music.com). Between 90 and 100 children had plied their cookie-decorating skills.



PHOTO BY OLIVIA VALENTINE

The Big Tree was lit just after 5 p.m. to start the parade of vehicles up Main Street.



PHOTO BY OLIVIA VALENTINE

Above: Fire companies came from far and wide to join in the parade.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Left: The crowds huddled close to get a good view of the passing fire trucks lit up like Christmas trees.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Jeff Scarpa with his moose ice sculpture and the Salisbury Band's Christmas Brass & Hot Chocolate Society in the background at Veterans Park on Friday, Nov. 24.



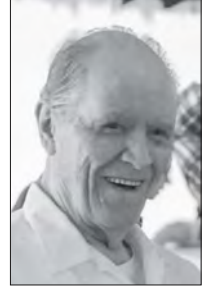
PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Salisbury Band's Christmas Brass & Hot Chocolate Society entertained in Veterans Park with holiday favorites.

OBITUARIES

Kenneth L. Farwell

LAKEVILLE — Kenneth L. Farwell, 92, passed away peacefully Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at Sharon Health Care Center, surrounded by his loving family.



Kenneth was born in Brockton, Massachusetts, on April 24, 1931, son of the late Junia Farwell and had been a lifelong area resident.

He got his first job at 14 mowing grass with his own equipment and at 15 he got his second job at House of Herbs. At 17, he joined the Army and served during the Korean War from 1949-1952, serving in a mortar battalion and the 278th Regimental Combat team. His best friend, Don Hoysradt, who he joined the army with and was deployed with, was killed in Korea. After returning from Korea, he worked for the railroad and later had several jobs over the years including delivering groceries, owning a soda company, working at Pfizer's in Canaan from 1955-1969, and Becton Dickinson from 1969-1985, at which point he moved to Las Vegas.

In the 1950s, Ken was president of American Legion Post 70 in Salisbury and served for many years as the Marshal of the Memorial Day Parade. Ken was a founding member of the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service and was a member of Lakeville Hose for a few years. He spent 17 years at Lime Rock Park running Tuesday and Friday practices.

He enjoyed collecting coins and eagle memorabilia.

Survivors include four children, Kate L. DeVries and her husband, Dale, of Falls Village, Karen S. Hansen and her wife, Allie, of Lakeville, Nancy Shapcott and her life partner, Andy, of Lakeville, and Kenneth Far-

well, Jr., and his wife, Patty, of Cairo, New York; two siblings, Dave and Carol; 13 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren. Kenneth was predeceased by his first wife, Lucy (Lovett) Farwell; his second wife, Arlene, three children, Michael, Donald, and Wendy; his oldest grandson, Michael Farwell, Jr., and three siblings, Sue, Butch, and Red.

The family would like to express their sincere thanks to the staff at Sharon Health Care Center, and his caregivers while still at home, Patty, Tammy, Tina, and Vanessa, for the love, kindness, and care shown to Kenneth during his illness.

Memorial services were held Saturday, Nov. 25, 2023, at 1 p.m. at Ryan Funeral Home, 255 Main St., Lakeville. Full Military honors followed.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance (salisburyambulance.org/gifts) or Lakeville Hose Company (lakevillehose.com)

To offer an online condolence, please visit ryanfhct.com.

For more obituaries, see page A4

LEGAL NOTICES

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
12-21-23
12-28-23
01-04-23

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

Notices can be emailed to legal@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Go to www.tricornersnews.com/legalnotices to view current and past legal notices.

Send news items and briefs to editor@millertonnews.com

Realtor® at Large

Just spent a day up on the Cape with my sons walking the beaches searching for sea turtles who have become stranded because of the cold water temperatures. There are four species of sea turtles, including the endangered Kemp's Ridley turtle, who come north to feed and some do not migrate south in time. The result is that they become cold stunned and wash up on the beaches at high tide. There are volunteers who walk the beaches who will notify Mass Audubon of any turtles that are located and these are taken to their facilities to be revived and overwintered. While we did not find any turtles, it was fantastic to walk the beaches and join the effort. For more information, please go to the Mass Audubon website at www.massaudubon.org/places-to-explore/wildlife-sanctuaries/wellfleet-bay/projects/sea-turtles



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THE SALISBURY FORUM

Where Ideas Matter

OUR PANDEMIC FUTURE IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD



James Shepherd, MD, PhD
Associate Professor of Infectious Diseases at Yale University School of Medicine has spent two decades treating HIV and TB and managing disease outbreaks and public health systems in Africa and India. Also a local farmer, he will discuss how a warming planet, urbanization, and a declining natural world are influencing epidemics, challenging us globally and locally.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023 • 7:30 P.M.
Housatonic Valley Regional High School
Falls Village, CT

Admission free.
Please register for this event at
www.salisburyforum.org.

Find us on

www.salisburyforum.org

SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for Nov. 16-23.

Nov. 17 — Deputies responded to 5166 Route 22 in Amenia for a reported landlord/tenant dispute. Each party claimed the other initiated physical contact. Situation mediated by patrol without

further police intervention.

Nov. 17 — Deputies responded to 14 Simmons St. in the Village of Millerton to investigate a two-car property damage automobile accident. Matter investigated without further police intervention.

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.

Millerton's Townscape — a winter wonderland

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The decorated windows of the shops on Main Street, the scent of coffee, the hum of excitement as the movie theater lets out, the buzz of people around

Veterans Park, and the sight of people sitting at the diner behind fogged windows: All of it turns magic beneath thousands of winking Christmas lights.

Millerton's Townscape, working with Stafford Trees for the seventh year running, has wound 700 and 800 strands of lights — 16,000 lights in all — across the village.

Under the leadership of Jeanne Vanecko, Townscape keeps the village vibrant throughout the seasons — it is responsible for the flowers in Veterans Park and on Webutuck Bridge, and the benches and tables in front of the park along Main Street.

