



What is the spongy moth? **A3**



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awaits word
on L&D
closure **A2**

Second chance
at love; Revenge
movies, and
more **B1-4**



Jumpfest Ski Jump Program *Inside*

**CELEBRATING
MILESTONES
IN BUSINESS**
Special Banner, Pages A6-8

By JOHN COSTON
johnc@millertonnews.com

At issue are close to 60 acres of land initially included in the planned project that no longer are available to the company for hosting up to

The project has been greeted with community opposition since it was announced in 2017 and opponents repeatedly have taken their case to court without success. The project footprint spans 880 acres with a solar array covering about 220 acres. The installation would

“It is unclear why Hecate failed to disclose the expiration of the lease option for the Property when it occurred, in September

See SOLAR, PAGE B5



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUREMAN

Storybook co-owner Mackenzie Killmer with her mom, Vincenza

By **NATALIA ZUKERMAN**
nataliaz@millertonnews.com

Storybook Café is different. It's light and spacious while still being

Killmer has had a lifelong dream of opening such a coffeeshop, but she didn't think it would be for at least another 10 years. The dream took shape unexpectedly, thanks in part to Jamie, the former owner of Rosey's. As fate would have it,

See STORYBOOK CAFÉ, PAGE A8

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

Page has kept its same location in Armenia, at 5291 US-44, since



PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Assistant manager Juan Rivera, left, with employee Olivia McKechnie and, in the background, salesperson Gordon Scofield at H.G. Page in Amenia.



H.G. Page in Armenia.

The recent manager transferred to the Pawling store and has not yet been replaced. Juan Rivera, or JR, is the assistant manager, and has been with H.G. Page for 24 years, start-

ing in the janitorial service and working his way up. He explained the ambience of the store, that it is in attitude "old school" while being modern and savvy in all other manners. But customer service is first and foremost on the minds of the workers, and most seem to enjoy their jobs, which makes buying

See H.G. PAGE, PAGE A8



editor@millertonnews.com
860-435-9873, ext. 608

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Rural hospital
scorecard;
Column, Letters **A5**

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OUR TOWNS

Sharon Hospital awaits word on L&D closure

By RILEY KLEIN
rileyk@lakevillejournal.com

SHARON — The final decision on the fate of Sharon Hospital's labor and delivery (L&D) services is expected to be handed down by the Office of Healthcare Strategy (OHS) in the coming weeks.

Nuvance Health, owner of Sharon Hospital, initially submitted a Certificate of Need (CON) to close its maternity unit in January 2022. Nuvance cited a loss of \$3 million annually and underutilization of the services as its key reasons for closure.

The application was denied by OHS in its proposed decision in August 2023. OHS conditionally ordered Sharon Hospital's maternity services to remain in effect pending an appeal from Nuvance.

The decision stated that the hospital had not succeeded in providing adequate evidence of either financial or safety concerns, nor adequate plans or alternatives for women in labor.

Nuvance subsequently filed an appeal with the state. On Nov. 8, 2023, Nuvance counsel Ted Tucci presented an oral argument for the closure of Sharon Hospital's L&D services.

"This decision threatens Sharon Hospital's ability to continue delivering care to Northwestern Connecticut," said Tucci.

Tucci claimed there were "four major flaws" in the proposed decision: "First, it both violates and at the same time misapplies CON statutory guidelines. Second, it violates the legal standards required for sound agency decisions. Third, review of the reliable record evidence also only supports one conclusion, and that conclusion is that the CON should be approved. Fourth, when you look at the reasons in the proposed decision for refusing to close the L&D unit, those reasons are arbitrary and unreasonable."

Nuvance added that an annual \$3 million loss in the L&D unit is unsustainable for Sharon Hospital. Said Tucci: "The decision says that this \$3 million annual loss is 'negligible.' I guess that's true when compared to the nearly \$24, \$25 million deficits that the

hospital is running. Sharon Hospital is in crisis."

On the issue of adequate plans or alternatives for women in labor, Nuvance proposed the women can find a new hospital.

"There are five other area hospitals that can easily absorb Sharon Hospital's minimal volume," said Tucci.

Concerned citizens and members of the Save Sharon Hospital group are also eagerly awaiting the final decision.

"Our community continues to require access to local, high-quality labor and delivery services. If OHS chooses to accept Nuvance's application to close the maternity unit at Sharon Hospi-

tal in its Final Decision, there could be dire consequences. Pregnant families should not have to drive long distances on country roads to deliver a baby, especially in emergent situations. I am confident that OHS will confirm its well-researched and well thought out Proposed Final Decision, and will deny Nuvance's application to close maternity at Sharon Hospital," said Lydia Moore, president of Save Sharon Hospital, in a statement to The Lakeville Journal.

Moore gave birth to her daughter at Sharon Hospital in 2023. The pending decision from OHS will decide if Moore's child was among the last babies born at the hospital.



PHOTO BY RHIANNON LEO-JAMESON

Supper club success

Organizer Lenny Sutton, standing right, led a group of 22 happy diners gathered in the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex at 28 Century Blvd. Wednesday, Jan 17, for the inaugural meeting of the Supper Club, which featured soups, stews and chowders. Originally planned for every other month, it was such a success that diners asked to change to monthly meetings. Sutton led the group as they determined that the next potluck meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 21, at 6 p.m. in the Annex and center on "Veggie Delights" supplied by attendees.

Speed limits drop, water bills rise in Millbrook

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — While the Wednesday, Jan. 10, meeting of the Millbrook Village Board did not achieve its goal of voting on a resolution on short-term rentals (STR), the trustees did pass a resolution to lower the villagewide speed limit laws to 25 mph.

The new speed limit does not apply to Franklin Avenue, which is state-owned.

"Since half of the new signs are for traffic turning from Franklin, we will await implementation until DOT [New York State Department of Transportation] responds to my request to lower the speed limit on Franklin to 25 mph, which is expected in the next few months," Mayor Tim Collopy wrote in his monthly newsletter.

A yellow notice will be

posted above signs with the new speed limit, calling attention to the change.

The trustees voted to accept a proposed \$20 per water meter fixed charge to each quarterly bill in addition to the \$7.50 per 1,000 gallons of water used. This additional charge is effective immediately and will show up in the January bill. This is necessary to prevent a projected shortfall in the water revenues this fiscal year.

It was also noted that the Town of Washington (TOW) will not be leasing the Guertin Gym for its recreation department, though it had done that for several years.

The lease would have covered the cost of heat, light and maintenance over the year, but TOW wanted to pay only that portion of the contract when youth basketball is in play.

The period of December through April eats up 80% of the annual heating costs, so the

village would be operating at a loss. Therefore, it was decided not to continue the contract and the gym is being closed. It can be opened for groups willing to pay the operating costs.

Also, a note from Collopy stated that the need for blood donations is critical. Eligible residents are asked to consider donating blood at one of the Red Cross blood drives held throughout Dutchess County, including at the Millbrook firehouse, 20 Front St. Pre-registration is required through www.redcrossblood.org and the next drives at the Firehouse are scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 13, and Friday, March 1.

The next village meeting will be held Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. at the firehouse, at which time another public hearing will be held on local STR laws, and a vote will most likely take place at that time, 6 p.m. at the Millbrook firehouse.

Corrections

In and article on page A8 of the Jan. 18 issue, Kathy Chow was incorrectly identified as the newest member of the North East/Millerton Climate Smart Task Force. Chow has actively headed the effort since its creation; the newest member is Kath-

leen Spahn.

In an article on page A8 of the Jan. 18 issue, Natashea Winters, the director of programs and learning for the Foundation for Community Health, was misidentified.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: That a meeting of the owners of lots in Irondale Cemetery Inc. located in Millerton N.Y 12546 will be held at North East Muffler, 5654 rt 22 Millerton N.Y 12546, on January 29th 2024 at 6:00 pm. For the purpose of electing trustees and for such other matters that may properly come before the meeting.

