



COMPASS
2023 arts
recap, reality
control, and
more **B1-4**

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to The Millerton News

Property tax
The much-publicized 2024 property tax rate decrease from \$2.94 to \$2.23 per thousand repre-

Sales taxes are expected to raise \$267 million and finance about

See BUDGET, PAGE A6



PHOTO BY WENDY HILL

The rare sundog phenomenon appeared over Sawchuk Road in Millerton, on Saturday, Nov. 25.

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

Perotti, who grew up in Ame-

See PEROTTI, PAGE A6



PHOTOS BY LEILA HAWKEN

Victoria Perotti has served as part of Amenia's Town Board, first as councilwoman and then as town supervisor, since 2006.

By JOHN COSTON
johnc@millertonnews.com

The group of residents, adopting the name Preserve Pine Plains, filed an Article 78 action against

The Planning Board gave the project a green light Nov. 28 after months of review and many public meetings, workshops and hearings. On Dec. 27, Preserve Pine Plains filed its request to halt the project, opposing the actions of the Planning Board under an Article

The suit specifically disputes the Planning Board's issuance of a special use permit under town zoning laws to allow Carson Power LLC to move ahead with the project. The suit also cites the Planning Board's earlier findings that the project would not have a negative environmental impact and

See SOLAR, PAGE B5

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

Inductees were the 1999 boys varsity basketball team, and three Blazers' girls basketball teams, (Section 9, Class C and New York State C Champions): from 2018,

See HALL OF FAME, PAGE A6



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Members of the 1999 boys basketball team, and 2018, 2022 and 2023 girls basketball teams returned to their alma mater for their old teams' inductions into the Millbrook Central School District Hall of Fame.



860-435-9873, ext. 608

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Column, Letters **A5**



\$10 monthly
in county | \$12.25 outside county

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OUR TOWNS

Millerton, North East get greener

By DEBORAH MAIER
Special to The Millerton News

NORTHEAST — 2023 was a good year for advances in sustainability, improvements in the Village of Millerton and Town of North East.

Wastewater treatment
Work on the much-discussed, much-needed sewer system for Millerton and North East has finally begun; it is projected to be operational in about two years.

The village, following a feasibility study, opted to build a “hybrid” system, based on its success in Hillsdale and other municipalities. The design utilizes existing septic tanks and calls for constructing a network of “veins” that connect them to the new wastewater plant, to be located on village-owned property on South Center Street. Because the relatively small pipes can be drilled in horizontally, streets will not have to be dug up.

The village, along with engineers from of Tighe and Bond of Rhinebeck, then defined the district it will cover in its first two phases. Wastewater Committee Chairperson Jeanne Vanecko and the engineers then began their surveys of the 110 relevant properties to gather information needed to design the system.

The village will own and maintain the entire system including, as needed, replace-



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Jeanne Vanecko, project manager, and Stephen Waite, chairman of the Eddie Collins Memorial Park Revitalization Committee, guided a public meeting on Thursday, Aug. 17, about phase two of the park’s redesign, which includes a pool and pool house.

ment of septic tanks. Residents and businesses will pay a monthly fee based on use.

The new system will permit the opening of new businesses that had heretofore been unable to locate in Millerton.

The total cost is estimated at \$13 million; a federal grant of \$1 million is certain, and other grants are being sought.

Sustainability
The North East/Millerton Climate Smart Communities task force has been busy shepherding projects to save energy, money and to demonstrate our area’s green

bona fides in pursuit of Climate Smart Bronze certification in 2024. Completion of work on the New York State Department of Conservation’s Office of Climate Change 2018 matching grant was carried out jointly by the town and the village; one keystone project was a Road-Stream Crossings Report, which inventoried and prioritized all 500 culverts and bridges, leading to upgrades in flood-prone areas.

Also significant was a Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Climate Action Plan, intended to track all energy consumption,

calculate emissions and prioritize mitigation options.

2023 Infrastructure and safety improvements on Main Street included signalized crosswalks with flashing lights; and the town’s long-closed, unusable landfill was evaluated for solar installation.

New Town Hall, garage
The Town of North East bought the former Kingdom Hall of Jehovah Witnesses at

5603 Route 22 on July 18 for \$430,000: The 4,512 square foot building will become the new Town Hall. (“The cost of less than \$100 per square foot seems like a bargain compared to building new,” noted real-estate reporter Christine Bates in these pages.) Renovations are expected to begin this year, after which the current Town Hall will be sold and returned to the village tax roll.

The new town/village garage on Route 22, built on land purchased in 2020, will be fully operational once the driveway is completed — asphalt paving can only be done in warmer months.

Eddie Collins Memorial Park

The first phase of the re-development of Eddie Collins Memorial Park — originally suggested years ago by village resident Stephen Waite — has finally opened to the public, thanks to a committee of dedicated trustees and volunteers. A pavilion, soccer field, playground, new parking lot and dozens of shade trees have welcomed visitors for several events since the park’s grand reopening this past summer.

Phase 2 will see the addition of a swimming pool and bathhouse.

2023 Year in Review of Pine Plains, Stanford and Millbrook/Washington will appear next week.

Dutchess in 2024

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to The Millerton News

County government will look different next year with Republican Sue Serino as county executive and former chairman of the Legislature, Republican Gregg Pulver, ascending to county comptroller.

After his defeat by Chris Drago in November, Pulver was appointed to replace Democrat Robin Lois, who stepped down Dec. 30 to become deputy comptroller of Local Government and School Accountability.

There will be 11 new county legislators, with the Democrats picking up two seats for a total of nine Democrats to 16 Republicans. Bill Truitt, who represents Town of Hyde Park and Poughkeepsie District 7, will become the new chairman of the Legislature and majority leader, while Democrat Yvette Valdes Smith remains as minority leader. Both will increase their salaries next year to \$45,000, an 81% increase over 2023.

Drago, newly elected legislator from the 19th District representing North East, Stanford, Pine Plains and Milan, was busy meeting with local political and community leaders before he was sworn in Jan. 3.

LEGAL NOTICES

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
The Webutuck Central School District, invites the submission of Sealed Bid Proposals to furnish materials and labor to complete the Webutuck Central School District Alterations to High / Intermediate School & Elementary School Project No. 2022-141 all in accordance with the plans and specifications. This work is to be bid under a MULTIPLE CONTRACT system covering the work of all trades under separate contracts as follows:
Contract No. 1 - General Construction
Contract No. 2 - Mechanical
Contract No. 4 - Electrical
Contract No. 5 - Site Work

Sealed Bid Proposals will be received until 1:00 p.m. prevailing time, on Thursday, January 11, 2024, at the Webutuck High School Auditorium
P.O. Box 405
194 Haight Road
Amenia, New York 12501
Any bid may be withdrawn without prejudice prior to the official bid submission time or any publicized postponement thereof.

Complete digital sets of Bidding Documents, drawings and specifications, may be obtained online as a download at the following website: https://thebcgroup.biddyhq.com under 'projects.'

Complete sets of Bidding Documents, Drawings and Specifications, may be obtained from REVplans, 28 Church Street; Suite 7, Warwick, New York 10990 Tel: 1-845-651-3845, upon depositing the sum of \$100.00 for each combined set of documents. Checks or money orders shall be made payable to BCA Architects & Engineers. Plan deposit is refundable in accordance with the terms in the Instructions to Bidders to all submitting bids. Bidders

wishing documents mailed to them shall include, in addition to the document deposit, a non-refundable check of \$15.00 per set for handling and postage or a UPS/FedEx account number.

Please note REVplans (https://thebcgroup.biddyhq.com) is the designated location and means for distributing and obtaining all bid package information. Only those Contract Documents obtained in this manner will enable a prospective bidder to be identified as an official plan holder of record.

Provider takes no responsibility for the completeness of Contract Documents obtained from other sources.

Documents obtained from other sources may not be accurate or may not contain addenda that may have been issued

All bid addenda will be transmitted to registered plan holders via email and will be available at https://thebcgroup.biddyhq.com. Plan holders who have paid for hard copies of the bid documents will need to make the determination if hard copies of the addenda are required for their use and coordinate directly with the printer for hard copies of addenda to be issued. There will be no charge for registered plan holders to obtain hard copies of the bid addenda.

The Bid Documents and Contract Documents may also be examined at the office of BCA Architects & Engineers, 798 Cascadilla Street, Suite C, Ithaca, New York 14850.

PLAN AND SPECIFICATIONS REMAIN THE PROPERTY OF BCA Architects & Engineers AND MUST BE RETURNED IN GOOD CONDITION WITHIN THIRTY (30) BUSINESS DAYS AFTER AWARD OF CONTRACT OR

REJECTION OF BIDS. The plan deposit for one set of Plans and Specifications will be refunded to bona fide bidders returning Plans and Specifications to REVplans within 30 business days after award of Contract or rejection of bids. A partial refund of the plan deposit, in an amount equal to the full amount of such deposit, less the actual cost of reproduction of the Plans and Specifications shall be made to non-bidders and unsuccessful bidders for the return of all other copies of the Plans and Specifications in good condition within 30 business days following the award of the Contract or the rejection of the bids.

Plan Deposit Policy, Plan Holders List, Pre-Bid Estimates, and a list of Addendums, if any, may be found at www.thebcgroup.com/bidding.

A pre-bid conference and onsite review of the project areas will be conducted by the Architect and Construction Manager on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, commencing at 3:30 p.m. at the High School. The pre-bid conference will be for all contracts.

Bids shall be prepared as set forth in the Information to Bidders, enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing on its face the name, address and phone number of the bidder and the title of the project.

Each bidder agrees to waive any claim it has or may have against the Owner, the Architect/Engineer, and the respective employees, arising out of or in connection with the administration, evaluation or recommendation of any bid.

The Owner further reserves its right to disqualify bidders for any material failure to comply with the Information for Bidders and General, Supplementary, and Special Conditions.

The Owner reserves

the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any informalities or defects in such bid either before or after opening.

Each bidder must deposit with his bid, security in the form and subject to the conditions provided in the “INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS”. Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed and to the minimum wage rates to be paid under the Contract. No bidder may withdraw his bid within 45 business days after the date of the opening of bids.

ATTENTION OUT-OF-STATE BIDDERS

Please pay particular attention to the Form of Proposal and its related forms in the project manual. Out-of-State Bidders are required to complete the “Statement Concerning Authority to do Business in the State of New York for non-New York State Companies” located in the Form of Proposal package. There are three sections that must be completed. You must also have the Non-Collusion Certificate completed and signed and if you are a corporation, you must have the Resolution completed and signed.