Come wintertime, the lights go up in November, and remain for the rest of the

season. Up until a few years ago, the lights were draped on trees on Main Street, but some of the pear trees on the south side had to be taken down. They were replaced by Townscape, but the saplings were — and still are — too small to support the lights.

The logical solution was to put the lights on the storefronts, and Townscape said the merchants have been generous in helping to make the display happen each year.

In a few years, when the new trees are strong enough to support the lights, both trees and buildings will be decorated; the new trees even have electrical outlets at their bases, ensuring that Millerton remains a winter wonderland of twinkling lights.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Millbrook High School girls volleyball team placed second in the New York State Class C championship Sunday, Nov. 19, losing to Portville 25-14, 25-21 and 25-12. They didn't take the championship, but were welcomed home with an escort from the Millbrook Police Department, and Millbrook and Union Vale fire departments, which met the bus as it drove into town.

Millbrook High state runners-up

The MILLERTON NEWS
www.facebook.com/themillertonnews

Trust your banking to the same great team.



From left to right: Kevin Cantele, Jessica Elliott, Adam Higgins, John Trott, Michael Hogan, Aidan Gilligan

At NBT Bank, we know that the right relationships are the keys to shared success.

Our local team provides more than expert guidance — they provide local, customized support that can only come from learning your business and understanding your vision. We're committed to building strong, long-lasting partnerships that help businesses in our communities thrive. Connect with us today to see why our customers have voted us one of Forbes World's Best Banks in all the categories that matter.

Customer Experience

Reliability

Financial Guidance

Trust

Digital Banking Tools

Let our experienced team create real opportunity for your business. Visit us at www.nbtbank.com/Business



PULVER *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Gregg Pulver speaking at a Save Sharon Hospital community roundtable in Millerton in October, 2022.

patrol for 40 years — said he “probably would have skied more.” But being semi-retired, he said will be “happy to have something to occupy my time.” Pulver’s appointment must now be approved by the county Legislature during a vote Monday, Dec. 18. Because he will still be in charge of that body at that time, he said the county attorney is currently checking on the legality of chairing the oversight of his own election.

No matter the outcome of that decision, Pulver said: “I would not vote on my own confirmation. I don’t think I would need to. I’ll abstain if I’m in the chair.”

Pulver’s tenure as comptroller would begin Dec. 31, 2023, and continue through Dec. 31, 2024. A November 2024 election would be needed to complete Lois’ four-year term.

At this time, Pulver hasn’t decided what the future will bring: “I look forward to the challenge and to do the best job, and I’ll decide in a few weeks whatever it’s something I want to do and run for next year or not...looking at the politics. We’ll go on from there.”

In a statement from his office, O’Neil said he was, “pleased to be able to appoint Gregg Pulver to the Comptroller position for a seamless transition.”

He continued: “For decades, Gregg Pulver has committed himself to service to the residents of Dutchess County, and I’m proud to appoint him as our next County Comptroller. Gregg has gained invaluable experience and insight into the financial operations and management of government — as a school board member, town supervisor, and as a County legislator — and he’ll bring that expertise into this new role, to the benefit of our residents. We are fortunate to have someone with a proven track record of conservative fiscal stewardship overseeing this vital role.”

In the same statement, Pulver said: “I am incredibly honored to have the opportunity

to serve the residents of Dutchess County as the next Comptroller. This position comes with a critical responsibility to defend and protect our tax-dollars, and it is not something I take lightly. I thank Robin Lois for her years of service to Dutchess County and I look forward to working with her as we each take on these new positions. I thank County Executive O’Neil for his confidence in my ability, as I have long appreciated our successful history of working together.”

NEWSPAPER *Continued from Page A1*

Jedd Gould, a board member and spokesperson for Connecticut News Consortium Inc., which created the Winsted Citizen in January, announced Wednesday, Nov. 22, that the Citizen had been acquired by American Business Media (ABM) of Simsbury. The consortium said in a statement issued last Wednesday that it never intended to close the paper permanently, but was seeking to change the current business model.

“We’re delighted to turn this project over to someone who shares our vision, and has the media infrastructure to support and grow it,” Gould said. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. The acquisition was effective immediately.

ABM publishes seven magazines across the country as well as numerous email newsletters, and produces more than two dozen conferences at venues from Mohegan Sun to Los Angeles. Thibault referred inquiries to ABM.

ABM’s publisher and CEO, Vincent Valvo, himself a former business journalist, said in a statement that he believes “in the power and the mission of community journalism,” has been “cheering on the creation of the Winsted Citizen since the first of the year,” and is “delighted to be able to ensure that it will have a strong future.” He also expects the Citizen will sharpen its focus on Litchfield County, while

TREES *Continued from Page A1*

finished with it. If there’s a child, they’re given a candy cane. Then the tree is brought to the customer’s car, tied on the roof in most cases, and taken home to decorate.

Growing the tree is not that simple, nor is the entire prospect of getting it into a house for Christmas. There are many factors that can prevent this; some are natural, some are the results of humanity’s ongoing battles to survive. Some years there are fewer trees for sale than needed.

This year, Evergreen Farm will only be open for two weekends: It was open Thanksgiving weekend and will also be open Saturday, Dec. 2, and Sunday, Dec. 3, after which it will close for another year. Some of the other farms will not open until December, and will only be open for two weekends as well. This is because there is a shortage of trees again this year. The reason for the shortage goes back much further.

Said Phillips: “During the recession, around 2009, 2010, no one was buying trees, so we didn’t plant a lot. Then when COVID hit, everyone was buying trees.” Many people moved from the city to places like Dutchess County, which felt safer. People who lived up here part-time came and stayed, and the people who usually came only on weekends spent the holidays here. All of a sudden, there



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left, Wendy and Richard Phillips, owners of Evergreen Christmas Tree Farm in Millbrook.

weren’t enough trees.