The annual meeting of the trustees will immediately follow the meeting of the lot owners.

Cindy L. Heck
Irondale Cemetery Sexton
01-11-24
01-18-24
01-25-24

Notice of Receipt of Tax Roll and Warrant

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Eileen Ciaburri the Tax Collector for the Town of Pine Plains, has received the Tax Roll for 2024 and will be collecting taxes during the month of February 2024 at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199 East, Pine Plains New York, on Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10:00AM to 1:00 PM and during the months of March, April & May on Tuesday and Thursday 10:00Am-1:00PM. Taxes collected through the month of February 2024 are without penalty. Penalties are levied as follows: March 2 percent, April 3 percent, May 4 percent.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE, that pursuant to the provisions of the law, the Tax Roll of the Town of Pine Plains will be returned to the County Treasurer of the County of Dutchess on the first day of June 2024.

Eileen Ciaburri
Tax Collector
Town of Pine Plains
01-25-24
02-01-24

TOWN OF AMENIA PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to NYS Town Law § 277 and Chapter 105 of the Town of Amenia Code, the Planning Board

of the Town of Amenia will hold a public hearing on the application by Michael Levin and Laurence DeSegonzac Levin (the "Applicants") for a lot line adjustment (the "Application") between lands located at 173-279 Amenia Union Road and 103 Leedsville Road in the Town of Amenia that are designated Parcel Grid Identification ## 7266-00-340380 and 7266-00-165686, respectively (the "Project Site"). The Project Site is located in the Rural Agricultural zoning district.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board hold the public hearing on the Application on February 14, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, New York 12501.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the Application is on file in the Amenia Planning and Zoning Office for public viewing and inspection during normal business hours. The Application can also be viewed and downloaded from the Town's official website at www.ameniany.gov.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hear all persons interested in the Application at the public hearing noticed herein. All persons may appear at the hearing in person or by agent and may also submit written comments to the Planning Board at or prior to such hearing by emailing comments to Planning Board Secretary Judy Westfall at jwestfall@ameniany.gov.

Dated: January 18, 2024.
Robert Boyles, Jr.,
Chairman
Town of Amenia
Planning Board
01-25-24

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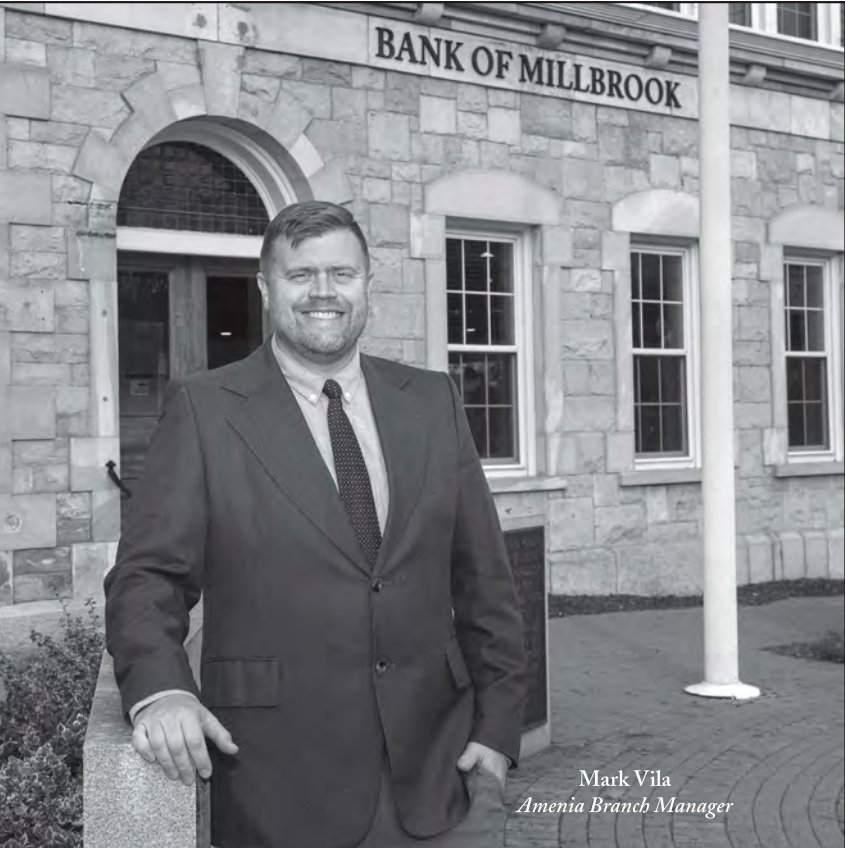
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OUR TOWNS

What is the spongy moth, and what is it doing to our forests?

By ROBIN RORABACK
Special to The Millerton News

MILLBROOK — One of the major factors in the cycle of the spongy moth and its proliferation turns out to be acorns.

Spongy moths, formerly referred to as gypsy moths for their itinerant ways, were the topic of a lecture Thursday, Jan. 11, by scientists Clive Jones, who has studied the spongy moth for 30 years, and Charles Canham, who has studied northeastern forests for 40 years. Both are emeritus scientists of Cary Institute of Ecosystems Studies, which hosted the lecture.

Natives of Europe and Asia, the moths came to North America in 1868 or 1869, to Medford, Massachusetts because an amateur entomologist named Etienne Trouvelot believed he could breed them with silkworms “to make a hardy silkworm.”

“He got some egg masses of the spongy moth and set them on the sill of his open window. When they blew into his garden, he could not find them,” said Jones.

By 1891, there was mass defoliation in the Medford area and spongy moths were found in a 200-square-mile area. From there, they began to spread throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Alone, the spongy moth travels by ballooning on silk threads; assisted, humans unwittingly transport eggs laid on cut logs or vehicles.

The life of the spongy moth could be said to begin in July and August, the moths’ mating season. The flightless females each lay a few hundred eggs, often at the bases of trees. When the moth population is high, they’ll lay eggs anywhere — on garden furniture, or the bumper of a car.

Then, the following May, the eggs hatch. The larvae spend May and June ballooning to new locations on silken threads. They rest under trees during the day, then go up into the tree canopy at night to feed. They prefer oaks but also eat maple, beech, apple, hickory, willow and birch trees, among others.

When the population is very dense and the competi-

tion for food is fiercer, they may eat all day and night. Once a tree is defoliated, they move to the next canopy.

In late June and July, the larvae pupate — a caterpillar-to-moth metamorphosis that lasts a couple of weeks — then they emerge and breed and the cycle begins again.

Of acorns and outbreaks
Jones explained that “outbreaks” — or high densities of spongy moths — “occur about every 10 years on average, but like any average, it does not mean there will be outbreaks like clockwork.”

A fact Tri Corner residents well know. Spongy moths have been defoliating local forests for the last three years running; in June 2022, trail hikers reported that the caterpillars were falling from the canopies “like rain.”

There are two major causes of outbreaks, he continued. One is “high female fecundity,” for example: If one moth laid 500 eggs and 250 were female, 125 of those would live to maturity and lay eggs. The following year could yield over 15,000 eggs.

The other cause of outbreaks is the collapse of the white-footed mouse population, he said. White-footed mice eat the pupae as a part of their omnivorous diet.

At this point, we reach the subject of acorns:

“The number of mice is determined by the number of acorns the previous fall,”



PHOTO BY PETER STEINER

Spongy moths have been defoliating trees in the Tri Corner area for the last three years, but Cary Institute scientists predict a moth population collapse this year.

Jones continued. When there is a moderate to large acorn crop in the fall, more mice survive the winter and begin breeding earlier in the year, in late winter or early spring, he said. When that happens, there is an “extra generation” of mice, meaning more mice to eat more moth pupae.