No bid will be considered when opened unless accompanied by a certified copy of your Authority to do Business in New York State. This is not to be confused with a sales tax certificate. The Authority can be obtained by contacting:

New York State Department of State
Division of Corporations
162 Washington Avenue
Albany, NY 12231
(518) 473-2492

If the Certificate does not accompany the bid, the bid is not valid.

In the event you are of the opinion that you are not required to obtain the Authority To Do Business in New York state, and

you are not a New York State Corporation, then you should complete the Statement Concerning Authority to do Business. You must complete two out of three sections. The top portion must be completed by all vendors needing to complete this document and then either the Individual Acknowledgment or the Corporate Acknowledgment, depending on the status of your business.

Therese Trotter
District Clerk
Webutuck Central School District
01-04-24

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Planning Board on the 10th day of January 2024 at 7:45 pm at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against the site plan application submitted by ChargeSmart EV/Stissing Storage Light Daycare for a proposed wall mounted electric vehicle charging station(s), at the property located at 2818 West Church Street, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, Tax Map ID #6872-17-185241-0000.

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

By order of:
Town of Pine Plains
Planning Board
01-04-24

Amenia tackles wastewater, parks and affordable housing

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Affordable housing and a wastewater project, both long-standing needs of the town, continued to hold the public’s attention throughout 2023.

The two topics have been subjects of discussion for decades. This March, the Town Board voted to promote affordable housing through changes to the town’s comprehensive plan, and alongside those changes, to actively encouraging affordable housing opportunities.

Lake Amenias Road
In May, the Town Board authorized taking first steps toward the purchase of a home and acreage at 74 Lake Amenias Road. If successful, the home would become the town’s first unit of affordable housing, and the property’s acreage would be considered for subdivision to accommodate a town wastewater treatment facility. Many issues



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

McKenna Haire, 8, of Millerton, tied for second place at the annual Kids’ Fishing Derby, sponsored by the Amenias Lions Club, on Saturday, July 15.

would need to be resolved in the meantime. Discussions and evaluations continued throughout 2023.

Housing on Spruce Hill
At a meeting of the Town Board in August, representatives of Hudson River Housing of Poughkeepsie reviewed preliminary plans for the Spruce Hill property across Route 22 from the Town Hall, proposing duplex units and one apartment building for

the property. The plans were presented to the Planning Board in October, with the Planning Board attorney suggesting that a zone change be pursued with the Town Board as a way of meeting zoning requirements to permit multifamily housing at the site. Responding to considerable opposition from neighbors at its December meeting, the Town Board postponed consideration of the zone change proposal for the de-

velopment.

Greener spaces
In late February, the Recreation Commission held a public hearing to consider a five-year plan for improvements to Wassaic Park. By March, plans had evolved into two park proposals, described at a public hearing: Amenias Green on land surrounding the Town Hall and Wassaic Park plans. Work on those plans continued throughout the year; in January, the town hopes that Didona Architects will come up with preliminary drawings to aid in fundraising for the official design of the proposed parks.

Wastewater planning
In April, the Wastewater Committee agreed to hire engineering services to create a wastewater district, a necessary step toward filing an application for grant funding. The Wastewater Committee continued surveying households to define the boundaries of the proposed district.

November election
The November election vote totals showed a close election with Wassaic resident Leo Blackman defeating incumbent Victoria Perotti to become town supervisor by 26 votes. The other races for seats on town boards were similarly close.

OBITUARY

Allen Pickert

ASHLEY FALLS — Allen H. Pickert, 77, of Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, joined his Lord and Savior on Dec. 4, 2023, with his family by his side. He was the son of Edwin F. Pickert and May (Nolan) Pickert. He leaves behind his loving wife of 55 years, Valerie Bailey. He was predeceased by his brothers, Bill and Raymond Pickert. He is survived by his sister, Elizabeth (Dolly) and Morris Spadaccini, his son John Pickert and wife Jennifer and daughter Michele Rogers and her partner Bill. He also leaves behind his two granddaughters, Chelsea Bailey and her husband Ed, and Autumn Rogers and her partner Justin, two great grandchildren, Eric Allen and Birdie Leigh Bailey. He also leaves behind five grandchildren, Peter, Lauren, Brandon, Ashlyn, Jack and Aiden.



Allen served his country in the United States Air Force in Viet Nam from 1963 to 1967 as a Crash Rescue Firefighter stationed in Thailand, earning several medals. After his honorable discharge he worked at Pratt and Whitney in East Hartford, worked for his father as an auto body repair technician, at Gilligan Brothers Construction, and Dick Coon Construction from which he retired.

Allen loved fishing and hunting as well as boating. He loved vacationing on Cape Cod and Key West with his family. His favorite spot was watching sunsets on the beach and at Twin Lakes with his dog Daisy. He built his home in Ashley Falls in 1971 where he raised his family with his wife Valerie. He was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather. He was a devout Born Again Christian who dedicated his life to the Lord and followed the word of God.

Services were held Saturday, Dec. 9, 2023, at 10 a.m. at Greenwoods Community Church, 355 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, with a service at 11 a.m. followed by a military burial at Ashley Falls Cemetery, 73 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls. Condolences may be made through birchesroyfuneralservices.com.

For more obituaries, see page A4

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

Carols and camaraderie



MILLBROOK — 45 guests at First Harvest Pantry Christmas dinner at Lyall Memorial Church enjoyed canapes, drinks and piano music by Larry Hamm prior to dinner at Lyall Memorial Church on Monday, Dec. 25. The dinner, co-hosted by Stonewood Farm for the eighth year running, was offered to anyone in need of community and a meal on Christmas Day. — Judith O'Hara Balfe

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.

To donate, please visit millertonnews.com/donate or fill out the form below and mail a check. For information on donating shares of stock, please email donation@lakevillejournal.com.

Thank you for your continued support!

Noreen Doyle

Noreen Doyle, Chair

Susan Hassler

Susan Hassler, CEO, publisher

The Lakeville Journal Foundation, Inc.

Enclose your check or money order and mail to The Lakeville Journal Foundation, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039
To donate by credit card, please go to millertonnews.com/donate or scan the QR code to the right.



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TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

In support of our local Paper, enclosed please find my check/money order in the amount of \$ _____, made payable to The Lakeville Journal Foundation.

The Lakeville Journal Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible according to the law.

The Lakeville Journal

The MILLERTON NEWS

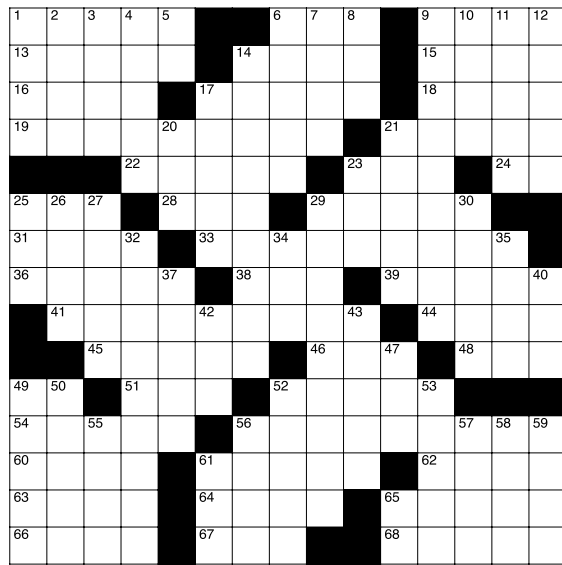
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. Bleated
6. Snakelike fish
9. Database management system
13. Russian-American violinist
14. Wendy's founder Thomas
15. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
16. Negatives
17. Rescued
18. Self-immolation by fire ritual
19. Assigns tasks to
21. Island nation native
22. Trade
23. Detergent brand
24. Famed NY Giant
25. Before
28. Split pulses
29. Extremely angry; highly incensed
31. Body part
33. American state
36. David __, US playwright
38. Move one's head slightly
39. Secret rendezvous
41. Improved
44. A place to exercise
45. 18-year astronomical period
46. Automobile
48. You can take it
49. A radio band
51. Jaws of an animal
52. Short-billed rails
54. Chinese province
56. Shameless and undisguised
60. Horizontal passage into a mine
61. Adult males
62. Fail to entertain
63. Dried-up
64. City in north-central Utah
65. Southern U.S.
66. German river
67. Oxygen
68. Make law

CLUES DOWN

1. Curved segment
2. Wings
3. From pentane (Chemistry)
4. Gradually gets into
5. Commercial document (abbr.)
6. Overhang



7. Christmas and New Year's have them
8. Type of bulb
9. Lacking a plan
10. Tattle
11. Rockers like it "heavy"
12. One who's been canonized
14. Indicate time and place
17. Nobel Prize winner in physics
20. The voice of Olaf
21. Fragmented rock
23. They __
25. Master of Philosophy
26. Backside
27. Landmark house in L.A.
29. An act of undue intimacy
30. From which a later word is derived
32. Equal to 10 meters
34. Neither
35. Computer language
37. Sacred book of Judaism
40. A woolen cap of Scottish origin
42. A way to dedicate
43. Challenges
47. British Air Aces
49. Large, influential bank
50. Portended
52. Cavalry-sword
53. Vaccine developer
55. Napoleonic Wars general
56. Italian Seaport
57. Hip joint
58. __ Clapton, musician
59. Insect repellent
61. Decorative scarf
65. Delaware

Dec. 21/28 Solution

S	A	G	S		B	O	S	O	N		S	A	F	E
A	M	A	H		C	R	A	P	E		A	R	I	A
P	I	L	I		D	A	L	E	V		G	A	D	S
S	A	L	A	D		T	O	R		S	A	B	O	T
					S	E	R	E	N	A	D	E	S	
O	P	S			M	A	D		T	E	A		T	A
S	A	C	K	E	D		S	I	B		S	A	M	E
S	T	O	A	S		M	A	C		S	A	B	E	R
E	N	O	W		S	O	D		S	A	T	E	E	N
T	A	P			D	A	D		R	A	T		S	R
					T				F	A	C	E	S	
S	A	B	R	E		R	A	G		S	A	B	I	N
A	U	R	A		S	A	B	L	E		M	I	A	O
S	B	I	C		S	T	E	A	K		A	L	M	S
H	E	M	E		T	O	R	N	E		S	E	B	E

Sudoku

6					9	2		
3			5			8		7
							1	
	9					8		
		3			1	7		
4		7			3		6	
		2			5	9		
			7	6				
		8						4

Level: Intermediate

Dec. 21/28 Solution

9	8	7	3	6	2	4	5	1
2	6	5	7	4	1	9	3	8
1	3	4	9	5	8	2	7	6
5	9	6	2	8	7	3	1	4
8	7	3	4	1	5	6	9	2
4	1	2	6	9	3	5	8	7
7	2	9	1	3	6	8	4	5
6	4	8	5	7	9	1	2	3
3	5	1	8	2	4	7	6	9

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(860) 435-9851 • www.noblehorizons.org



OBITUARIES

Muriel Pitcher

SHARON — Muriel Pitcher of Sharon, passed away Dec. 23, 2023, at Noble Horizons in Salisbury. She was the wife of the late Edward Pitcher Sr.