Another thing that COVID did was to bring families closer together, in some cases, so if you couldn’t party, didn’t want to go see the Christmas Show at Rockefeller Center, or that famous tree, a safer way to celebrate the holiday

was to go to a farm and pick your own tree as a family.

Trees don’t grow over night. It takes eight years or more for a tree to mature. So, the recession that caused people to stop planting trees they thought they’d never sell was basically why there were

fewer trees for sale when COVID hit and everyone bought trees. Now the stock is rather slim, and trees planted since COVID are still quite small.

There are other reasons for shortages: drought, and also root aphids that suck the sap out of the roots, causing the tree to discolor, stop growing, and eventually die. There are other pests, and fungi, as well. Trees grown close together and pass things on.

If trees seem expensive, well. They are. But trees need a lot of upkeep, which means fertilizers, sprays, water, machinery, mowing and pruning, which all comes after the initial planting, and none of it comes cheap, including labor if you can’t do it all on your own. At Evergreen there was also the machine that packs the tree plus the gas for the tractors. It all adds up. Then figure into that, when you plant a tree, you have to wait between eight and 10 years for it to mature. In the meantime, anything can happen to it.

“We are experienced, capable and thoughtful enough to move quickly and competently to the next stage of what a great community publication can be.”

Vincent Valvo, ABM’s publisher and CEO

“adding stronger online and social media offerings, community events, and articles that dig deeply into the fabric of the region and its people.”

In response to questions from The Lakeville Journal, Valvo said in an email that ABM “acquired all of the assets of the Citizen — name, trademarks, customer lists, etc. We did not acquire the liabilities of the publication, which remain with the Consortium.” Valvo added that there will be no layoffs and no changes to the Winsted Citizen’s editorial production. Founding publisher and editor Thibault will continue as a contributing editor, though Valvo said he has not yet decided how many other staff members will be retained.

The Citizen operated out

Holiday tag sale to benefit Roe Jan Library

COPAKE — The Friends of the Roeliff Jansen Community Library will hold their annual Cookies, Books, Soups and Tag Sale Friday, Dec. 8, and Saturday, Dec. 9, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the community room of the library, 9091 Route 22.

The event will include homemade cookies and soups available for purchase with small holiday gifts available including books, candles, jewelry, puzzles, picture frames and housewares. A 50/50 raffle will also be held. The Friends’ bookshop on the lower level of the library will also be open during the sale with a selection of gently used books.

All proceeds from the sale will benefit the library’s programming and additional needs. For more information, call the library at 518-325-4101.

newsletters and print publications.”

“We are working with the people whose efforts made the Citizen real for the past few months, and adding the expertise of our national media company staff to broaden and refine what comes next in this project,” Valvo said.

The Citizen was initially backed by legendary lawyer, consumer advocate and Winsted native Ralph Nader, who has insisted Winsted has been a “news vacuum” since the closing of The Lakeville Journal-owned Winsted Journal in 2017. The rollout event for the Citizen was held in Nader’s National Museum of Tort Law, a shrine to lawsuits that Nader opened in a former Main Street bank building eight years ago.

After Nader’s initial fund-

ing expired in February, the paper was placed under the management of the nonprofit News Consortium. The paper has run deficits ever since. The deal to acquire the Citizen came together over the Thanksgiving holiday, Valvo said.

“We beat the Grim Reaper every month for most of the year,” Thibault said earlier in a staff memo leaked to the Hartford Business Journal. Thibault characterized the Citizen’s deficits at that time as “untenable.”

“We haven’t had a chance yet to hear everyone’s voices,” Valvo told The Journal. “But we are experienced, capable and thoughtful enough to move quickly and competently to the next stage of what a great community publication can be.”

Millbrook Library to hold silent auction Dec. 1-16

MILLBROOK — The Millbrook Library, 3 Friendly Lane, will hold its 15th annual holiday silent auction Friday, Dec. 1, through Saturday, Dec. 16, at the library.

Organized by The Friends of the Millbrook Library, all proceeds from the event directly support the library by underwriting special projects

not covered by the Library’s operating budget. More than 100 unique auction items will be on display in the gallery of the library beginning Friday, Dec. 1, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. with a wine and cheese preview party to launch the bidding. Auction items can be viewed online at millbrooklibrary.org/holiday-silent-auction

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

MUSIC: ALEXANDER WILBURN

A little winter night music

Close Encounters With Music invites its audience to embrace the magic and mysticism of December's darkness with a thematic concert titled "Nocturne — Night and Dreams," held at the Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass., on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 4 p.m.

With selections that include Frédéric Chopin's "Nocturnes" piano solos and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's original composition of his ensemble chamber serenade "Eine kleine Nachtmusik" ("A little night music"), Close Encounters' artistic director and internationally acclaimed cellist Yehuda Hanani has organized an evening based around the connective poetry of these pieces.

"In one aspect, night represents the sun going down; there's quiet, and silence, and a sense of healing," Hanani said. "People draw close together, and you get a release from the brightness of the sun's heat. You get into the domain of the subconscious. So, this one aspect is soothing, peaceful, and full of fantasy and dreams. And then there is the other side, the 'dark side of night,' if you like. And that's when you get a sense of the sinister, the menacing, the terrifying, the unpredictable things that go bump in the night. There's a scary part of the night, and ancient mythology and artists all recognize this duality. The same is true for the moon, which represents rebirth, regeneration, and the lunar cycle,

but also presides over lunacy and death."

No night-themed concert would be complete without Ludwig van Beethoven's "Piano Sonata No. 14," later popularized in Germany as "Mondscheinsonate," or "Moonlight Sonata" in English. Famous for its melancholy opening *adagio sostenuto*, a ghostly, wordless chant, the sonata is both morbid and romantic.