Studies at the Cary Institute concluded that “when the mouse population declines, the spongy moth population increases.”

However, defoliation of oaks can cause the trees to produce fewer acorns, meaning less food for the mice, meaning fewer mice the following spring, meaning more moths, and so on, until the moth population collapses

again.

Population collapse
There are three major causes of population collapse among the moths.

One is a fungus, *Entomophaga maimaiga*, which kills the moth at moderate and high densities. It likes cool, wet springs and is more abundant in those conditions.

The more common cause of collapse is Nuclear Polyhedrosis Virus (NPV): When the moths are at high density, they are more stressed by the struggle to find food. Their immunity drops, they are more likely to catch the virus, and many are killed.

The third cause of moth population collapse is lack of food: When they defoliate a



PHOTO BY LORI QUILLEN

Female spongy moths laying eggs on a black oak

large area of trees and run out of food too early, they can’t mature and proceed to egg laying.

Jones said that Cary Institute scientists predict an NPV collapse in 2024: “Whether or not there’ll be a lot or a little defoliation [this year] will really depend on how fast the virus moves through the population. If it moves slowly, there’ll be complete defoliation. If it goes through fast, there’ll be incomplete defoliation.”

The defoliated tree
Canham continued the lecture by saying, “Defoliation by caterpillars is rarely a direct and immediate cause of tree mortality.”

Canham explained that

this is due to “carbohydrate economy”: “Basically, photosynthesis during the growing season produces the sugars needed to produce new tissues, and the energy those tissues need for their metabolism.”

“But the even more important outcome of a good growing season is the profit leftover after meeting those immediate needs, and that profit is in the form of sugars and starches that act as reserves for use next year.”

Usually, unless the tree is weakened by other factors, it will draw on its reserves to get through this defoliation and produce more leaves that same year.

An exception that Canham has observed at Cary Institute is the understory hemlocks, which don’t make as many reserves and, after a couple years of defoliation in a row, may not recover. Needle trees, the Department of Environmental Conservation has noted, can die if they lose more than 50% of their foliage.

Canham said he worries more about the devastating effects of the emerald ash borer, longhorn beetle, spotted lantern fly and hemlock woolly adelgid than about the spongy moth.

He said if a tree is in crisis, you can help it by watering it.

For more information or to watch the lecture, go to www.caryinstitute.org/news-insights/lecture-video/spongy-moth-our-yards-and-forests

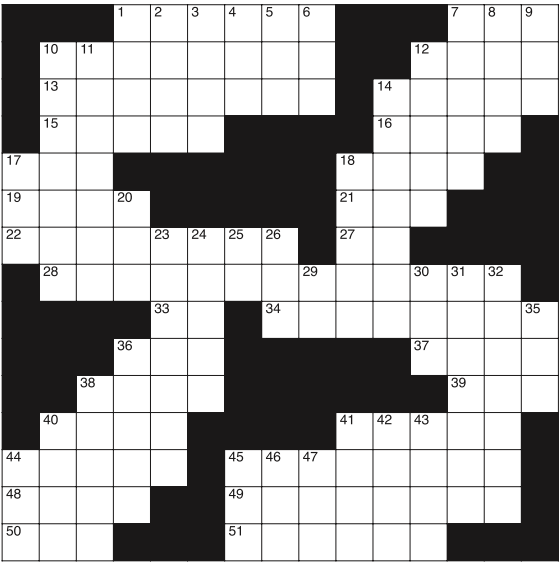
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Winged nut
- 7. ___ Humbug!
- 10. One who sets apart
- 12. Circle above a saint’s head
- 13. Unpleasantly loud and harsh
- 14. Expressed pleasure
- 15. Feminine given name
- 16. Company of badgers
- 17. Popular Dodge pickup truck
- 18. Witty sayings
- 19. Leader
- 21. Autonomic nervous system
- 22. Premolar
- 27. Atomic #28
- 28. Holiday decorative item
- 33. Exclamation of surprise
- 34. Rusk or cracker
- 36. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- 37. Scottish or Irish Gaelic language
- 38. Eat
- 39. Marxist economics theory (abbr.)
- 40. Ceases to exist
- 41. Male Arabic name
- 44. Series of ridges on an organ wall
- 45. Places where bees are kept
- 48. One-time Yankees sensation Kevin
- 49. Church office
- 50. Single lens reflex
- 51. Pieces of fibrous tissue

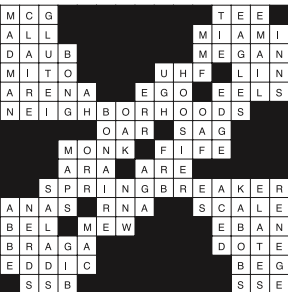
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Classify
- 2. Dismounted
- 3. Produced
- 4. Consumed
- 5. Director Howard
- 6. The products of human creativity
- 7. Thai monetary units

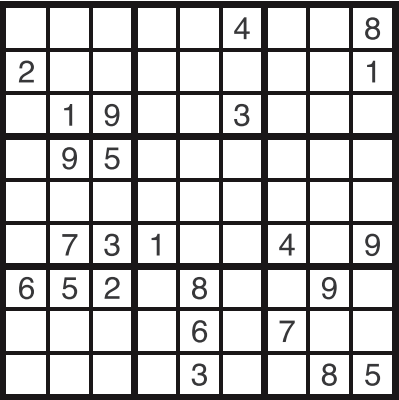


- 8. Away from wind
- 9. Builder’s trough
- 10. Relating to Islam
- 11. It can sometimes ache (Scot.)
- 14. Poisonous plant
- 17. Laugh at
- 18. Vogul
- 20. C. European river
- 23. Type of cat
- 24. Exclamation of disgust
- 25. Stephen King novel
- 26. Without armies
- 29. Expression of sympathy
- 30. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 31. Previously
- 32. Illegal drug
- 35. Kiloelectronvolt
- 36. Large, flightless birds
- 38. For smoking
- 40. Binary
- 41. Competition
- 42. Mark resembling an arrow
- 43. Containers
- 44. Root mean square (abbr.)
- 45. Commercials
- 46. I.M., architect
- 47. 007’s creator

Jan. 18 Solution

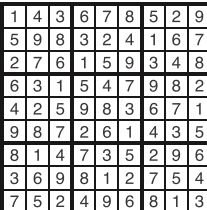


Sudoku



Level: Intermediate

Jan. 18 Solution



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OBITUARIES

Alan Honour

MILLERTON — Alan Honour, 78, a seventy-six year resident of Millerton, and a two year resident of Sheffield died peacefully on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, at his home in Sheffield with his loving wife Anne at his bedside. Mr. Honour was a retired dairy farmer. He owned and operated the Honour Farm in Millerton, a family farm which was in continuous operation for 122 years.

Born July 9, 1945 in Sharon, he was the son of the late Henderson and Mary (Westfall) Honour. Mr. Honour attended school in Pine Plains, and also in Webutuck. On April 15, 1972 in Sheffield, he married Anne Saunders. Their loving marriage lasted nearly fifty-two years. Mrs. Honour survives at home in Sheffield.

Mr. Honour had a lifelong passion for farming and raised some of the finest dairy cattle in Eastern Dutchess County. He was a longtime member of the Holstein Association and will forever be remembered as a neighbor and friend who would always lend a hand to a colleague in need and was the go-to-guy and jack-of-all-trades when anything needed repair. His love for the land and his respect for his noble profession created many wonderful memories for both his family and his contemporaries. In his later years, Mr. Honour became a woodworking and metal fabrication artisan and produced many artisanal pieces with his skill and attention to detail. He will be dearly missed by his beloved family and his many friends.