Muriel was born on July 20, 1937 in Hudson, New York, the daughter of the late Richard and Lila Brammer Fingar of Millerton. She lived in Millerton until she married Edward Pitcher on July 30, 1955 where they resided in Sharon.

She was an employee of Sharon Hospital. She received her LPN in 1968 from E. C. Goodwin Technical School and her RN from Dutchess Community College in 1976. She also worked as an RN at Mountainside, The Kent Nursing Home, and Trinity Glen.

She was a past member of the Sharon Ambulance, Sharon Fire Department, Fire Department Auxiliary and Sharon Historic District Commission.

She loved vacationing in St. Thomas and later St.

Maarten.

She is survived by a daughter, Margaret Paine of Salisbury, daughter in law Tina Pitcher of Sharon; four grandchildren, Heather Paine of Tennessee, Heath Paine of East Canaan, William Pitcher of East Canaan and Edward Pitcher-Draghi of Burlington; six great grandchildren, Garrett, Daphne, Evan, Amelia, Ava and Gracelyn. Besides her husband and parents, Muriel was predeceased by her son, Edward Jr., a brother, Leslie Fingar and a sister, Margaret York.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday Dec. 30, at 10 a.m. at St. Bernard's - St. Kateri Parish in Sharon. Burial will be private at Hillside Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to The Sharon Volunteer Fire Department and Sharon Ambulance, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, CT 06069.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Theresa Carlson

CORNWALL — Theresa (Solan) Carlson, 85, of Cornwall, passed away peacefully on Dec. 25, 2023, at Sharon Hospital, with her family by her side. She was the loving wife of the late Walter Douglas Carlson. They had been married for fifty years.

Born in Salisbury on Feb. 23, 1938, to the late Terence P. Solan and Armilla (Rosseter) Solan, Theresa grew up in Salisbury and graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1956. She went on to attend the Teachers College of Connecticut in New Britain, graduating with a BA degree in Elementary Education in 1960. She completed additional fifth year coursework at the University of Hartford.

Theresa (Terry) began her teaching career at North Canaan Elementary School in 1960. After taking some time to raise her young children, she returned to part-time assignments at Cornwall Consolidated School and Sharon Center School. She returned to North Canaan in 1975, teaching third grade for the next 25 years. She loved her students and developed many lifelong friendships with her colleagues. Teaching and reading were her lifelong passions.

After retiring, Terry was a longtime volunteer at the Cornwall Library and served on the board of the Cornwall Child Center. She was a member of St. Bridget Church in

Cornwall Bridge. She loved reading, tending to her gardens, needlecraft, drawing, and spending time with her five beloved grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughter, Diana Hine of Glastonbury, and her partner, Michael DeSena, her

son, Christopher Carlson and his wife, Ellen Byrne of Wells, Maine, her daughter, Gretchen Carlson and her husband, Philip Taaffe of Cornwall; her grandchildren, Charlotte and Eric Hine, and William, Alistair and Rowan Taaffe. She is also survived by her brother, Terrence (Helen) Solan of Ocala, Florida; her sisters, Maureen Erickson, Natalie Solan, and Laura (David) Wright, all of Salisbury; and many beloved nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister, Christina Teixeira.

Calling hours were held Tuesday, Jan. 2, from 3-5 p.m. at the Kenny Funeral Home, 41 Main St., Sharon, CT.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 11 a.m. at St. Bridget Church, 7 River Rd., Sharon, CT. Burial at the North Cornwall Cemetery will be at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the Cornwall Library, 30 Pine St., Cornwall, CT 06753, or to the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 180, Cornwall, CT 06796.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



MILLERTON — After a brief illness, Leo Augustine Downey died on Dec. 12, 2023, at the Verde Valley Medical Center in Cottonwood, Arizona.

Leo was born in Sharon, Conn., on Oct. 13, 1940. He was the son of the late Augustine M. Downey and the late Leola J. (Morrison) Downey and grew up in Millerton.

He graduated from the Webutuck Central School, Amenia, in 1958 and in 1960 received an Associate Degree in Business Administration from SUNY Delhi.

After briefly working in the Millerton area, he began a 36-year career with Pratt & Whitney, an aircraft engines manufacturing firm, at its North Haven, Conn., plant in 1961. His work ethic and attention to detail soon landed him a job in the Vendor Quality Control Department. Beginning in 1963 in Houston, Texas, and continuing until his retirement in 1997, he represented Pratt & Whitney at companies that made parts for its jet engines in many locations including California,

Alabama, Italy, France, and South Korea.

In 1963, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and proudly used his aircraft engine knowledge during his six years of service.

He and his wonderful wife of 40 years, Bella G. (Beard) Downey, who survives, moved to Sedona, Arizona, in 1998 and resided there at his death.

Leo loved sports, especially baseball and particularly the New York Yankees. He got that gene from his dad. He played varsity baseball and basketball at Webutuck and varsity baseball at Delhi. The athletic gene was inherited from his mom, who grew up skiing and playing basketball.

He was introduced to the sport of golf as a teenager by his friend Ray Yakubowski. That began a lifelong love of a game he played until just a few weeks before his death. Leo and Bella's first house in Sedona was located on The



Oak Creek Country Club. One day he walked down to the clubhouse looking for someone to play a round with and was told by the starter that a couple visiting the area had just come to play and he could join them on the 1st tee, and so he did. It was not until after the

round ended that he learned he had just played with actors Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins.

Leo and Bella's love of travel took them to nearly every state in the U.S. to either tour or visit friends. They also visited Italy, Nova Scotia, Western Canada and Ireland. For several years, they especially enjoyed spending a month each winter in Hawaii.

In addition to Bella, Leo is survived by four step-children, Richard Beard of Yucca Valley, California, Susan Behrends and spouse, John, of Boise, Idaho, Douglas Beard of Tucson, Arizona, and Jac-

quelyn Beard of Yucca Valley, California; one step-grandchild, John Gates of Boise, Idaho; and one step-great grandchild, Vivienne Gates of Boise, Idaho.

He is also survived by his brother, Edward Downey, and his brother's wife, Meg, of Millerton, and nephews Kyle Downey of Millbrook, and Evan Downey, and Evan's wife, Kasey Dunn, of Norwalk, Conn.

Calling hours will be from 9 to 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024, at Greer's Mortuary at 2725 W. State Rte. 89A, Sedona, AZ. A Funeral Mass will follow at 10:30 a.m. at St. John Vianney Catholic Church at 180 St. John Vianney Lane, Sedona, AZ. Burial will follow at 12:15 p.m. at All Souls Catholic Cemetery at 700 N. Bill Gray Road, Cottonwood, AZ.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. John Vianney Catholic Church at 180 St. John Vianney Lane, Sedona, AZ 86336 or the North East Historical Society, P.O. Box 727, 75 Main St., Millerton, NY 12546.

Jan Dudek

SHARON — Jan Dudek, 74, of 95 West Cornwall Road, Sharon, passed away Dec. 24, 2023.

Jan was born Oct. 7, 1949, in Newark, New Jersey, the daughter of the late George and Alice Fodor. Jan grew up in Houston, Texas, and later in Needham, Massachusetts, before enrolling in Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania and graduating in 1971. She continued on to graduate school at the Pennsylvania State University where she met her future husband, Mike Dudek, in 1975. After finishing school, Jan and Mike lived and worked in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Hampshire, and Maine, before moving to the Emily Winthrop Miles Wildlife Sanctuary in Sharon, Connecticut in 1985.

Jan worked a variety of jobs during her lifetime including: farm manager for an environmental education center, counselor at a group home for adults with developmental disabilities, and bookkeeper for a local Sharon company. Jan became a teacher at the Sharon Daycare Center in 1995 and for the next 24 years she was an integral part of the many families that passed through the daycare center's doors before retiring in 2019.

Jan consistently gave back to the community in a variety of ways. She was an avid volunteer for environmental causes, including the Sharon Audubon Center, the Sharon Land Trust, and the Sharon Energy and Environment Commission. Jan also worked at Town Hall on Election Day for many years and was active

in both local and national politics. Jan was passionate about gardening and sustainable farming practices and was an enthusiastic supporter of local farms.

Over the years, Jan loved to travel and spend time with family and friends. Whether it was camping trips in Maine and Canada, trips to National

Parks across the country, or beach vacations in Florida, Delaware, New Jersey, and Mexico, Jan loved exploring new places with good food and good company.

Jan will always be remembered for her good-natured laugh, her homegrown vegetables, her delicious baked and preserved goods, her kind and empathetic disposition, and her love and commitment to her family and close friends.

She is survived by her husband, Mike, her son, Ben, her daughter, Sarah, and a large extended family.

A private celebration of Jan's life will be held at a later date.

In keeping with Jan's love of her local community, memorial contributions may be made to the following organizations: Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, CT 06069; Sharon Fire Department and Ambulance Squad, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, CT 06069; Sharon Land Trust, P.O. Box 1027, Sharon, CT 06069; Sharon Daycare Center, P.O. Box 1031, Sharon, CT 06069; or Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, CT 06069.

The Kenny Funeral Home 41 Main St., Sharon, has care of arrangements.