"Moonlight Sonata" is, of course, a magical piece of music, and it starts with a hypnotic slow movement," said Hanani. "Beethoven was a classical composer. He started as a student of [Austrian composer Joseph] Haydn, but he had such a forceful personality and an amazing, audacious imagination. He bent the whole of music history. He started as a Haydn follower, and he ended up being a romantic hero."

The ensemble will include Hanani joined by pianist Fabio Bidini, violinists Kobi Malkin and Grace Park, violist Luke Fleming, and double bassist Lizzie Burns. Baritone John Viscardi, who has sung with the New York City Opera, will perform arias from Charles Gounod's French opera, "Roméo et Juliette." William Shakespeare's romantic tragedy has been adapted to music many times, including the oft-performed "Romeo and Juliet" ballet composed in 1935 by Russian pianist Sergei Prokofiev and an orchestral work by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Still, Gounod's opera, which



COURTESY OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH MUSIC
Opera singer John Viscardi

had its premiere at the Théâtre Lyrique in Paris in 1867, remains sweepingly passionate with its grand melodies.

In addition to arias and sonatas, Close Encounters With Music will display prints of a few evocative works to enhance the mood further. "The Sleeping Gypsy" by post-Impressionist French painter Henri Rousseau is an 1897 oil painting depicting a passing lion in a moonlit desert and a slumbering mandolin player, unaware of any danger. Rousseau was a self-taught artist who painted in the flat style of Primitivism, with simple, two-dimensional compositions. The other hanging work will

be "The Nightmare" by Swiss artist Henry Fuseli, who was a professor of painting at London's Royal Academy of Arts. Drawn to darkness and infatuated with the supernatural, Fuseli's 1781 oil painting is a memorable depiction of a midnight haunting, with a demonic incubus hunched over a woman restless in sleep. The painting was prominently featured in the 1986 period film "Gothic," a fictional account of Percy Shelley and Mary Godwin's fateful stay with Lord Byron at Villa Diodati. Hanini fittingly described Fuseli's beguiling work as "a pre-Freudian, psychosexual kind of terrible dream."

For tickets to "Nocturne — Night and Dream" at Mahaiwe Performing Arts, go to www.cewm.org



PHOTO BY JANNA SILLER

"Animals Panic": Hope Lyon-Edwards, Autumn Lynch, Jane Wood, Meadow Reeve, Dutch Dekker, Odhron King.

THEATER: JANNA SILLER

Children's tales from around the world

A musical quartet featuring a donkey, a dog, a cat and a rooster whose screechy repertoire is so discordant, they startle a team of human bandits into abandoning their loot; a deer mouse so cunning she drives out a conquering army of tigers by convincing them the long, sharp quill of a porcupine is the intimidating whisker of her raja; a flock of birds who save themselves from the hungry tricks of a fox and a wolf with the tickle of a feather: These were some of the characters from global folk traditions that graced the stage of the Falls Village Children's Theater (FVCT) at the Center on Main last weekend.

"My kids love this podcast called 'Circle Round,' which shares folktales from all over the world," said "Folk Tails" director Amber Cameron of what inspired her to choose the script. Cameron, who choreographs for productions throughout the Northwest Corner and recently started Blue Studio Dance in Lakeville, wanted to bring global

voices to Falls Village's children in her second FVCT play.

The actors began the production of "Folk Tails" as themselves — local children with tales to tell but not tails, reminding us that storytellers are the ones who pass history, humor, entertainment and lessons down through the centuries.

They soon transformed into tailed characters from Indonesia and Germany. A colorfully painted map of the world hung behind them with stars highlighting the locations where the stories and music of the performance originated. The children made the backdrop themselves with the help of local artist Jaimie Sadeh.

The youths also wrote part of the script themselves, performing characters they chose and words they wrote. "We believe creativity isn't just what's happening on the stage but everything behind it as well," said "Folk Tails" musical director Brook Martinez.

Music was interspersed between the tales, including an American song that used cups for percussion and another from Brazil that involved jumping over moving bamboo rods. "Each song incorporated an element of play, movement and fun," said Martinez.

Martinez is also the creative administrator for the storied, stained-glass, high-ceilinged Center on Main, which houses the FVCT. "We want to serve our town as a beacon of community creativity, a hub for us to gather that fosters the joy of being together in creative ways."



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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH MUSIC

Nocturne

Night and Dreams



Fabio Bidini



John Viscardi



Grace Park



Luke Fleming



Lizzie Burns



Kobi Malkin



Yehuda Hanani

Sunday
Dec. 3
4:00pm

At The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center
Great Barrington, MA

Tickets: \$52 / \$28
mahaiwe.org or cewm.org





COMPASS



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Kathy Plessner, at left in the foreground, and Amy Singer peruse books on Ruth Orkin's work, sold at the gallery for Oblong Books. In the background, from left, Mary Engel, Lisa Aiba, Richard Block and Steve Aresty are deep in their respective conversations.

FILM: DEBORAH MAIER

Orkin & Engel at Mad Rose

A crowd of about 70 aficionados gathered at The Moviehouse in Millerton on Saturday, Nov. 18, for a screening marking the start of the new Orkin/Engel exhibit at Mad Rose Gallery.

Gallery owner Neal Rosenthal thanked audience members and The Moviehouse for the opportunity to recognize the significance of Ruth Orkin's contribution to both filmmaking and photography, and to enhance the meanings and references in the photographs in the gallery show. He then introduced filmmaker Mary Engel, the daughter of Ruth Orkin and Morris Engel, whose 18-minute Sundance Film Festival-accepted documentary was shown first.