The family would like to extent their deepest appreciation and thanks to the nurses and staff at Hospice Care in The Berkshires for their compassionate care during Alan's final days. Their kindness and understanding will not soon be forgotten.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Honour is survived by three children; Holly Aragi and her husband Louie of Sheffield, Alan Honour, Jr. of Sheffield and Adam Honour of Connecticut; three grandchildren, Rebecca Pratt, Abby Finn and Hope Coon all of Sheffield; four great grandchildren, William Wyllys "Ochie" Pratt VIII, Elijah Henderson Pratt, Lillian Coon and Madalyn Finn; his brother, Danne Honour of Amenia and his sister, Melanie Vladick and her husband George of Clinton Corners, New York and several nieces and nephews. Mr. Honour was predeceased by his brother Dale Honour in 2002.

A private family viewing will be held Monday, Jan. 22, 2024, at the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Ave., Millerton. A private funeral service at the funeral home will follow. Pastor William Mayhew will officiate. Burial will take place in the family plot at Smithfield Cemetery in Amenia. Memorial contributions may be made to Hospice Care in The Berkshires, 877 South St., Suite 1W, Pittsfield, MA 01201 or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com

Lucy Josephine L. Soper

LAKEVILLE — With sorrow and love, we share the passing of our dear mother and my wife, Lucy Josephine L. (Locantore) Soper of Lakeville. Lucy was born on May 22, 1933, the daughter of Joseph and Katie Locantore.



She was born in Bronx, New York, at that time referred to as "Little Italy." During WWII so many Italians moved from Italy to the United States and seemed to settle in this area. Lucy enjoyed her childhood in the Bronx and later in New London, Connecticut, with her sisters Hyacinth and Linda. She was predeceased by both sisters; may they be reunited in heaven.

She leaves behind her loving husband Joe, two devoted sons, Glenn and David, four Grandchildren, Katie, Ben, Chris and William as well as two nieces: Paula and Lisa and a nephew Steven.

Lucy worked for the Phone Company in New London, as secretary to the president for several years. She was a stenographer and loved her occupation.

Joe first met Lucy at a place called "Roseland Ballroom" in New York City. Within a few months they were making wedding plans. On Oct. 22, 2023, Joe and Lucy celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary.

Lucy and Joe lived in Lakeville for 58 years where they raised their two boys and enjoyed the pleasures of a small, close-knit town.

Lucy was a wonderful cook and baker. She enjoyed preparing wonderful Italian meals for her extended family. She was also known in town for her delicious baked goods. Her baked goods were always in big demand at the annual church fundraiser.

Once Joe and Lucy became empty nesters they began vacationing often on the East Coast and taking cruises with her sister Hyacinth and brother-in-law Paul.

In later years they moved to Noble Horizons where they enjoyed their remaining years together.

The family would like to thank the wonderful caregivers who helped support her through her last few years, including Hasmik, and staff from Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County and Noble Horizons. The love and kinship she engendered around her was truly remarkable. Every one of the caregivers enjoyed her beautiful smile. We all are humbled and grateful for the time spent by her side.

Calling Hours are Friday, Jan. 26, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in N. Canaan, CT. Funeral will be Saturday, Jan. 27, at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Church in Lakeville, CT.

At the request of the family, in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Visiting Nurse & Hospice of Litchfield County, 32 Union St., Winsted, CT 06098

SALISBURY — Kitty Benedict died Jan. 11, 2024, at Geer Village after several years struggling with Alzheimer's disease. She died peacefully surrounded by her compassionate caretakers at Geer and her niece, Nancy Bayersdorfer. Nancy and her husband, David, looked after Kitty selflessly with love, cared for all her needs while living at home and since 2022 when she went to Geer Village.

Kitty was born in Summit, New Jersey, on Sept. 6, 1934, the daughter of the late Katherine Taber Benedict and the late Horace Guion Benedict. She was predeceased by her beloved husband, Foxhall Parker Jones and her much missed sister, Anne Nightingale.

Kitty graduated cum laude in English, from Smith College in 1956. "Smith was a great place to study. I loved the challenges of new subjects, exams, writing, singing, touring England, France, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Yugoslavia, implanting in me a never-ending desire to travel, particularly Italy."

After graduation Kitty worked at Harper and Brothers (Harper Collins) in New York City managing to work her way up from a 'short-hand taking' secretary to senior editor. Kitty took a few leaves from Harpers. One was to study Russian at Yale, another on a Fulbright to live in Italy and another on a Johns Hopkins scholarship to live in Bologna, Italy and then back to work at Harpers where she was the editor for Dan Rath-er's book, "The Palace Guard."

After Harpers, Kitty went on to work at Macmillan Publishers for a few years and then on to help a friend set up his own trade paperback house.

Kitty wrote 3 books. One on the French Revolution, another on the first five presidents and one on eminent women writers for young adult readers. She put together a book for the Connecticut Housing Coalition lobbying group dedicated to affordable housing.

Jennifer N. Carroll

POUGHKEEPSIE — Jennifer N. Carroll, 52, of Mill Street, died unexpectedly on Monday, Jan. 15. She was the loving mother of Michael Rodriguez.



Jennifer was born in Brooklyn, New York, on June 6, 1970, the daughter of Fatimah Abdullah and the late Patrick Ribustello. Jennifer attended Webutuck School and the Job Corps. She moved back to Dutchess County to raise her son.

She worked for McCabe and Mack Law Firm for 26 years as a legal secretary. She had a love for animals which kept her in touch with nature. She would rescue and fix stray cats. She was a volunteer for

Opera, musical theater and music has been a passion for Kitty since junior high school. She has sung with many choruses, her favorite being Crescendo Chorus, directed by Christine Gevert. Kitty continued her love of opera, often going to the Met in NYC for performances. She claimed one of the most exhilarating experiences she had was being in "My Fair Lady" at the Sharon Playhouse in 2015. Kitty met the 'love of her life', Foxhall Parker Jones who also worked at Harpers, and they were married in 1974, "a very happy, fortunate choice. He was an adorable, kind, loving and funny husband with 5 children! Fox's brilliant blue eyes, red hair, sweet face, his deep laughing voice, his touch; everything about him pleased me. How lucky I was to have known and loved him for 36 years."

Kitty held numerous roles serving as a board member, committee member, a fundraiser for nonprofit organizations, community groups and charitable foundations. This list is just a few of her countless contributions: Scoville Library, Housatonic Mental Health Center, Crescendo Music, Salisbury Family Services, Hospice of Litchfield County, Housatonic Child Care Center, Berkshire Hills Music and Dance and Democratic Town Committee. Over the years, she could often be seen standing with the peace vigil group on Saturdays on the Salisbury green. To quote Dan Dwyer, a good friend. "Kitty was a real swell —smart, witty, engaging and engaged. She worked effortlessly on several fundraisers here in town with me. And she was faithfully one of the 'usual suspects' who would take to the barricades for issues locally and beyond."

Kitty was a beautiful athlete. Tennis was her favorite. She was one of those people who played golf a few times a year, but played as if she practiced every day. She loved

many years at the Dutchess County SPCA. She was a dedicated mother, a good friend and had a kind heart.

Besides her son, Michael and her mother Fatimah, Jennifer is survived by sisters Rachel Carroll and Heather Barney and a brother Nick Cicarelli. Besides her father she was also predeceased by a brother, Vincent Cicarelli.

Calling hours will be held Friday, Jan. 26, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Kenny Funeral Home, 41 Main St., Sharon, CT. Burial is private at Fern-cliff Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the SPCA.



doing her swimming laps at Lion's Head pool and would play paddle tennis during the winter.