Worship Services
Week of January 7, 2023

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

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
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St. John's Episcopal Church
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Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg
(Calendar at congbethdavid.org)
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info@congbethdavid.org

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
9:00 a.m. Worship Service
9:00 a.m. Sunday School
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-435-9496
Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street,
North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
No Sunday School in Summer
The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

Falls Village Congregational Church
16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village
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Canaan United Methodist Church
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860-824-5534
canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall
Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m.
Trinity Retreat Center Chapel
Lower River Road, West Cornwall

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church
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Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
Special Services Online
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Livestream at 10:30 found at
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el último domingo de mes
The Revs. Heidi Truax & Felix Rivera
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons
The next meeting will be
Sunday, January 14 at 10:30 a.m.
2024 The Year Ahead
For information, contact Jo Loi
at jokialloi@gmail.com
All are Welcome

Chabad of Northwest CT On The Green
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Thursday 8am
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Millerton, NY 12546
Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday
of each month at 10:00 A.M.
518-789-3138

For more obituaries, see page A3

Send obituaries to
johnc@lakevillejournal.com

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PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039



Realtor® at Large

Forbes Advisor came out with an excellent article on predicting where the real estate market will be trending in 2024 that is worth reading. This year's market has been affected by high mortgage rates and low inventory which has combined to keep housing prices inflated. One reason for low inventory is that many current homeowners are enjoying the fruits of the historically low mortgage rates available earlier and are hesitant to sell, which would mean carrying a higher rate, say 7% plus, for their next home. So this is a great article to understand all of the issues that will shape the real estate market in 2024: www.forbes.com/advisor/mortgages/real-estate/housing-market-predictions



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Instagram: @johnharneyjr

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to 2024

As the New Year begins, it's a good time to reflect on what we accomplished last year and what we are looking forward to in 2024.

2023 was a busy one! We continued to cover stories and issues affecting the region and individual communities, as you will see from the year's recap in this week's issue. We reported on the ongoing grassroots efforts to save Sharon Hospital's labor and delivery service; food insecurity and efforts to combat it; wastewater management projects; updates on the Pine Plains solar power project. Various community plans to address the local affordable housing crisis and homelessness made our pages.

We covered the local stories we love: school sports, student triumphs, business openings, profiles of local artists and community leaders. We recognized the passing of beloved community members and marveled at the contributions they made during their lifetimes.

We covered town meetings and elections across the region. A Pew Research/Knight Foundation study revealed that strong local news habits are closely associated with civic engagement, including voting in local elections and having a strong connection to community. We hope we help people realize that their individual efforts make a big difference at the local level.

We made changes to our editorial team. Maud Doyle became the Managing Editor of The Millerton News, and Emily Edelman our new Editorial Coordinator. Natalia Zuckerman joined our reporting team.

John Coston became our Editor-in-Chief. I joined The Lakeville Journal Company as Publisher in February. Roxanne Lee joined Mary Wilbur on our advertising team.

We revived our internship program. The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News were both blessed with outstanding contributions from these aspiring young journalists, among them Emma Benardete, a junior at Oberlin College, and Colleen Flynn, a senior at Marist College. We also helped some third-year students at Marist College produce an excellent short documentary film on the shortage of local EMS volunteers.

We held an informative "ice cream social" at the NorthEast-Millerton Library in September and have more events coming up in 2024.

To begin the New Year with a bang, we are pleased to announce the launch of the new Millerton News website. It is a significant milestone in our commitment to providing the best news and arts coverage of our communities, wherever/ however you prefer to read it. This launch is just the beginning of our work to bring you an enhanced, free, online experience.

Our mission, however, remains the same: to help our readers make informed and inspired decisions through coverage of towns, governments and regional issues, and to help make our readers aware of this area's rich cultural offerings.

Let's look forward to a year in which empathy and kindness flourish. Let's support our local entrepreneurs and businesses. Let's imagine a year in which volunteering becomes matter of fact. Let's renew our commitment to the environment.

Finally, many thanks to our readers. Your letters, emails and feedback remind us that journalism is not just about ink on paper or words on a screen.

Thank you to our advertisers and our donors for believing in the power of community-driven media. And thank you to our writers and photographers. We wouldn't be here without you!

Sincerely yours,
Susan Hassler, Publisher

Parity in a globally based market

Part of the problem America is facing more and more each day is that the commercial market inside America and around the world is globally based. For almost every item you can buy or the nation's industries can make or invent, there is a comparable item made somewhere else. For example, buying a car made in the USA means you have equivalent models to choose from made here and elsewhere around the globe. But does that car made in the USA have parity, is it equally as good, as the model made overseas? Sometimes yes, sometimes no. That's the global economy, reliant on buyers' taste and needs.

Boeing makes wonderful aircraft for travel and cargo. But then so do Airbus, made in Europe. Airbus already sells more large jet planes than Boeing. Bombardier in Canada and Embraer in Brazil sell more medium sized passenger jets. Can we say that Airbus and Boeing are equivalent top-notch manufacturers? Perhaps yes. But their parity in passenger jets is false since parity means equal,

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE
Peter Riva

and they are no longer equal in turnover or innovation.

All around the world people respect American achievement. Using successful jet planes as a symbol of American know-how and status, it is hard to forget how important the Boeing 747 Jumbo was across the planet, nor the earlier travel industry leaders of the Boeing 707 and the MacDonald Douglas DC8. These achievements put much of the world's respect for made in America on the map. Apple, IBM, Microsoft, Intel are also known as American bastions of excellence even as they farm out manufacture overseas. Hollywood is still the world's top film and TV production powerhouse.

There was a time when the finest audio equipment was made in America. The finest TVs were made by RCA in Indiana. When Japan's Sony and Akai began making stereo tape recorders

and playback equipment in the early '60s people scoffed that they could possibly have the technology. Jokes were foolishly made that because Japanese workers had smaller fingers they could make everything smaller. When Japan turned to the car business (and Honda to motorcycles), American media said people would never buy anything designed over there as it wasn't, could not be, as good as American made. Same thing with Korean manufacture of cars — Hyundai and Kia. And cell phones — Samsung now make more cell phones than Apple and Motorola combined. And computers, and clothing, and electrical components, and microchips ... the list of previously only USA-made industries has ramped up around the globe and is growing.

And yet, globally, people have respect for American goods. They prefer shopping for Boeing first. Buick is a luxury success in Beijing. Apple and Intel are standard bearers. That respect is based on our democratic open market and overall moral fairness as a people. Only good people

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Prioritizing Mental Health in 2024

- As we enter a new year, I propose a resolution — let our focus for 2024 be on mental health. Let's make a collective commitment to prioritize not only our own mental well-being, but also that of our family, friends, and co-workers so we can create a community that actively changes the way mental health is perceived, reduces the stigma, and prevents suicide.
- After a year of challenges that have highlighted the importance of mental health, it is time to take the small steps that can make a big difference. Let us make 2024 the year
- we:
1. Prioritize Mental Health: Make a conscious effort to prioritize our mental well-being by incorporating self-care practices into our daily routines.
 2. Check-In on Others: Extend our compassion to those around us by regularly checking in on friends, family, and colleagues. A simple conversation can make a world of difference.
 3. Destigmatize Mental Health: Encourage open dialogue about mental health, dispelling myths and reducing the stigma that often surrounds it.

4. Raise Awareness: Educate ourselves and others about the signs of mental distress and the resources available for support.
 5. Promote a Culture of Support: Create an environment where seeking help is not only accepted but encouraged.
- It's time to teach our communities to talk about mental illness without shame or secrecy. Together, we can stop the stigmas associated with mental health and suicide and save lives.
- Donna Thomas**
Founder, James's Warriors Wappinger



Making
Amenia
Affordable

Lower income people need affordable housing, but everywhere, including in Amenia, they face the same obstacle (Millerton News, "Amenia Town Board delays action on affordable housing at Spruce Hill," Dec. 14, 2023): Not in MY backyard. Faced with such opposition, the town board has now delayed acting on a necessary change in zoning and, who knows, they may ultimately reject it.

Here is a solution: Approve the zoning-change but require the developer to offer to buy the property of any homeowner in the neighborhood who wishes to sell, for its property-tax-assessment. This is (or should be) the price of the property without the affordable housing development. This requirement would be fair to the existing owners and could do miracles to the tax rolls, since homeowners would no longer wish for low assessments.

People need housing, and because the population grows, this means increased density. But this increase will not occur equally everywhere, which is unfair. My proposal is a way to reduce the unfairness and with it the opposition to new developments.

Moshe Adler
Millerton

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The following excerpts from The Millerton News were compiled by Kathleen Spahn, Vivian Sukenik, Nancy Vialpando and Rhiannon Leo-Jameson of the North East-Millerton Library.

91 years ago: January 1933

"Christmas Party of Rebekah Lodge": Five hundred and dominoes were enjoyed by those present. Mrs. Frank Manning, of Washington Depot, won the ladies prize for five hundred, and Cecil Cook won the men's prize. Mrs. Harry Lawrence won the prize for dominoes.

"Dover Plains Beaten, 37-18 by Millerton": Millerton town team staged a last half rally to bury Dover Plains, 37-18, a steady, fast-passing game. The whole team deserved much praise for their good teamwork, which enabled Saake to lead in scoring with fourteen points. Vin Crawford followed closely with thirteen.

50 years ago: January 1974

"Josephine Downey Ends 30 Years of Banking Service": She began working as a secretary for the Millerton National Bank in July 1944 [...]

Miss Downey added that she enjoyed all her co-workers and gave special mention to Margaret Wilcox, the bank's account representative: "She's the most wonderful person."

"I will miss the people very much, both the people I work with and the people I see who come in each day[...]"

"Ted Smith retires After 28 Years": Henry "Ted" Smith has retired after working over 28 years for J.B. Reed and Son [...] "I'm past 70 now and I feel I'm entitled to take it a little easy. This summer I might work now and then. I can't just sit down" He added that he had a big lawn to worry about and he plans to build a new garage.

25 years ago: January 1999

"Cawley Announces Mayoral Bid, Only Candidate so Far":

[...] And unless another candidate emerges in the next week, Mr. Cawley appears to have the inside track for the \$5,000 per year job.

It looks like the town of North East will be in a rebuilding state of mind in 1999. [According to Town Supervisor David Sherman] this could be the year the town hall and town high garage undergo renovations. [...] A \$1.35-million water distribution project in town is substantially complete. The project involved the installation of water service lines, hydrants, water stops, and home hookups for about 80 customers.

Another very important development for the community this year is the introduction of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail into the village. Mr. Sherman said the rail trail would be a nice resource for the community.

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

John Coston
Editor-in-Chief

Susan Hassler
Publisher and CEO

James H. Clark
Chief Operating Officer

In Appreciation
Janet Manko
Publisher Emeritus

A. Whitney Ellsworth
1936-2011
Managing Partner

Robert H. Estabrook
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Publisher Emeritus

EDITORIAL STAFF: Maud Doyle, Managing Editor; Judith O'Hara Balfe, staff reporter; Alexander Wilburn, special sections editor; Emily Edelman, editorial coordinator.