"Ruth Orkin: Frames of Life" is a tribute to the younger Engel's

mother, by all accounts an extraordinary woman from a remarkable family. In 1939, 17-year-old Ruth bicycled across the United States, using her 2 1/4-inch Pilot 6 camera to document street life along the way and to form her unique style. The trip, and a handsome catalogue of those photos, is currently featured at the Cartier-Bresson Foundation in Paris. The documentary features luminaries Mary Ellen Mark and Cornell Capa, among others, extolling Orkin's eye and discussing what makes photography art or not.

The original 80-minute "Little Fugitive," available on Kanopy and other streaming services, is compelling for its story of a small boy on the loose in New York City subways and at Coney Island, and visually rich

with its black and white compositions that are clearly, as Rosenthal pointed out, the work of a consummate photographer. Orkin was responsible for the editing and other uncredited work on the film, and present in some cameos.

In a post-film Q&A, Mary Engel addressed "questions people always ask" and others. Though casting was done in the usual way by approaching professionals and schools, the young hero Joey was played by 7-year-old Richie Andrusco, who was discovered on the carousel in Coney Island. Andrusco's mother permitted her child to take part, with the proviso that she would not pay for it. "We'll pay you, and take him off your hands for a month", she was told by the producers. Now 77, Andrusco never acted again, but did buy his family a house in Queens.

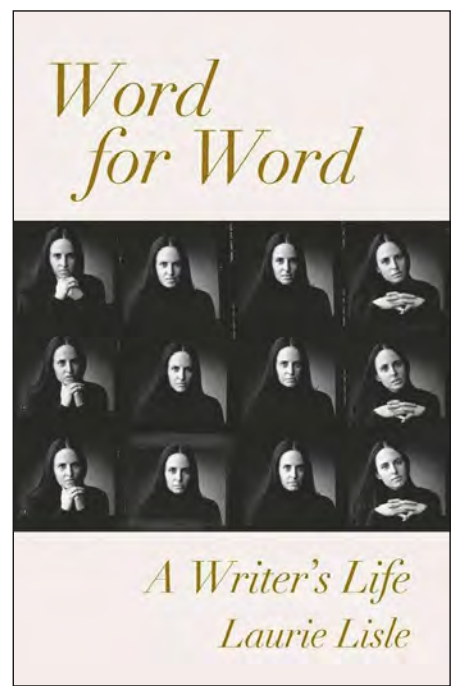
As to who directed the film, the astonishing answer was the young Andrusco himself, who was plied with treats and allowed to follow his wishes. One of the pleasures of the film is the perspective of the shots as seen through the eyes

of someone not yet 4 feet tall. A sea of naked legs and hips with the more modest swimwear of the 1950s is almost everywhere he turns in the crowded beach scenes.

The nostalgia value was high for the audience of both films and photos, and differences between mores of the 1950s and now, were instructive. The "child alone in public" concept was one; also, as physician Neil Hoffman of Millerton pointed out, obesity was nearly absent in the crowd scenes. We are now "slightly taller, and much heavier," according to the CDC.

Other astounding facts were the film's budget — a paltry \$35,000 — and the fact that its entire sound track was recorded in post-production, from its raucous carnies to its haunting harmonica riffs and boisterous child bickering.

At Mad Rose Gallery, Morris Engel's photos taken in Harlem are particularly riveting, and seeing Orkin's famed "American Girl in Italy, Florence," with model Jinx striding chin up through a crowd of leering men, is a treat. The 33 images on view range in price according to whether they are Vintage or Lifetime, Signed or Stamped, by either Orkin or Engel. The Gallery show extends until Sunday, Dec. 31.



BOOKS: MIKE COBB

Pen to paper

A small group gathered to hear Laurie Lisle speak in the great hall of the Norfolk Library on Thursday, Nov. 16.

Addressing the audience in front of the library's grand stone fireplace, library director Ann Havemeyer introduced Lisle and welcomed her to the podium.

Lisle read passages from her memoir "Word for Word: A Writer's Life" (Artemis Editions, May 2021). She cited morality, liability and veracity as three major factors to consider when writing a memoir.

"My feeling now is that it's best to discuss your work with your subject. It can lead to new and deeper understanding," she said.

Lisle explained how liability is another factor and that the First Amendment gives authors latitude. But she advised caution and recounted how she had a lawyer review her first memoir. "Luckily there were no problems," she said.

Speaking of the importance of veracity, Lisle said, "Facts are easier than memories and perception, which is freeing."

Sharing insight into independent publishing, Lisle described some of the challenges of working with established publishers. "They often give unwanted edits or even try to change the cover design," she said.

Platforms like Amazon.com have made things easier for independent authors. Lisle has used the Alliance of Independent Authors and spoke highly of the organization.

Addressing why people write memoirs, Lisle reflected on nearing 80.

"I began looking back at my life, and realized that memoir was a powerful form of self-expression to tell my own story. I read the obituaries of friends. I started thinking about my remaining time," she said.

Looking inward was powerful but painful. Lisle had a violent phys-

ical reaction and ended up in Sharon Hospital, which she attributed to reliving painful memories.

"It wasn't always easy," she said. "My present self saw the dark side of my past self. But it helped me gain clarity and develop deeper relationships with my father and my first husband, which gave me a sense of forgiveness and peace. Memoir writing is a kind of literary alchemy. You can't change the past, but you can deepen your understanding of it."

In researching herself as a subject, she read her school report cards; walked her hometown of Providence, Rhode Island; read newspapers from the early '70s to capture the flavor of the era; and transcribed 40 journals and digitized the data.

"I realized that my essential nature had changed little," Lisle said. "Continuing with the memoir felt adventurous. But I didn't want the past to ruin the present. My husband Robert encouraged me to 'write the white flame of my heart.' Remembering became less painful through organizing paragraphs. It was hard but deepening. I found my way back to the happiness of the early years of my life."