Kitty leaves her 5 step-children, L. Parker Jones (Parkie) of Newburyport, Massachusetts, and her daughter, Lily Baker of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Howland Jones (Casey) of Danbury and son, Sam Foxhall Jones of Wilton, Molly Westbrook Jones of Littleton, Massachusetts, Brian Strong Jones, of Brooklyn, New York, and Dylan Russell Jones of Boston, Massachusetts. Kitty's 3 nephews; Frank Nightingale of Phoenix, Arizona; Guion Nightingale and wife, Darla of North Owasso, Oklahoma and Tom Nightingale and his wife, Karen of Alta Loma, California and many great nieces and nephews. Her niece, Nancy Russell Bayersdorfer and husband, David Bayersdorfer of Lakeville, Leslie Jones Allyn and

husband, McGee Allyn. And Nancy and Leslie's respective children and grandchildren.

Kitty leaves her many cousins originally from Montgomery, Alabama, whom she spent much time with as a young girl and had such fond childhood memories. She leaves many great friends from kindergarten to more recent times.

We thank all who cared for Kitty at Geer Village. You are angels on this earth.

Family and friends are invited to her funeral service at Trinity Lime Rock Church, 484 Lime Rock Road, Lakeville, CT, on Feb. 17 at 11 a.m. Please join us for a reception at the church following the service. Burial will be at a later date.

Ryan Funeral Home, 255 Main St., Lakeville, is assisting Kitty's family with arrangements. (ryanfhct.com)

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Crescendo Music (crescendomusic.org) or Scoville Memorial Library (scovillelibrary.org)



Worship Services

Week of January 28, 2023

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

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Transitioning through prayer
All welcome to join us
860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Rev. Paul Christopherson
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
In-Person and on You-Tube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org
860-435-9290

North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC
Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people
172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT
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www.Facebook.com/northcanaancongregational
860-824-7232

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Rabbi Jon Haddon
845-373-8264
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
10:00 a.m. Family Worship
Coffee Hour
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The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Lee Gangaware
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Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m.
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30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
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Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons
The next meeting will be
Sunday, February 11 at 10:30 a.m.
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com
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EDITORIAL

Rural hospital scorecard

The past few months have been witness to a string of decisions from the Connecticut Office of Health Strategy (OHS) regarding applications from rural hospitals that want to end labor and delivery services.

OHS was created in 2018 and is responsible for developing and implementing a comprehensive health care vision for the state, and requires certain types of providers to obtain state approval prior to making major changes that could alter the healthcare landscape.

The current OHS scorecard shows two proposed denials and one approval. But it’s not over yet.

Sharon Hospital has been at the forefront in our corner. Last August, the state issued a proposed final decision denying the hospital’s request. Citing losses of more than \$20 million in a single year, the hospital, part of the Nuvance Health, estimated that closing the maternity unit would save \$3 million in large part by enabling the hospital to employ some 18 fewer staff members, and cut down on physician fees incurred by after-hours surgery and anesthesia services. In its proposed final decision denying the request, OHS noted that despite losses in fiscal year 2021, its parent Nuvance Health had an excess of revenue over expenses. Many factors are under scrutiny, including an aging demographic that wants access to primary and preventive care, behavioral healthcare and maternal and child healthcare. Births occur on only 45% of days in the year at Sharon Hospital.

Approval with terms

Last month, the state granted approval to another rural hospital that sought permission to end labor and delivery. Windham Hospital near Willimantic had been denied permission the year before. The Hartford Healthcare hospital’s green light this time came with terms: It must conduct an independent study of the need for a birthing center, and if one is justified, Windham Hospital must find a provider or operate such a facility itself. In addition, the hospital will be required to provide transportation for expectant mothers in addition to providing prenatal and postpartum care.

And just last week, OHS denied Trinity Health of New England’s application to close the labor and delivery unit at Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford Springs. OHS noted that the hospital failed to demonstrate that closing the labor and delivery service would improve accessibility and cost effectiveness of health care delivery in the region. Just as in the case of Sharon Hospital’s denial late last summer, Johnson Memorial has a channel of appeal.

In Sharon Hospital’s case, its oral appeal took place in November before OHS’ Executive Director Deirdre Gifford. Lawyers for Sharon Hospital cited four major flaws in OHS’ proposed final decision, and they concluded that the “policy choice that best serves patients is to transform Sharon Hospital into a resource that delivers the right care in the right place at the right time.” (See story on Page A2.)

OHS’ Gifford will have the final say to uphold, reverse or modify the proposed final decision. Her ruling is anxiously awaited in eastern Dutchess County and in Northwest Connecticut, where the Save Sharon Hospital group has been campaigning against the change for years.

Gifford is no stranger to the healthcare world. Prior to her OHS role, she led the state Department of Social Services from June 2019 until January 2023. In May 2020, as the COVID-19 pandemic intensified, Gov. Ned Lamont appointed her acting commissioner of the Department of Public Health. Before serving in Connecticut, Gifford was deputy director for the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services from 2016 to 2019.

Good spellers, new cars, and a bowling record

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

“Good Spellers at Millerton Free School”: The following had 100 percent in the spelling test in the first and second grades: Helen Finn, Jean Van de Bogart, Dellaverne Booth, Richard Guptill, Charles Barth, Violet Campbell, Walter Miller, Mildred Segelkin. Those having perfect spelling all week in the third grade were Dorothy Silvernale, Jane Silvernale, Elizabeth Snyder, Bernard Skolsky, Miriam Swanson, and Virginia Mathews.

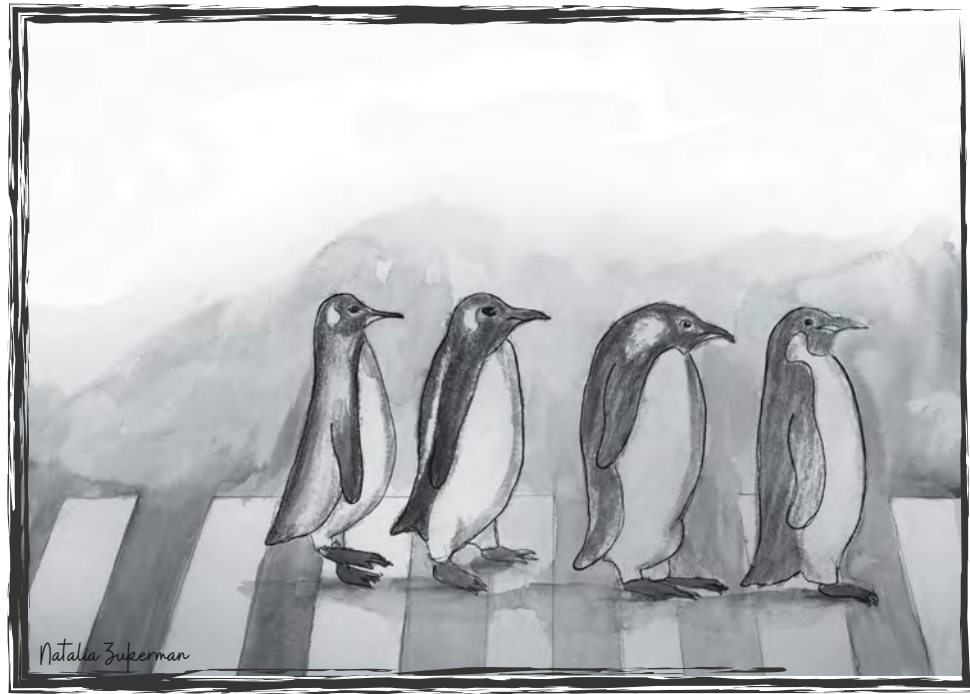
FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

Dr. Harry Tripp will hold a free clinic at his office on Monday afternoon, beginning at 1 o’clock. At this time he will examine the eyes of six children selected by their school teachers, and where needed, supply glasses free of charge.

The Friday afternoon auction bridge club met last week at the home of Mrs. Sidney Shufelt. The prize was won by Miss Blanche Bates.

“Owners of New Cars”:



“I dunno why. The chickens said this would be fun.”