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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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BUDGET *Continued from Page A1*

44% of county spending. The total sales tax will rise to 8.375% with 4% to New York state, 4% to the county and .375% to the MTA commuter tax. According to the Tax Foundation, New Yorkers pay the 10th highest state and local sales taxes in the country.

New spending, new salaries

Increased spending amendments approved by the Budget, Finance, and Personnel Committee added \$1,171,453 to the original 2024 budget presented by the County Executive, William O’Neil. This Committee is composed of 12 members: nine Republicans and three Democrats.

All three Democrats on the committee opposed the salary increases added to the budget in a Nov. 15 meeting after elections were held.

The \$418,000 increase in pay and benefits upped legislators’ salaries to \$27,500, a 67.8% increase, and the chairman of the Legislature to \$54,500, a 55.9% increase, along with a 17.8% increase for the county executive to \$185,600.

Other amendments that were unanimously approved included contingency funding of \$500,000 for the Board of Elections; an additional \$350,000 to the county sheriff for road patrol overtime; \$200,000 to the Department of Planning and Development for a competitive grant program; \$100,000 increase in programs for veterans; and \$50,000 for a “Stay Local” promotional Dutchess Tourism campaign.

O’Neil’s vetoes

O’Neil, who became county executive when Mark Molinaro was elected as U.S. representative in New York’s 19th District, declined to veto the pay raises, which were added to O’Neil’s initial proposed budget.

In a scathing letter to the outgoing chair of the Legislature, O’Neil did veto a few amendments — totaling \$77,339 — but left the pay raises alone. The Legislature allowed his veto of \$52,000 in increased social services programs and \$20,000 increase to the Human Rights Commission. It voted to override his veto of \$3,000 for cell phones for police officers.

same: being accessible 24/7 and working hard to make the town affordable by keeping the taxes low.

Transitioning the former school building into today’s Amenia Town Hall to serve the town as a business office and community center was a major achievement, said Perotti.

Energy efficiency within the building was a priority, she said, describing the installation of a more efficient hot water heating system to replace two outdated steam boilers. Lighting was changed to LED and first-floor windows were replaced. The addition of heat pumps in offices added to efficiencies.

Completion of the Wassaic Trail to the Train project, assisted by an additional \$250,000 grant, to enable train passengers to walk to the village of Wassaic from the MetroNorth station was another achievement cited by Perotti as contributing to economic growth in the hamlet.

But what she singled out as most important was the town’s successful negotiation with multiple state agencies to have 5 acres of land trans-

ferred to the Town of Amenia to facilitate the building of a new highway garage.

“Not used to having downtime,” Perotti said that she will use January and February to plan her next chapter. She added, however, that she will continue to support local organizations, including the VFW, Indian Rock Schoolhouse, Amenia Free Library, Amenia Historical Society and more, continuing her tradition of attending their fundraising events as they occur.

“I would like to see a safer walkable community in Amenia,” Perotti said of hopes for the town’s future. She recalled a recent meeting at Fountain Square with state Department of Transportation officials to explore ways to make that intersection safer. They agreed to adjust the stoplight’s timing to give pedestrians more time to cross the street. As a result of that meeting, they also agreed to add better signage and street markings to the Cumberland Farms crosswalk.

She also praised local business owners who are working together to make the community’s business district

more attractive. Perotti says that she is very supportive of those efforts.

Perotti was proud that, during her tenure, the town saw new businesses open their doors, but importantly, had also retained its rural character.

A deep, lifelong devotion to the town will continue for Perotti as she nears the end of her current administrative duties, but not her unwavering commitment to Amenia, its businesses and its residents.

This year, Perotti earned

enough town administration terms to achieve the status of Certified Town Official from the NYS Association of Towns.

Hard at work in her final days in office, however, Perotti stressed the importance of a smooth transition within the town supervisor’s office as she prepares to step down at the end of the year. Voters in a close November election (482-451) chose Leo Blackman of Wassaic to become town supervisor. He will assume those duties in early January.

Recent property sales in the Town of Amenia



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

67 Powder House Road is a well-maintained family home with distant mountain views on a comfortable, landscaped .92 acre lot. Originally listed at \$675,000 in March, it eventually sold at \$515,000.

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

Real estate sales in Amenia were active with 10 transactions recorded in September and October. The \$11 million total value of these sales is distorted by the two \$3 million-plus sales for residential building lots at Silo Ridge. The Amenia residential market continues to be characterized by modest properties selling for less than \$500,000, with multimillion-dollar purchases at Silo Ridge.

- September 2023
67 Powder House Road, a single-family home on .92 acres, 3 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, sold for \$515,000
4 Railroad Ave., a single-family home on 1.2 acres, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, sold for \$325,000
46 Roundabout Way, Silo Ridge Club, a residential lot, sold for \$4,048,389
4204 Route 22, a commercial site, sold for \$209,900
4224-4226 Route 22, a single-family house with 2

bedrooms, 1 bath, sold for \$248,800
245 Sharon Station Road, a single-family house on 14.4 acres with 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, sold for \$1,675,000.

- October 2023
3307 Route 22, a single-family home with 4 bedrooms, 1 bath on .25 acres, sold for \$112,501
284 Old Route 22, a two-family home with 5 bedrooms, 2 baths on .28 acres, sold for \$160,000
3620 Route 22, a single-family home with 2 bedrooms/2 bath on 1.85 acres sold for \$498,600
62 Roundabout Way, Silo Ridge Club, a residential lot, sold for \$3,150,000

Town of Amenia real estate sales recorded as sold between Sept. 1, 2023, and Oct. 31, 2023, sourced from monthly Dutchess County Real Property Tax Service Agency.

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

HALL OF FAME *Continued from Page A1*

2022 and 2023.

Athletic director Albert Hammell opened the induction ceremony by calling attention to the photo and data boards set up, and welcoming home some of the players who had come back for the ceremony as well as the family and friends who had come to cheer them on.

Three of the members of the boys varsity basketball team 1999 and their coach, Ryan Peek, were in attendance. He also thanked Hall of Fame Committee members Dan Fichter, Loren Kelly and Joe Rochfort as well as Millbrook High School Principal Eric Seipp and Millbrook Sports Booster Club sponsors Jeanene Kascak and Golly Ingento.

Peek spoke briefly about the team, saying: “Our ’99 team was built through defense and playing the game with a chip on your shoulder. We were a difficult team to guard. Our team loved each other and played with passion! The Final Four at Glens Falls was sold out and we saved our best effort for last. Thanks for giving us and Millbrook memories forever.” His assistant coaches were Joe Steen and Thompson Saw.

Adam Peek has been the girls basketball coach for the past eight or so seasons. He praised the parents, the student body, the trainer, bus driver and so many others



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

The Millbrook High School Blazers girls basketball team, 2023 state champions, Section 9, Class C, gathered with their coach Adam Peek, left, and assistant coach Jason Zmudusky, right, following their induction to Millbrook CSD Hall of Fame.

who support the team in every way. “My appreciation for everyone who has given support over the years can’t be put into a few words,” he said.

He went on to name what he feels are the reasons the teams have been so successful, compiling a 28-1 playoff record over a five-year period. He named the qualities which he sees as catalysts for their success; most of the teams had multi-sport athletes; they also had extremely high GPAs — one year the highest GPA of any team in the entire state.

Peek said that the teams were always extremely high achievers, goal-driven, play-

ing to their strengths and equipped with a mental toughness that always wore down the opponent.

Peek added: “The desire for the team to win outweighed personal goals. They played their best on the big stage of the playoffs and Final Four tournament. We were always gracious winners that always showed respect for the opposition.”

The assistant coaches for the girls in 2018 were Debbie Daly, Megan Murphy and team manager was Sophie McNatt. In 2022, assistant coach was Dawn Harkenrider, and Jason Zmudusky;

the scorekeeper was Julia Williams. For the girls 2023 team, assistant coaches were Colin Wohlford and Jason Zmudusky. An interesting note, Zmudusky was a member of the 1999 boys basketball team that was inducted.

In his closing remarks, Peek thanked the ladies for allowing everyone to be part of the experience and for making their mark in Millbrook history.

For current fans, the girls Blazers lost 55-49 to the Marlboro Hoops. The boys Blazers won over Hawthorne Valley 70-65. In the game following the induction ceremony.

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THE THIN BLUE LIE BOOK TALK WITH AUTHOR GREG DILLON
January 17th at 2pm

HOUSATONIC CAMERA CLUB EXHIBIT
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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

RECAP: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Art and entertainment in 2023

Art events in The Berkshires in 2023 brought community members out of their homes and into public spaces to take in live spectacles, join in on fascinating discussions, and meet notable trailblazers in their field.

In the spring, Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village showcased the imaginative outsider art of then-senior Theda Galvin. Her solo exhibition opened at the school's Karcher-Monsell Library gallery wall, showcasing dolls with magnified eyes inspired by internet fandom. Recognized for her talent, Galvin received an \$80,000 scholarship from the Jasper Johns-led Foundation for Contemporary Arts later in the school year for her education at The Cleveland Institute for Art.

Public art was also a trend this year for area schools. Artist Ben Keller transformed HVRHS' cafeteria with a mural reflecting the school's evolving demographics. Inspired by street art, Keller's piece was unveiled in May. Similarly, Sharon Center School initiated a project with artist Morgan Blair, translating students' floral designs into a public mural.

Local theater shined bright throughout the summer, with audiences returning in significant numbers after the limitations of the pandemic. Under the new leader-

ship of Rod Christensen and Carl Andress, the managing director and artistic director, The Sharon Playhouse produced a vibrant range of productions, including "Something Rotten!" a snarky musical directed by Amy Griffin with a spotlight-stealing turn by Jen Cody that made the Shakespearean romp a must-see, and the family-friendly "Oliver!" directed by Michael Kevin Baldwin. Staying true to Lionel Bart's 1960 adaptation, it was a zippy rendition of Dickens' classic, featuring standout performances by Indian Mountain student Ivan Howe as Oliver and Gina Naomi Baez as Nancy. In another offering, the Playhouse presented "Our Town," directed by Andrus Nichols, featuring an ensemble of many locals led by Jane Kaczmarek. Closing the season, The Sharon Playhouse presented "The Lifespan of a Fact," directed by Marcia Milgrom Dodge. The tension-filled play explored the complexities of fact-checking and truth in storytelling. Renaldo Piniella, Jennifer Van Dyck, and Jonathan Walker delivered compelling performances and provided a thought-provoking conclusion to the Playhouse's season under new leadership.