Reading passages from Word for Word, Lisle portrayed an inspirational trek along the Continental Divide Trail in New Mexico overlooking the vast valley and high desert landscape where Georgia O'Keefe painted, and spoke of how she evolved from a teller of other women's stories to telling her own, giving up the third person for the first.

Enthralled, the audience asked questions about her process and if she would have been able to write "Word for Word" without her handwritten journals.

"The pace is different, and there's been a lot of research done on the benefits of hand-brain connection. I also like that no one else can read it," she said.

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*Habitat for Humility***Maintaining a semblance of calm while nature does its thing**

What an exquisite time of year.

The stripped-back landscape draws attention to the trees that are reluctant to let go of their leaves. As with beeches, oaks can retain their leaves throughout the cold months; this trait is called “marcescence.” It is the time of year when I can best assess the number of young oak trees; an indication of a healthy woodland. These are now silvery half-tones of maroon, umber and apricot, colors that humans would be hard-pressed to reproduce.

This year was critical for the oaks. On our property, almost a dozen of the largest oak trees succumbed to the spongy moth infestation of the past two years. This year’s rains were essential to the recovery of the remaining oaks compromised by past seasons’ drought and pestilence. While the hickory and northern cherry trees had mast years, producing an abundance of seeds, I suspect that next year — barring a catastrophe — will be the oak trees’ turn at producing a mast year of acorns.

In contrast to the orange-red shades of the oaks, the blue-red leaves of burning bush stand proud in this muted palette, making them easy targets — same for the yellow-green of the remaining nonnative honeysuckle. Invasives tend to not only blossom earlier than native plants in the spring but lose their leaves later in the fall. We are working quickly to pull and cut them before they lose all their leaves and again become camouflaged next to their naked neighbors.

The animals for whom, in part, we have created this patch of native habitat are trying my patience. Beavers have had their way with several small trees



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

The Ungardener
Dee Salomon

in the river garden. A witch hazel and a white birch were among the casualties. Both had been flourishing after we transplanted them a couple of years ago from crowded stands in the woods. The beavers do a tidy job — now you see it, now you don’t.

A small woodpecker that I was admiring from the kitchen window has just about girdled the Florida dogwood it was feeding on. I have now wrapped it — the tree, not the bird — with tree tape and have fitted plastic tree protectors around some of the small bank-side tree trunks to deter the busy beavers. Then there are the voles who have dug under and through the remaining lawn as if to mock my environmentally sensitive efforts to even have such a thing as a lawn. Yet our habitat also includes Scout, who lives for playing fetch. Our lawn is for her and for our joy playing together.

Thanksgiving is over; the ground is starting to firm up, which is the sign that certain tasks, such as weeding, will need to be resumed in the spring. Other tasks such as seed planting need to be quickly wrapped up. Over the past few years, I

have spread the collected seeds of native plants without much thought and was not able to monitor any seed growth except to note that there has not been much germination of new seed. Could it be that the invasive jumping worms have so degraded the soil that germination is more difficult? According to a white paper by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, “Many native trees and plants (including garden plants) cannot germinate or develop in this altered soil.”

This year I made sure to tamp down the crumbly worm-chewed soil before sowing the seed, but that may not be enough to do the trick. I have made a list of the places where the seeds were sown so that I can monitor any spring success. I have also repurposed empty plastic milk jugs and salad containers, filling them with potting soil and adding seeds. And I have sown the seed of my favorite native perennial — *Silene regia*, or royal catchfly — in the stone-surrounded beds at the side of the house.

There is joy. There is frustration. Creation and destruction. It is a privilege to witness Nature and to participate where and when it is needed.

Dee Salomon “ungardens” in Litchfield County.

FOOD: PAMELA OSBORN**Carolina cheese bits**

When I was in high school, one thing we read was “Oedipus Rex.”

The main message seemed to be that whatever was coming thundering down the road might be going to roll right over helpless you, regardless of any illusory thoughts about personal choices that you may have had — pretty much an idea that chimes in pretty well with teenage angst, I now think. Anyway, I liked it and so, a few years later, I signed up for a class in Greek drama.

The teacher, a true scholar, was also head of the ancient Greek language department, and had translated a lot of the works we read himself. Sometimes he would point out errors made in other translations and sometimes, he said, these wrong choices had perverted the original author’s work — go ahead, roll your eyes to the back of your head. It was interesting, but I wasn’t planning to go on “Jeopardy!” one day and it has all slipped away. I do remember one thing, though, which was his answer to his own question: What is a tragedy?

“Well,” he said, “Joe tells his wife he’s going out to buy a pack of cigarettes and off he goes. Unbeknownst to him, thieves on the third story of a building down the block have been unable to open a safe. ‘I know,’ one said, ‘let’s push it out the window, we can take it home and take our time with it.’ So they did, and when they got down to the sidewalk, they found the safe and Joe under it. They loaded up the safe and tossed Joe into the nearby river,



PHOTO BY PAMELA OSBORN

and when he surfaced a few weeks later, the newspapers headlined his tragic end. But what happened to Joe was not a tragedy, our teacher said, because Joe Never Knew What Hit Him.

And so I offer you these simple words: Plan ahead; be prepared. But the holiday juggernaut is about to roll over all of us and, despite what I’ve just said, controlling every event and outcome is unlikely. It doesn’t hurt to have a few things in your back pocket to make some days a bit less frantic, however, and here is one, handy for drop-ins.

CAROLINA CHEESE BITS

1 cup flour
8 ounces shredded cheddar — I buy a block of Cabot sharp cheddar
1 stick unsalted butter
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper. I use a heaped 1/2 teaspoon. For a double recipe, which is what I always make, I use a heaping teaspoon.
1 cup fairly finely chopped pecans. (See the photo to get an idea of the size.)
Put everything except the pecans into a bowl. Mix together with your washed hand.

Add the pecans and mix them in. Form the dough into logs; I make them about the size of a 50-cent piece. If the dough is too warm this will be more difficult, so chill it a bit if you need to.