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Questioning Pine Plains’ solar decision

I was a resident of Pine Plains last year and attended every Planning Board meeting regarding the Carson project.

I oppose the Pine Plains Planning Board’s decision to greenlight the Carson solar project. This is because they did not follow the PB’s lawyer’s publicly offered legal advice at the March 22nd meeting — (at the 30 minute mark on the video at the Planning Board’s YouTube page) — when the lawyer clearly recommended that the Planning Board get Carson to “do a balloon test with balloons, or something akin to a balloon test...with balloons or sticks that can be observed from a distance”... “before trees leafed-out” [because it] “would be the best way to evaluate the visual impacts.”

Instead of this test—which would have also allowed the entire community a see the actual visual impact the pro-

posed project would have for the 6 months of the year when the trees are leafless — the PB substituted a CAD generated 3D-simulation made by Saratoga Associates — a firm hired by Carson.

In my opinion, the CAD information generated by the subcontractor and presented to the PB minimized the visual impact, and that’s why I believe the PB decided it was not a serious adverse impact.

What makes the PB’s decision faulty, in my opinion, is not just that they disobeyed their lawyer’s public advice, and not just that they relied on a simulation, but they also relied on a simulation that the consultant from Saratoga Associates admitted at the meeting on May 10th. He said that their 3D simulation relied on source LIDAR to generate their 3D simulations that was not as accurate as the information gathered by Hudson Valley Forestry, the firm hired by Carson to perform

an actual tree survey at the site. Saratoga admitted that in the LIDAR they used, the tree height was an approximation — (as were the width of the trees and the leaves on the trees I might add). He said — (at the 50 minute mark) — “the on-site physical survey of trees of the location was more accurate than the information they used to create the 3D-simulation of community impact.”

This means that the PPPB not only disobeyed their lawyer’s public advice, but then chose to rely on a simulation generated by the applicant’s subcontractor who admitted they had relied on less than fully accurate data. This makes their decision not to require a SEQRA review, and to skip Environmental Impact Study, completely inadequate and invalid.

In my opinion, if this faulty decision is allowed to stand by the Court, it will make it easier for large, industrial,

commercial/for-profit solar projects to proliferate — NOT just in Pine Plains, but in the surrounding rural communities, despoiling the beauty, serenity, the agricultural character of our region.

Other towns in our area have taken legal steps to ensure that large, commercial-projects like Carson do not proliferate. The Pine Plains Town Board has instituted a moratorium on large commercial solar projects to investigate what they can do to strengthen their protections, but they allowed Carson project to proceed before the strengthened protections take effect.

So now it is up to the Court to do the right thing and pause the project, order a SEQRA review to accurately measure its impacts, and protect what we all love about this area, and the reason we live here.

Daniel Aronstein
Millerton

Support for Vicki Doyle on Amenia board

I am writing to support Vicki Doyle to take the seat of Leo Blackman who has now become our Supervisor. I have known of Vicki’s hard work on the behalf of our

town for the past 20 years. She has worked tirelessly to support fairness in government, and has done so much more with the Enhancement committee, Earth Day Clean

Up, and her work to encourage young people to express their creativity. She ran for office this fall and lost by 10 votes. Isn’t she the perfect candidate to fill this seat until November?

Two of our Town Board members are offering other candidates, but one has to ask

why? One of these candidates won by only 10 votes and I hope he can remember he was elected to represent us. She is the most qualified candidate for this position and I hope rational behavior will prevail.

Marsha Kaufman
Wassaic

Amenia Pancake Breakfast success

On Sunday, Jan. 21, the Amenia Fire Company sponsored its monthly Pancake Breakfast. We were pleased to have a nice crowd of 203 people in attendance for our annual meal. We rely on the breakfasts to raise needed money for general operations and we always appreciate the

support of the community. We thank everyone who attended our meal, and we will return again on Feb. 18.

Andy Murphy,
on behalf of the Breakfast Committee of Amenia Fire Co. and Auxiliary Amenia

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Volume 93, Number 1

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Mission Statement

The Lakeville Journal Company, Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, and to foster the free flow of information and opinion.

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

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Congratulations on all the years of doing business in our communities

Milestones in Business

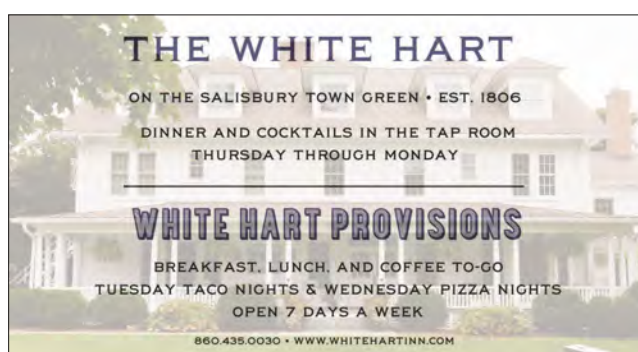
January is traditionally the month during which business owners reflect on the year that is past, and the year that is to come, trying to get a good handle on the economic future. This year, extraordinary in so many ways, has continued to be a challenge for all businesses, but especially small businesses, due to labor shortages and economic uncertainty. Yet, small businesses are an extremely important part of what makes the economy in the Tri-state region work. So, we are focusing this month, as we have for years at this time, on the businesses in our area that would like our

readers to know when they were founded, or some other milestone they feel is significant.

They are mainly what the U.S. Small Business Administration defines as “small” – but together they have real and very meaningful influence on the region’s fiscal health. We salute all those who have maintained and strengthened their businesses and organizations through, and only hope for their continued success beyond.