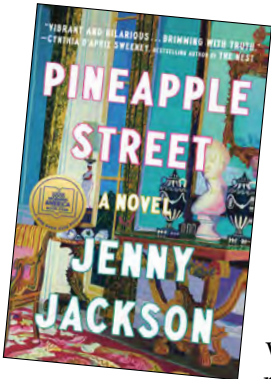
In other audience news, this summer, the release of "Barbie" and Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" sparked a national cinematic



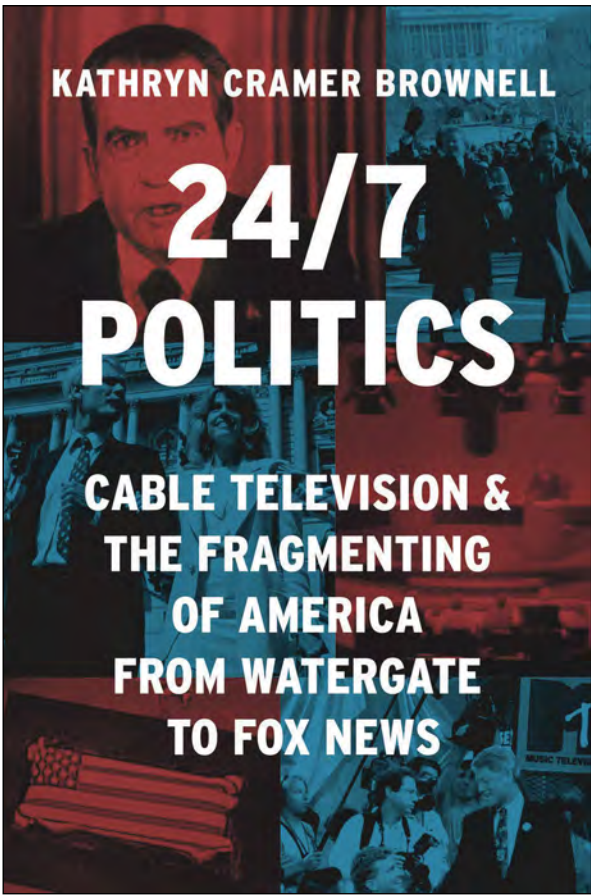
PHOTOS, CLOCKWISE, IVAN OWE BY ALY MORRISSEY, PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE, ALEXANDER WILBURN

celebration termed "Barbenheimer," turning it into an impromptu holiday for moviegoers and marking the highest-grossing opening weekend since 2019. Amid the challenges faced by the struggling movie theater industry, The Moviehouse, overseen by David Maltby and Chelsea Altman, has been actively revitalizing its connection with the local film-going community. The theater's initiatives include one-night-only programming and live events, such as a unique production of Tennessee Williams' "A Streetcar Named Desire." This year's programming also had actress Kyra Sedgwick screening her directorial debut, "Space Oddity," and board member and actress Gretchen Mol hosting a screening of her Sundance film, "Palm Trees and Powerlines."

Thanks to a dedicated group of film-loving residents, the Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington reopened its doors in November. After the movie theater closed in June, a grassroots effort raised over \$1 million to purchase the theater from its longtime owner.



Audiences were also seated for the many in-person author talks, a change from the Zoom broadcasts during the pandemic. In John Sayles' novel "Jamie MacGillivray: The Renegade's Journey," the Academy Award-nominated screenwriter took readers at The White Hart Inn in Salisbury on a bloody odyssey from Scottish Highlands' Jacobite battles to the 18th-century colonies of The New World. Jenny Jackson's debut novel, "Pineapple Street," was set against the backdrop of unprecedented inherited wealth for millennials. Jackson, a vice president and executive editor at Alfred A. Knopf, wrote the novel based on observations of Brooklyn's 1%. Hernan Diaz won the Pulitzer Prize in 2023 for "Trust" and discussed his novel's polyphonic exploration of wealth at the Morton Memorial Library in Rhinecliff. In a conversation with agent, Sharon-native Bill Clegg, Diaz highlighted the rejection he faced preceding his success. The Haystack Book Festival in Norfolk celebrated its fifth year with the theme of "New York Stories," exploring modernism in various art forms. At one of House of Books' intimate "dinner with an author" salons in Kent, Adrienne Brodeur's novel "Little Monsters" examined familial resentments in Cape Cod. WAMC's Joe Donahue interviewed Michael Cunningham on his new book, "Day," at The White Hart Inn. The Pulitzer-Prize-winning author's first novel in a decade explored an unconventional New York family's changes over three years, delving into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.



PRINCETON UNIVERSITY PRESS

BOOKS: PETER B. KAUFMAN

Reality control

Heather Hendershot, *When the News Broke: Chicago 1968 and the Polarizing of America* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2022)

Katherine Cramer Brownell, *24/7 Politics: Cable Television and the Fragmenting of America from Watergate to Fox News* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2023)

What Winston Smith, the protagonist in George Orwell's 1949 novel "1984," keeps trying to avoid in the book is the telescreen. It's a screen, a speaker and a microphone all in one; it's in every home and every workplace, every street and forest and park; it's always on, always listening, always seeing. Finishing the novel on the remote Scottish island of Jura in 1948, as Stalin was ascendant, after we had dropped two atomic bombs on Japan, and seeing the national security and surveillance state forming, Orwell imagined it to be oblong, a "metal plaque" – something that looks like "a dulled mirror," he wrote. This was before television and well before desktops, laptops, and cell phones had become omnipresent. In 2024, of course, we can imagine it as an endless Zoom call (Good G-d!) – always on, on every device beside and surrounding you. And the people controlling Google are the govern-

ment. And the main thing the government is interested in using it all for is – to Google you!

Orwell had figured out that what goes into our heads – all the sights, all the sounds, sensations from the other senses, too – determines our reality, and that we can be conditioned by the media we absorb, especially if we are forced to absorb it, to believe anything that producers of that media want us to. "If one is to rule, and to continue ruling, one must be able to dislocate the sense of reality," the novel tells us. And "reality," Orwell writes, "is inside the skull."

Orwell imagined a single Ministry of Truth, the "primary job" of which, he wrote, is not only to reconstruct the past but "to supply the citizens" with "newspapers, films, textbooks, telescreen programs, plays, novels – with every conceivable kind of information, instruction or entertainment, from a statue to a slogan, from a lyric poem to a biological treatise, and from a child's spelling book to a Newspeak dictionary." The Ministry in 1984 has "huge printing shops with their sub-editors, their typography experts, and their elaborately equipped studios for the faking of photographs"; a "teleprograms section with its engineers, its producers, and its teams of actors"; a records department, with "armies of reference clerks" whose job it is to draw up lists of books and periodicals "due for recall." The Ministry produces music, too – songs that are "composed entirely by mechanical means" (ChatGPT, any-

Continued on next page

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COMPASS

THEATER: LEE A. DAVIES

The healing power of theater: part 2

Last issue we addressed the evidence for the health value of live theater, especially during stressful times. This week we take a deeper dive into specific ways that attending live theater can have a positive impact your well-being. With credit to freelance writers Nicole Hilbig, Ghessica De Leon and Adrienne Wyper, who frequently write on theater arts and health, here are eight benefits of going to the theater, and the influence it has on the audience:

1. Theater Leads to a Better Understanding of the Drama

The theater gives us, through its strong staging power and the live experience, a new perception potential in which further perspectives open up for us. This gives spectators a diverse understanding of the drama and the plot as well as the characters.

In addition, research has shown that students who attend a live production of a play they are reading in school have a significantly better understanding of what is on the page.

2. Theater Improves Attention Ability

In a play, we cannot pause and rewind if

we did not understand something immediately, like in a film. We are forced to listen and consciously get involved in the exciting staging, to concentrate more and, in particular, to observe and analyze the gestures, facial expressions and the spoken word. In these ways we consciously strengthen our senses and can perceive, grasp and understand the play in a much more diverse way – and without distraction from the outside.

3. Theater Is a Natural Form of Self-Expression and Creativity

The theater enables a mode of expression that corresponds to the natural urge of humans, even if this subsides with age. It is natural to use your physical expression on emotional outburst; no one can show emotions without the body being involved.

Theater, with its special form of self-expression, actually complements the roles we all play in everyday life.

4. Theater Opens the Mind and Imagination

Everyone experiences a theater production according to their own values and ideas, regardless of how strongly the director has given a picture. The form of repre-

sentation at the theater always leaves room for creative, imaginative worlds of thought and interpretations.

5. There is Immediacy Only in the Theater

The immediacy that we spectators experience live, how the characters express their feelings with words and immediately process them, let us feel the power of action with every word. Perceiving the interactions of the people live is fascinating and is unique to the theater.

6. Theater Promotes the Emotional Experience

The fact that the viewer concentrates particularly on what is happening in the theater itself stimulates the ability to perceive. As spectators, we perceive every gesture, facial expression or action, every word, every scream and every emotional expression much more strongly than in other media. As a result, we experience emotions in the actors and consequently also in other people much more directly and learn to assess them better.

We get a better sense of minor internal emotional changes, both from ourselves and from others, and can react to them much faster. Live theater

strengthens our empathy and sensitivity, for which we are often very much appreciated, especially by our fellow human beings.

7. Theater Promotes Tolerance and the Social Structure

When we experience discriminatory or unjust topics live on stage, an event in which we cannot intervene, we learn to perceive such moments more consciously and to be more open-minded in dealing with our fellow human beings.

Empathy is a person's ability to relate to one another, whether it is the other person's feelings or his thoughts. According to a study made by Joelle Arden for the International Conference on Performing Arts in Language Learning, the capacity to share, react, and understand the lived experience of others through performance could increase one's emphatic levels and lower sensitivity to rejection.

Theater is one of those means to appeal to human emotion. What separates live theater from a television program or a movie is that audiences consume and share emotions in real-time with actual, flesh-and-blood human beings – the performers.

8. The Theater Influ-

ences Our Character and the Way We Think

The psychologist Gustave Le Bon explains in his work "The Psychology of the Crowds," from 1895, how strongly the theater can exert an influence on us. That reason is our emotionality. As spectators, we are left to the atmosphere of the theater room. It takes us under its spell and leaves us to our very own instincts and feelings.

The more we get involved in the staging, the easier it is for the thoughts and emotions to overcome us. We experience the unheard of, experience injustice, experience love, experience grief, experience happiness and joy.