I find it’s easier to form the rolls using the flat of my hand on wax paper. Wrap each roll in wax paper and refrigerate until ready to bake; a day or two is okay.

Slice the rolls into 1/4-inch, or slightly thicker, coins. Bake on ungreased baking sheets (mine are not nonstick) at 325 to 335 degrees. Use 10 to 15 minutes as a guide — it will depend on your oven, the heaviness of your baking sheets, etc. In my big oven, on a heavy sheet, it takes about 19 minutes.

Do not brown; your first batch will be instructive. They’re still good if lightly browned, but better if not. Cool on racks. A single recipe makes about 100. A great thing about these is that they can be frozen for months, separated in layers with wax paper in tins. Make them now for the coming winter holidays; you’ll be glad you did.

Pam Osborn keeps her kitchen in Sharon.



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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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 2

Sherman Artists Open Studio

Sherman, Conn.
The third annual Sherman Artists Open Studio will be Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 2 and 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Twenty-five local artists are participating in this year's Open Studio event. Artists will be in their studios, at the Sherman Town Hall, the Sherman Senior Center, and White Silo Winery. This is a chance to meet the artists, learn about their processes and do some holiday shopping. For more information, visit www.ShermanArtists.org

The History of Lahaina on Maui

Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn. cornwalllibrary.org
On Saturday, Dec. 2 at 4 p.m. The Cornwall Library will present authors Susanna Moore and Robert Becker in a talk entitled "The History of Lahaina on Maui," a conversation about the historic town of Lahaina that was destroyed by wildfires in August. Attend in-person at the Cornwall Library or on Zoom. Registration required: cornwalllibrary.org/events

Parent and Child Book Group

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
On Saturday, Dec. 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., join us for a Parent and Child Book Group at the Scoville Memorial Library. For kids in the 3rd, 4th, & 5th grades and their caregivers, hosted by Miss Rita! We meet the first Friday of every month for reading and discussion. Register in advance to receive your own free copy of the book we're reading. Our first book is *The Tale of Despereaux*, by Kate DiCamillo.

A Christmas Carol: Marionette Performance by the Puppet People

Roeliff Jansen Library, 9091 Route 22, Copake, N.Y. roejanlibrary.org
On Saturday, Dec. 2 from 3 to 4 p.m., The Roeliff Jansen Library in Copake, N.Y., will host a marionette performance of Charles Dickens's classic tale, "A Christmas Carol," presented by the Puppet People. For more information see www.roejanlibrary.org/library-calendar/ or www.thepuppetpeople.org/

This event is free and open to the public. No registration is required.

Books and Bling Sale

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
On Saturday, Dec. 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. the Friends of Scoville Library (FSL) are hosting its 3rd annual 'Books and Bling' during the Merry & Bright Salisbury Hometown Holidays weekend. Donated jewelry and present-worthy books and puzzles will be for sale upstairs in the Library. Downstairs, the FSL stacks will be open for additional book buying. All proceeds benefit children and adult programs at the Library.

Old Time Dance

Cornwall Town Hall, 24 Pine St., Cornwall, Conn.
Come jingle your bells to contras, circles and squares on Saturday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. at the Cornwall Town Hall. Live music by Kitch n Sync with a caller teaching all of the dances. Beginners and left feet welcome, no partner necessary. Non-electronic donation requested to pay the caller. For more information call Debra at 860-672-0229.

Annual Christmas Fair

UCC Parish House, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall, Conn.
Shop local crafts and vendors, baked goods, and attic treasures at the UCC Parish House Annual Christmas Sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 2. Upstairs in the church will be the children's shopping room. Pre-ordered wreaths will be available for pick-up. To order, call the church office at 860-672-6840.

DECEMBER 3

Hunting The Forest Spirit: Mythology and Anime

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
On Sunday, Dec. 3, from 2 to 4 p.m., join us for a new event for teens!

Anime is full of mythological themes. Come see how a new art form spins ancient stories. Led by Springfield City Library's Teen Librarian, Sarah Hodge-Wetherbe.

Holiday Market

4 Brook St, Lakeville, Conn.
The Lakeville Hose Company Ladies Auxiliary Holiday Vendor Market is Sunday, Dec. 3, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the firehouse, 4 Brook St. in Lakeville. Unusual gifts, food and fun.

DECEMBER 5

Small Business Seminar: Pitch Deck Dojo

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
On Tuesday, Dec. 5, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., learn how to pitch your business at this seminar presented by the Entrepreneurial Center at CT State Northwestern. Rick Plaut, investor, educator, and mentor to startups and founders across New England, will teach participants how to tell a compelling story about their business. For more information, or to register, contact Entrepreneurial Center director John Fiorello at 860-738-6444 or register online at www.nwcc.edu/ec.

DECEMBER 6

Merry & Bright Crafts

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
On Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 2 to 3:30 p.m., stop by the library during Salisbury's Merry & Bright festival to create something fun and festive for the holiday season! Event will take place in the Wardell Room at the Library.

DECEMBER 8

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon Community Reading

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibrary.org
The Hotchkiss Library of Sharon and the Sharon Historical Society & Museum invite you to participate in the live reading of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. The first reading session will begin on Friday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m. and sessions will continue until Saturday, Dec. 9 at 10 p.m. Sign up to read for 15 minutes and learn more up at hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com.

DECEMBER 9

A Rose in Winter Concert

St. Andrew's Church, 1 N. Main St., Kent, Conn.
The Kent Singers will present *A Rose in Winter* on Saturday, Dec. 9 and Sunday, Dec. 10, at 3 p.m. at St. Andrew's Church in Kent, CT. The concerts will be conducted by our Music Director James Knox Sutterfield.

Tickets are \$20 in advance at kentsingers.com/category/tickets/ or at the door, with children

under 12 admitted free; further information available at 860-619-8110 or at kentsingers.com/.