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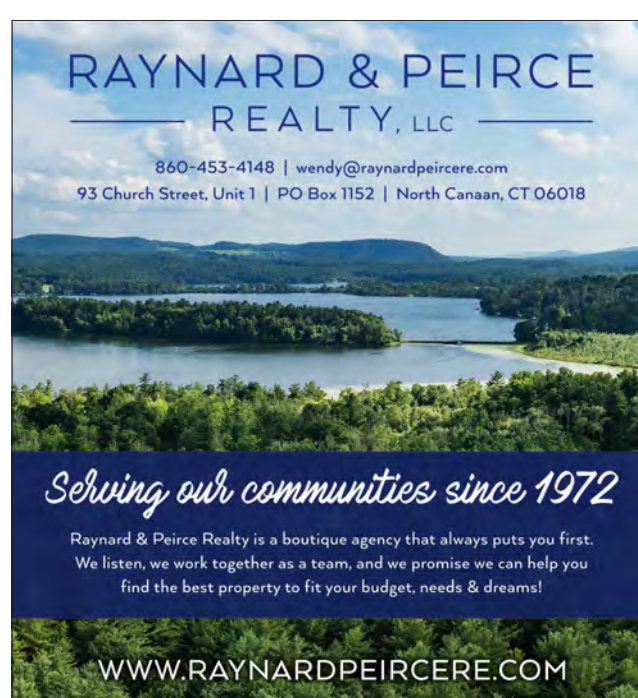
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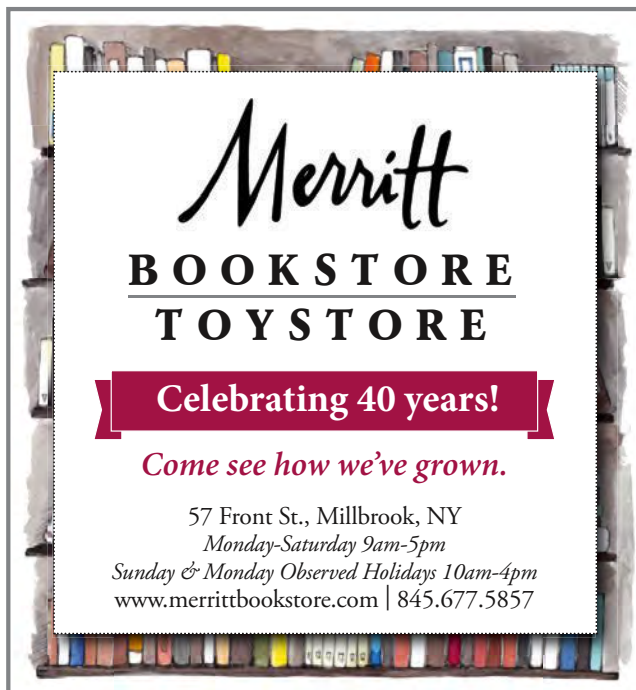
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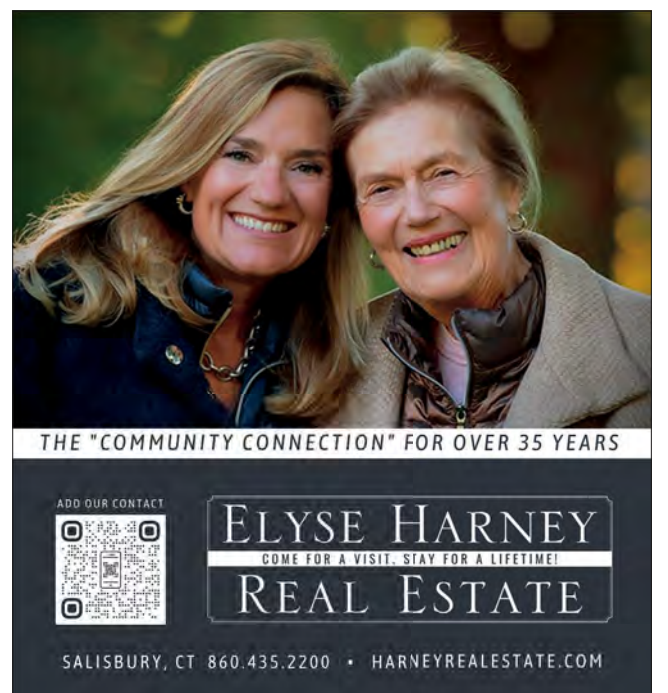
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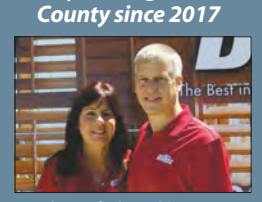
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H.G. PAGE *Continued from Page A1*

there a positive experience. “Happy crew members make happy customers,” said Rivera.

Olivia McKechnie is another Amenia employee who loves working for Page.

“I live in Amenia, so I know a lot of the customers,” said McKechnie. “I like helping them. These are good people to work for.” McKechnie worked there while going to school; she is now happily ensconced in a full-time job there.

She particularly likes working in the paint department, helping people to choose colors and finishes for their projects. She says that with Page, one can build a career, not just be employed.

From the beginning, and the first cement blocks made on Manchester Road in Poughkeepsie, the company has grown to include other

sites and now offers a wide array of building items such as roofing, insulation, lumber, seasonal products, paints and fencing as well as making keys and selling storage products. Landscaping products are also offered.

The Poughkeepsie store stands on the birthplace of H.G. Page Sr. since 1970. And this dedication to tradition and heritage is also instrumental in the Page family remaining dedicated to serving and enhancing the communities in which they thrive.

The company expressed, through a press release, that its 100th anniversary not only marks its commitment to growth and innovation, but also a desire to continue to serve, and to express its gratitude and thanks to the customers who have been unwavering in their loyalty.

STORYBOOK CAFÉ *Continued from Page A1*

I got off the school bus there. I was the kid that cried at snow days because that meant I’d spend the whole day at the Mountain View.”

Her experience in restaurants has primed Killmer for this new endeavor, making her more than ready for a dream she didn’t think would be a reality for many years. Open for just two weeks, the bookstore/café already has regulars. In fact, there’s a wall of mugs where people can come in and pick out their favorite, giving them a sense of belonging and home. Starting out with breakfast favorites and the usuals, they’re already expanding into a lunch menu because, said Killmer, “That’s what people want.”

Friends and relatives make up the kind and friendly staff, with Killmer’s mother, Vincenza, “Vinny,” behind the

counter. They plan on having Lia’s Mountain View-themed menus in the future.

“We’re easing into it,” Killmer sighed, “But come spring, we’re going to do lots of stuff.”

Killmer spoke excitedly about plans for a children’s storytime, poetry readings, book clubs, trivia nights and local author signings, among other events. They’ve already implemented some wonderful programs. Killmer said, “Starting Feb. 1, every month, we’ll have a local charity and 25% of all book sales will get donated to that charity.” Paperbacks are listed at \$8, hardcovers are \$10, and children get a free book every time they come in. Said Killmer: “I don’t think kids should pay to read, so they can take a book for free, but they have to read it. And that’s the only rule.”

In just two weeks, Storybook Café has become more than a place to grab a cup of coffee; it’s a testament to life-long dreams realized, community bonds strengthened, and the enduring magic of books. As the pages of this story continue to unfold, Pine Plains is the lucky recipient of a new favorite spot. Killmer shared her excitement and many plans for the future, but most importantly, she shared, “I just want it to be a neighborhood spot for everyone, a place for people to hang out and feel comfortable.”

Storybook Café is located at 2987 Church St. in Pine Plains. It’s open Wednesday through Monday for breakfast. For more information and to book events, email kenzie@storybook-cafe.com. Follow on Instagram and Facebook @Storybook-CafeNY

OBITUARIES

Jean E. Brendline

HUDSON — Jean E. Brendline, 89, a lifelong area resident, died Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, at Ghent Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Ghent, New York.

Mrs. Brendline worked as a waitress at the Cozy Corner in Amenia, and at the Waldorf in Sharon, where she was loved and admired by her many loyal patrons. Later in her life, she served as a facilitator for the Hamilton Snack Program in Hamilton, New York, for over ten years. The Brendlines resided in Dutchess County for decades, they also lived in Hamilton for over twenty years prior to returning to this area.

Born Sept. 18, 1934, in Poughkeepsie, she was the daughter of the late Lester F. and Estelle (Pikula) Palmatier. She graduated with the class of 1953 from the Pine Plains High School. On Feb. 5, 1955, at Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia, she married Calvin Edward Brendline. Their loving marriage lasted sixty-five years, until Calvin’s death on May 19, 2020.

Mrs. Brendline was a long-time parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Amenia and she enjoyed playing bingo, baking and word search puzzles in her spare time. “Beaner” or “Watchdog,” as she was affectionately known by her family, loved casinos and was an avid gambler



at Turning Stone and Saratoga Casino Hotel. She will be dearly missed by her loving family and many friends.

Mrs. Brendline is survived by her daughter, Gayle Harrison of Hudson and three sons, Gary A. Brendline of Wappingers Falls, Robert H. Brendline and his wife Karen of Simsbury, and Paul J. Brendline of Hudson; her sister, Doris Glusenkamp of Poughkeepsie; a sister-in-law, Linda Kaye of Millerton; six grandchildren, Heather LaMont, Heidi Rogger, Kristin Garcia and David, Danielle and Joshua Brendline; eleven great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews and many friends. She was predeceased by her son, Calvin E. Brendline Jr. and her sister, Renee Tanner of Florida.

There are no calling hours. A graveside service and burial will take place Monday, Jan. 29, 2024, at 10 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Cemetery, Route 22, Amenia, New York. Memorial contributions may be made to the Greenport Rescue Squad, P.O. Box 275, Hudson, NY 12534.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Ave., Millerton, NY 12546. To send an online condolence to the family, flowers to the service or plant a tree in Jean’s memory, please visit conklinfuneralhome.com

Doris Palmer

KENT — In loving memory of Doris Palmer, a devoted wife, mother, Nana, sister and friend.