According to researchers, the effects of seeing a play or a musical aren't just emotional; they are physical too. Watching shows and musicals is a great way to raise your heartbeat without ever leaving your seat, say scientists. According to research, watching a live performance can have the same impact on your heart as almost half an hour's cardio exercise.

Based on research commissioned by major theater organizations, the audience's focus on the events on stage

puts them into a state of "flow" — a sense of total engagement and concentration that's associated with positive feelings such as happiness and fulfillment.

And being part of that has the same benefits as being part of a community – if only for a couple of hours – heightening the impact because we have a sense of it being a shared experience.

So put down your phone, stop streaming, never mind the SM posts – and join the experience of live theater. There's nothing, literally nothing, like it!

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

Lee A. Davies is a member of the board of directors of The Sharon Playhouse and a resident of Cornwall Bridge.

Next Week: The Direct Impact The Sharon Playhouse Has on Our Community

...reality control

Continued from previous page

one?) "on a special kind of kaleidoscope known as a versificator." But it's the telescreen that's the key instrument in dystopian Oceania for delivering what Orwell calls "reality control."

Media scholars like Heather Hendershot (at MIT) and Katherine Cramer Brownell (at Purdue) do readers a huge favor in their work when they write extraordinary books like the ones above about television and look at its relationship to state power and control. These

two books tell us how the national leaders we vote into power now are increasingly television, or telescreen, people. Kennedy was our first television president – the first to hold live press conferences in front of the cameras – and definitely our first telegenic chief executive. Lyndon Johnson's family empire was based on broadcasting holdings across Texas; his wife, Ladybird, owned so many of them in her name, LBJ called himself the "broadcaster-in-law." Nixon came out of the

country's biggest TV market – California. Reagan had been a movie actor on the silver screen and then a television spokesperson for General Electric. And Trump had been a TV star in NBC's "The Apprentice," one of our reality (reality-control) teleprograms, to use Orwell's word, that portrayed him as a self-made millionaire and genius decisionmaker in front of millions of American viewers every week. With Trump, all this happened as Rupert Murdoch was building up a whole pro-Trump Teleprograms Department – Teledep, in Newspeak – at the Fox equivalent, replete with radio, internet, books, newspapers, a film studio, you name it, of a modern

Ministry of Truth.

Control over media technology is never a quiet battlefield: it's always the seat of warfare. Hendershot's book – ostensibly about four days in Chicago – explores in extraordinary detail the fights – including the physical ones – over communications technology here. The Democratic Party set to nominate the party's candidate for president at a time of war in Vietnam, violence against the Civil Rights movement, and the assassinations of President Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., and JFK's brother Robert F. Kennedy, among others. There were three and only three television networks then, and all three covered the proceedings. It became the top-rated television

event of 1968. Fifty-one million households wound up tuning in.

Mayor Richard J. Daley, the party boss of Chicago, wanted the cameras and print journalists to cover it only the way he wanted. He told the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to go on strike in order to limit the number of new telephone lines available to reporters for voice calls and the transmission of live images out of the city. He had pay phones near the convention jammed with dimes so journalists couldn't call out. He made sure the phones in office buildings next to the convention site had their wires slashed, too. He denied parking permits for the networks. He sealed manhole covers with tar so that protestors couldn't hide in the sewers. He threw barbed-wire around the convention amphitheater and put the entire police force of 12,000 men on 12-hour shifts. But he could not wield absolute control, and the extraordinary violence that erupted in Chicago that summer became the story that was broadcast live on our telescreens.

Brownell's book is a fantastic read covering a much longer time period but also about reality control. People in charge

– at the helm of media companies, the financial analysts, the politicians, even the journalists – sold us the coming of network television and then the coming of cable television as the answer to previous media systems that had failed democracy. But as Brownell puts it, the rise of cable, much like the rise of all the other media here, "was never about enhancing democracy." "It was about making money and forging strategic partnerships between an industry and the elected politicians who wrote the rules in which that industry operated." It was about "how to structure media institutions [. . .] central to political power." It was Marshall McLuhan who said, "We shape our tools, and thereafter they shape us." If that's the case, we had better understand what's coming next – and fast!

Peter B. Kaufman lives in Lakeville and works at MIT Open Learning and is the author of "The New Enlightenment and the Fight to Free Knowledge."

Kaufman will discuss the award-winning book "Overreach, The Inside Story of Putin and Russia's War Against Ukraine" by journalist Owen Matthews on Saturday, Jan. 6, at 4 p.m. at Scoville Memorial Library.

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Selections at Sweet William Coffee Shop and Bakery.

PHOTO BY SUSAN HASSLER

FOOD: MIKE COBB

So much to choose from at Sweet William

I recently stopped into Sweet William Coffee Shop and Bakery at 17 Main St. in Salisbury on the way to Wassaic to get the train down to New York City.

Stumped by the tempting and ample selection of pastries, I opted for a blueberry scone, which has become my baseline for comparing bakeries, and a double espresso. The scone had just the right amount of crunch to the crust, revealing a light fluffy interior. The espresso was perfectly bitter with deep roasted notes, sweetened by brown sugar.

Sweet William works with two local businesses based out of Lee, Massachusetts: Barrington Coffee Roasting Company, which produces expertly roasted coffee beans; and High Lawn Farm, which delivers its exceptional, creamy Jersey cow's milk. The lactose intolerant can add oat or almond milk.

Tea drinkers can choose from a selection of loose leaf teas, hot or iced, from Rishi Teas and Harney & Sons. Popular teas include Dona chai, Masala or Tumeric Ginger.

There's seating in the back room, in front, and outside when the weather's warmer. With limited time, I sadly wasn't able to linger and taste through the whole menu, which was too much for one person anyway. But Sweet William offers a wide variety of tempting baked goods that will surely keep customers coming back for more.

Everything is made in house entirely from scratch. Popular items include scones, muffins, and cornbread with apricot ginger, cranberry

orange, lemon blueberry, maple pecan, blueberry, date walnut, sunrise, gluten-free banana walnut, and gluten-free lemon poppyseed (vegan) varieties.

Also on offer are plain, almond, chocolate, and ham and cheese croissants; bacon and cheese or herb and cheese biscuits; maple cream cheese, pecan, and fruit danishes; bacon and cheese or spinach and cheese frittatas; chocolate chip, oatmeal raisin, ginger molasses, peanut butter, flourless chocolate, and gluten-free almond horn cookies. Also sold are oatmeal bowls, gluten-free coffee cake, cinnamon buns, turnovers, cakes and cupcakes.

Sweet William's selection changes seasonally with so many delicious and decadent baked goods.

Orders can be placed online or by calling with 48 hours notice. Sweet William can also be contacted for same-day or short-notice orders by calling the shop directly at 860-435-3005.

I enjoyed myself so much at Sweet William that I missed my train, which seems to be a pattern I'm developing. Energized by espresso and a scone, I was able to kill time by hiking the Sharon Land Trust trail by Indian Lake between Sharon and Millerton, which has fantastic views overlooking the bucolic countryside.

Whether you're en route to another destination or lucky enough to live here, Litchfield County's cozy cafes provide just the right fuel for exploring its pastoral landscapes and charming towns.

Tangled Lines: year in review

The angling year 2023 started sluggishly and steadily disimproved.

Looking back at my "notes," I find mutterings and complaints that high flows in the Housatonic persisted well into May.

Matter of fact, take a look at the USGS data for the Hous at Falls Village and note that it was above 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) for what looks like somewhere between two-thirds and three-quarters of the year. The 1,000 cfs mark is what I consider the highest flow for safe wading, and at 1,000 cfs, it ain't all that safe.

An informal poll during my last visit to the Limestone Trout Club, aka Home of the Green Weenie, revealed that other anglers like a flow around 500 or less.

Why is this? Rain. Lots of rain.

In June I took assorted people into the wild for the purpose of chasing wild brook trout. It is great fun to watch anglers adapt to the demands of creeping around little streams, learning to read the water, and discovering new and exciting ways to trip over things.

I spent much more time this year fishing the fabled Catskill rivers: the Beaverkill, the Willowemoc, and the East and West branches of the Delaware.

I am fortunate to have a fishing buddy who knows these rivers well, who has a big truck and doesn't mind driving.

A high point was at The Place, a smallish stream that empties into one of the Catskill reservoirs.

There is about a mile of public water, culminating in a deep pool where the stream runs under the road and then widens out as it blends into the lake.

I caught my personal best wild brook trout here. Wild-ish, anyway. Not straight outta the hatchery. I am so used to regarding an 8-inch brookie as a Leviathan that I was startled and perplexed when an honest char of some 14-15 inches obligingly rose up from the tailout and hit my size 12 Deer Hair Sedge (DHS), a sparsely-tied caddis dry that rides low in the water and is one of a handful of consistently productive



PHOTOS BY GARY DODSON AND PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

The author hooking up with a brown trout using a Tenkara rod during one of the rare moments in 2023 when the Housatonic was at a wadeable flow. This is the largest brook trout the author has ever caught, aside from specimens straight from the hatchery.

TANGLED LINES

PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

scouting flies in my box.

At intervals during the summer, I had my nomadic attorney with me. Thos. has renounced the world and is touring the eastern half of the country towing a camper. He alternates between campgrounds public and private, and arriving unexpectedly on the doorsteps of unwary but ancient friends.

He spent about a week at the state campground on the Beaverkill and sent me garbled but excited text messages about a productive stretch he found.

It was indeed productive, and together with Gary, my Catskill guide, we made several trips.

One evening we were fishing right at the covered bridge, a hallowed location where the legendary Theodore Gordon tested his patterns.

As the daylight faded, there were browns sipping caddis bugs in the seam between the main riffle and softer water on the opposite side. It was difficult to get a decent drag, and the fish were being snooty about it.

I fetched a Tenkara rod about 12 feet in length, added a greased 12-foot furled line and about 6 feet of 5X nylon tippet.

This allowed me to deliver the DHS to the soft water, bypassing the main current altogether. A longer fly rod with a very long leader or a mono rig would have worked too.

I was rewarded with three goodish browns, and incredulous looks from Gary, Thos. and a masochist with a spinning rod better suited to Montauk.

How do I know he was a masochist?

He was wearing a Jets cap.

This was the Year of Simplicity. I vowed to get everything organized.

Strictly speaking, I

failed. But I did get some things streamlined.

I settled on a waist pack for the bulk of my trout fishing. It holds three or four fly boxes, floatant, extra tippet, stream thermometer and my licenses.