12X12 Art Exhibition

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org
On Saturday, Dec. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m., the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village, Conn. will host the twelfth edition of 12X12, its annual art exhibition and sale which features over 60 artists this year. All works in the exhibition measure 12X12 inches and are priced at \$150 each. A portion of each sale benefits the library. For more information call the library at 860-824-7424 or visit huntlibrary.org/art-wall.

Current Fiction Book Group

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
On Saturday, Dec. 9, from 4 to 5 p.m., the Scoville Library Current Fiction Book Group will discuss

National Book Award winner "The Rabbit Hutch" by Tess Gunty.

A limited number of books are available to borrow at the Scoville Library.

DECEMBER 12

Scoville Library Writing Circles

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org
Starting Dec. 12 and 14. Using prompts as a springboard, this writing workshop invites you to write freely, read your work

aloud, hear responses, and respond to others' writing. Workshop leader Karen Vrotsos has been teaching writing for over 25 years and is certified in the Amherst Writers and Artists method. Choose a Circle to join: Tuesday afternoons, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., or Thursday evenings, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The next 4-session cycle begins the week of Dec. 11. This in-person, Adult Programs workshop is limited to 10 participants. To register, visit scovillelibrary.libcal.com/event/11505458.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

Holiday Arts and Crafts Show returns to Merwinsville Hotel in Gaylordsville

The Holiday Arts and Crafts Show at the Merwinsville Hotel in Gaylordsville began Friday, Nov. 24, and will continue Friday, Dec. 1, to Sunday, Dec. 3. Pottery, glass, jewelry, wood and every kind of craft makes this a Christmas shopper's delight. The centerpiece is the astonishing model railroad village that occupies the hotel's main room and is simultaneously miniature and monumental. An entire visit could be spent appreciating and absorbing every minute detail of the village and its operating model train.

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OUR TOWNS

Recent property sales in the Town of North East

The Millerton News will periodically publish a listing of residential real estate sales in eastern Dutchess County and adjacent towns.

These properties in the Town of North East were recorded as sold in September and October, with most sales

occurring in October. Views matter: The sales of 391 McGhee Hill Road and 60 Deer Run show the effect of an expansive view on price and time on market.

September 2023

5 Country View Road, 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom sin-

gle-family home on 1.2 acres, sold for \$330,000

78-82 Merwin Road, main house with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths plus 2-bedroom cottage, a mobile home and out-buildings on 1.37 acres, sold for \$640,000

700 Smithfield Road, 3-bedroom, 3-bath home, sold for \$231,000

October 2023

State Line Road, 3.02 acre vacant residential lot with wetlands located at the southwest corner of Rudd Pond Road and State Line Road, sold for \$64,500

14 Downey Road, 1-bedroom, 1-bath home on 0.06 acres of land, sold for \$210,000

6180 Route 22, a commercial building which was a former Suburban Propane office, sold for \$300,000 with 1.88 acres

391 McGhee Hill Road, 3-bedroom, 2-bath house on 5 acres with distant views, sold for \$350,000

1420 Route 83, a 5 bedroom/2.5 bath farmhouse sold for \$357,114

60 Deer Run Road, a 3 bedroom/1 bath 1,650 square foot house with views on 3.11 acres sold for \$565,000

32 Reservoir Road, a 3 bedroom/2 bath home on 6 acres with additional parcels sold for \$570,000

Town of North East real estate sales recorded in September through October 2023 provided by Dutchess County Office of Real Property.

Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Located just outside the village of Millerton, 5 Country View was sold in 2004 as a new house for \$302,500. It was first listed for sale at \$390,000, again in August 2017 according to www.realtor.com, relisted at \$479,900 in May 2022, and then sold for \$330,000 in September 2023.

Send news items and briefs to editor@millertonnews.com

Gingerbread house-making Dec. 8

MILLBROOK — On Friday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m., the Town of Washington Recreation Department will host an event to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and decorate a gingerbread house. Participants can pick up a gingerbread house to decorate at home, or visit the Millbrook Firehouse, 20 Front St., to decorate with others. The cost is \$22 per house for Washington residents and \$24 for nonresi-

dents. Icing is included, and participants will supply their own candy decorations.

Three prizes will be awarded for gingerbread house decoration: Most Original, Most Traditional, and Best Theme. There will be no charge for meeting Santa and Mrs. Claus. Light refreshments are included. For information on the Town Recreation Department, see www.townofwashingtonny.org

To Place an Ad Call 860-435-9873 or visit www.tricornernews.com/classifieds

Classifieds

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DIGITAL PUBLICATIONS PROCESSOR (CL-4) \$18.53/HOUR TO \$19.46/HOUR: Marist College invites applications for the position of Digital Publications Processor (CL-4) within the Information Technology department. The Digital Publications Processor (CL-4) serves as a member of the Information Technology team, providing specialized support to self-serve, file-to-print customers. Perform technical operations and support functions related to the publication, creation, and reproduction of various projects and documents for the Marist community. For more information on the position please go to: <https://careers.marist.edu/cw/enus/job/493507?ApplicationSubSourceID=> or contact Human.Resources@Marist.edu.

THE TOWN OF PINE PLAINS: is accepting applications for the immediate opening of a position for Heavy Motor Equipment Operator. Is a full-time, permanent position. Applicants must have a CDL Class A or B license valid for the State of New York. The ability to perform manual labor, including heavy lifting in all weather conditions is essential. The job will include operation of equipment and machinery as well as a variety of tasks in connection with the construction, repair, snow removal, drainage and maintenance of Town owned roads. Contact Highway Superintendent Carl Baden at 518-398-6662 to obtain an application. The Town of Pine Plains is an E. O. E.

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HOLIDAY

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REAL ESTATE

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REAL ESTATE

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