What it does not have are things dangling off it, which is one of my primary objections to vests, chest packs and slings.

For dangling things, I went to a lanyard, which holds tippet spools (nylon and fluorocarbon) and a hemostat, which does double duty as hook remover and barb smusher. The lanyard also has a clip that attaches to the shirt and prevents the whole thing from swinging around.

This setup works with or without waders and forces me to think harder about which flies to put in the small boxes.

It is also a lot easier on the back muscles.

The primary disadvantage is it looks stupid.

I'm used to that.

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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

JANUARY 6

Cool & Collected 2024

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

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

Cornwall Landscapes

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

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

Book Talk with Author Peter Kaufman

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

On Saturday, Jan. 6, from 4 to 5 p.m., Peter Kaufman will discuss the award-winning book *Overreach, The Inside Story of Putin and Russia's War Against Ukraine*, by journalist Owen Matthews. This fascinating investigation into the start of the Russo-Ukrainian war takes readers from the corridors of the Kremlin to the trenches of Mariupol. Drawing on over 25 years of experience as a correspondent in Moscow, and his family ties to Russia and Ukraine, Matthews provides an authoritative, poignant account of history, personalities, and politics. Presenter Peter B. Kaufman is a writer, teacher, and documentary producer, and works at MIT Open Learning and the Knowledge Futures Group. He is the author of *The New Enlightenment and the Fight to Free Knowledge* (Seven Stories Press, 2021). Registration is required. Please visit scovillelibrary.libcal.com/calendar.

JANUARY 7

Sophisticated Snowflakes

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

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

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

Reading and Book Signing

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

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

JANUARY 9

Winter Drawing Workshop with Artist Pieter Lefferts

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

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

JANUARY 11

Discussion of the Colm Toibín Short Story "One Minus One" with Dathalinn O'Dea

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

On Thursday, Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library will host a discussion of the Colm Toibín short story "One Minus One" with Dathalinn O'Dea. Toibín is an Irish novelist, short story writer, essayist, journalist, critic, playwright and poet, and is currently the Irene and Sidney B. Silverman Professor of the Humanities at Columbia University. Copies of the story are available online or at the library. O'Dea, who lives in Falls Village, is a Visiting Assistant Professor of English at Marist College with a specialty in modern Irish literature.

English Language Classes for Adults – Ingles Para Adultos

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

On Thursdays from Jan. 11 to Feb. 8, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.: Ingles Para Adultos! Esta clase es una oportunidad para aprender inglés o mejorar su nivel a través de la lectura, la creación de cuentos, vídeos y juegos interactivos. Son bienvenidos los adultos de cualquier nivel. Habrá bebidas y comida. Esta clase será enseñada por Annie Muzaurieta, quien tiene una maestría en Enseñanza de Inglés como Segundo Idioma de la Universidad de Nueva York. Actualmente enseña en el departamento de Idiomas Globales de Indian Mountain School.

SML's new ESL classes, taught by Annie Muzaurieta, offer the chance to learn basic English language skills or improve your current level through reading, listening to stories, watching video clips, and playing interactive games. Drinks and snacks will be available. Adult learners of all levels are welcome. Annie Muzaurieta has a master's degree in teaching English as a second language from NYU. She currently teaches in the Global Language department at Indian Mountain School.

To learn more, visit scovillelibrary.libcal.com/calendar.

JANUARY 11

Knitting for Kids

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

Kids in third grade and up are invited to learn to knit at the David M. Hunt Library. The class will be held over four Tuesdays (Jan. 16, 23, 30 and Feb. 6) from 3:20 to 4:30 p.m. Participants will learn to knit a scarf. All materials will be provided. Sign up at huntlibrary.org

JANUARY 18

Virtual Book Talk

David M. Hunt Library, 63 Main St., Falls Village, Conn. huntlibrary.org

On Thursday, Jan. 18 at 5 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library will host a virtual book talk with Felice Cohen, author of *What Papa Told Me*.

What Papa Told Me is the story of Felice's grandfather, Murray Schwartzbaum, whose courage and sheer will to live helped him survive eight different labor and concentration camps in the Holocaust, start a new life in America and keep a family intact in the aftermath of his wife's suicide. Endorsed by Elie Wiesel and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, *What Papa Told Me* is a 2-time Honorable Mention book award winner, has sold thousands of copies around the world, was translated into Polish and continues to be taught in schools as part of their Holocaust curriculum.



PHOTO BY MARY CLOSE OPPENHEIMER

FOOD: MARY CLOSE OPPENHEIMER

Recipe for roasted duck legs and potatoes


I remember my mother making roast duckling only once a year because it was so labor-intensive. This recipe is so easy you'll be tempted to serve it often. It takes less effort than driving to the market to pick up dinner from the deli. 1h 45m — prep: 15 min.; cook: 1 1/2 hours; yield: 2 servings

- 2 duck legs (frozen duck legs are available in packages of 2 at La-Bonne's and the Sharon Market)
- 2 baking potatoes or 1 bag of baby potatoes
- Fresh thyme
- Salt and pepper

- Defrost the duck legs. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees.
- Brush the skin side of the duck legs with a little bit of oil to prevent sticking.
- On the stove, heat an

- oven-proof roasting pan or cast iron frying pan and sear the duck legs skin-side down over medium heat until the skin turns golden and gives out some oil.
- Turn the legs skin-side up, sprinkle with salt and pepper, and cook for 45 minutes before adding the potatoes. Cooking time for the potatoes will vary depending upon the size of the pieces.
- If using large potatoes, cut them across into 1-inch slices, then cut each slice into four.
- If using baby potatoes, cut them in half along the longest side to allow the greatest surface area to brown in the pan. Use as many as will fit in your pan in one layer.
- Arrange the potato pieces cut-side down around the duck legs, then sprinkle a few sprigs of thyme over the duck and potatoes and


- season with more salt and pepper before putting the pan back into the oven.
- Cook for a total of 1½ hours, turning the potatoes so the cut sides get browned. Toward the end, toss to coat with the duck fat. Optimal outcome is tender duck legs and crispy potatoes. If the potatoes are done before the duck, remove and set them aside to keep warm.
- This recipe scales up easily. Just use a larger pan and as cook as directed.
- Leftovers: If you have some meat left over, seal it and store in the freezer for up to two months for future use. Thaw overnight in the refrigerator.
- Duck fat is delicious. Use any leftover fat to sauté snow peas, onions or anything else you would otherwise sauté in oil.



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SOLAR FLARE-UP: RESIDENTS SUE PINE PLAINS

Continued from Page A1

subsequent issuance of a negative State Environmental Quality Review Act determination on August 23. The SEQRA determination allowed the project to bypass an often protracted state-managed environmental review.

“The Article 78 legal action intends to block any further efforts towards the construction of 24,000, 12-foot high photovoltaic panels on 42 acres of pristine farmland and prevent the clear-cutting of 26 acres of mature forest,” the petitioners said in a press release (according to current plans, 22 acres of forest are slated for cutting). “The residents group seeks to nullify any actions of the Planning Board with regard to it’s permissive SEQRA determination and its issuance of an illegal Special Use Permit directly in conflict with the Town Zoning Laws and The Town Comprehensive Plan.”

The petition states: “The Comprehensive Plan establishes 18 goals, and none of those goals convey a community desire to promote a land use that results in a loss of forest land and agricultural land or ones that adversely impact community character, reduce habitats, or change the rural, pastoral nature of Pine Plains. Yet the Project does all of these things.”

The petitioners are Pavan Gattani, Anna Maria Gattani, Kathleen Vuillet Augustine and James Pinto.

Andrew Gordon, a senior project manager with Carson Power, told The New Pine Plains Herald: “We are disappointed that this group decided to move forward with this action. We made a substantial effort over the last year to work with folks in the neighborhood and address their concerns.”

In the months-long course

of reviewing the project, the Planning Board made an environmental assessment that examined potential impacts on land, geology, surface water, ground water, plants and animals, agricultural resources, aesthetics, noise, odor and light, human health and consistency with the town’s Comprehensive Plan and community character.

The board concluded that the impact across these impact areas was mostly “none” or in some cases “small” or “not significant” or “mitigated.” In the case of consistency with the Comprehensive Plan it found “no conflict” and with regard to community character, the impact was “not significant enough.”

On Aug. 23, the board concluded that the Carson Power project “will not have an adverse environmental impact,” meaning that a “Draft Environmental Impact Statement

will not be prepared.”

A week before, on Aug. 17, following months of deliberation on the Carson application and heavily attended hearings that featured community concern and opposition to the project, the board declared a moratorium on projects like the Carson project, while exempting Carson from the new prohibition:

“The Town Board has determined that it would be in the best interests of the Town and its citizens to place a moratorium on future applications for Tier 3 solar facilities until such time as the Town Board can review its current Zoning Code and other land use regulations and, if necessary, consider appropriate modifications or changes to its current laws with regard to the siting and approval of Tier 3 solar facilities.”

The moratorium still is in effect.

“The Planning Board failed to take a ‘Hard Look’ at significant adverse project impacts due to the project’s inconsistency” with the Comprehensive Plan and community character, the petition states. Under New York State’s SEQRA protocol, the lead agency must systematically assess, or “take a hard look,” at every potential impact.

Those named in the suit, besides the Planning Board,

are Pulvers Corner Solar 1 LLC, Pulvers Corners Solar 2 LLC, Nexamp, Inc., Carson Power, Carol Giardino, Diane Weck, Lucie M. Giardino and John Does.

The plaintiff’s attorney is the Zoghlin Group, PLLC, Rochester, N.Y.

Supreme Court Justice Christi Acker, whose spouse, Steve Patterson, is a member of the Planning Board, recused herself from the case.

SHERIFF’S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for Dec. 15-27.

Dec. 16 — Deputies responded to 7743 S. Main St. in the Town of Pine Plains for report of past occurred larceny of an ATV. The caller reported their 2008 Kawasaki Color Neon Green ATV as missing from their property. Investiga-

tion ongoing at this time.

Dec. 17 — Deputies arrested Alexa Knight, 37, for aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle in the third degree after a traffic stop in the Town of Pine Plains.

Dec. 24 — Deputies responded to a one-car rollover property damage automobile accident that occurred on State Route 44 in the area of

Smithfield Valley Road. Icy road conditions were reported in the area.

Dec. 27 — Deputies responded to 11 Barton St. in the Village of Millerton for an active disturbance. Caller reports her fiancé’s ex-girlfriend at location banging on door. All subjects were gone upon arrival.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned

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

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

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