She passed peacefully on Jan. 2, 2024. Born on Aug. 5, 1933, to Alvin and Marion Peterson in Queens, New York, she is now reunited with her husband, James A. Palmer, and son, Douglas.

Doris is survived by her sons James Palmer Jr. and his wife Karen, Scott Palmer and his wife Lori, and daughter Kathy Brown and her husband Winn. She leaves behind her cherished grandchildren Jeffrey, Christopher, Melaney, Jessica and Jennifer. She is also survived by her brother Frederick, his wife Joy and family, her nephew William Palmer and his wife Klara, and other extended family who were touched by her warmth and guidance.

Doris was an accomplished quilter, finding joy in creating beautiful works of art and generously shared her passion by teaching others and gifting her quilts.

Throughout her life she set

an example of service to others and her community. She launched a church nursery school, served as President of the Board of the New Milford Visiting Nurse Association, coordinator and driver for FISH of Kent, assistant registrar of voters and long time poll worker, and a member of the Kent Garden Club and Kent Quilters. She was a long active member of St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

Doris leaves behind a legacy of love, creativity, and a deep connection with those fortunate enough to have been part of her life. May her teachings and memories continue to inspire.

Her warm spirit, love, and dedication will be dearly missed.

A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.

Contributions in memory of Doris can be made to the Kent Community Fund, P.O. Box 262, Kent, CT 06757 or The Kent Garden Club at P.O. Box 771, Kent, CT 06757.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

CANNABIS *Continued from Page A1*

cally and is prepared to sell to dispensaries in the region, although he would like to open a local micro-dispensary; he envisions a building with an attractive apothecary look as a beneficial addition to the community.

Councilman Paul Winters supported the concept of opting in, saying that he has been favoring the loosening of cannabis regulations since the 1990s.

Later in the meeting, Winters reopened discussion, indicating that zoning laws would need to be created, and urged that a resolution be created to direct the zoning and planning commissions to prepare for the opting-in process.

“It’s important to proceed properly,” Winters cautioned, mindful of Brown’s statement that provisions can be enacted to limit the location and allowable activity around such operations. Winters said that public hearings would be part of every step in the process.

Acknowledging the po-

tential benefits to opting in, including tax revenue and employment, Town Supervisor Leo Blackman added that the issue is not as easy as that.

Based on discussion with Town Board attorney Ian Lindars, the Town Board established that the first step should be a Town Board decision whether or not to proceed with the idea of opting in. Once that decision is made, then a local law could be drafted that would lead in turn to the drafting of a zoning law.

Discussion will be continued at the next Town Board meeting when Councilwoman Rosanna Hamm would be able to participate. She was absent from the Jan. 18 meeting due to attending a town government training session.

The Town Board also heard Spruce Hill resident Salvatore LaRosa’s suggestion that two parking spaces at the curb in front of the post office be designated for postal patron parking.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com



CELEBRATING MILESTONES IN BUSINESS

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MORE ON PAGE A6 & A7

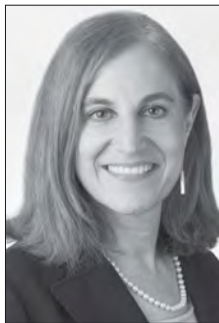


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Bonnie Glaser

Biden described his meeting with Xi at the November APEC Summit as the “most constructive and productive” since he came to office. Bonnie Glaser, managing director of the German Marshall Fund’s Indo-Pacific program, returns to the Forum to discuss what the U.S. can really expect.

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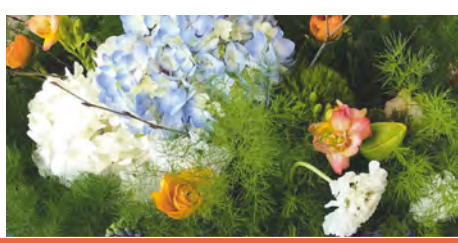
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BOOKS: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Second chance at love in Robinson's new novel

Cornwall resident and author Roxana Robinson's newest novel explores the unique challenges of finding love later in life.

"Leaving" is the story of two high school lovers, Warren and Sarah, who are reunited decades later. Their passion reignited, they must now grapple with the nuanced difficulties they bring to their new/old love story after two separate and full lives spent apart.

The intricate dynamics and emotional landscapes of the characters allow for an exploration of some difficult questions.

"Leaving, in terms of this novel, is about the way we part from things in our lives," Robinson explained. "Sarah and Warren parted from the idea of their relationship originally for a reason that was completely false," she continued. "I think that for many of us, those relationships that you have in your late teens and early 20s are based on so many complicated and possibly absurdly superficial things. There are all sorts of very flimsy reasons that we connect or leave a relationship, or even just a conversation. We just turn away. And in part, that's necessary. We can't stay open to everything our whole lives."

Indeed, as the plot unfolds and the characters' motivations are explored, the reader is left pondering the ways in which we often turn away from and abandon ourselves throughout the course of our lives.

Said Robinson: "What

are the reasons that you stay fixed on your course? And what is that course? What does that mean to you? It's exploring all those questions."

Asked about her process, Robinson shared that "the characters write the book," emphasizing her organic, exploratory process that shuns rigid outlines in favor of character-driven storytelling. "I write novels about things that really sort of trouble me and make me curious," said Robinson.

Her second novel, "This Is My Daughter," which came out in the '90s, explored the challenges of blended families and the inner lives of characters grappling with significant life choices.

"I was watching this [people embarking on second marriages] all around me and seeing people who were saying, 'It's great! We all are so happy, and the kids love us.' I just didn't think that was really what was happening. It was what Americans wanted to believe, but it wasn't really what was true. So, I wrote about that issue, that problem of trying to reconnect families, because it was very prevalent at that time."

Of "Leaving," Robinson shared: "This is about people in the second half of their lives who are having a romance, and it's much more complicated. You sort of think, 'Oh, my kids are gone. I'm where I want to be in my career. And now I'm free to do what I want.' And you are never free to do

what you want. You are always bound by personal connections to place, to children, to commitments you've made. So, it was really interesting to me to sort of explore that issue."

Robinson's writing routine is as disciplined as it is exploratory. She writes first thing in the morning, every morning, guided by themes and characters that tug at her curiosity. This process has led her to explore diverse and challenging topics, from the aftermath of the Civil War to the return of a marine from Iraq to a character struggling with heroin addiction.

Her books have required meticulous research and empathy. She wrote "Leaving" in about three years, which is considerably less time than she usually spends on a novel; she said, "I didn't have to do any research."

Her teaching at Hunter College's MFA program underscores her commitment to literature as she revisits literary classics with her students, finding new layers in each successive reading of "Madame Bovary," "Anna Karenina," "To the Lighthouse," "House of Mirth" and "whoever else seizes our fancy that semester," said Robinson.

"I'm probably the only person you know who has read Anna Karenina 15 times," she remarked with a laugh, highlighting her dedication to both her craft and her role as an educator.

Robinson's biography of Georgia O'Keeffe,



PHOTO BY BEOWULF SHEEHAN

Roxana Robinson

praised by Calvin Tompkins of The New Yorker as "without question the best book written about O'Keeffe," offers a profound exploration of the artist's life. It's a work that not only showcases Robinson's narrative prowess but also her deep understanding of the visual arts, a skill honed during her time in the American painting department at Sotheby's. This expertise, coupled with a serendipitous suggestion to the book's publisher by her husband, Tony Robinson, catapulted her into writing O'Keeffe's biography, a task she initially doubted she'd be approached for, considering her pivot to fiction.

"It was a great project," said Robinson. "She was a wonderful subject to write about."

As art mimics life and inspiration for writers often comes from every-

where and everything, there is a hint of O'Keeffe in Sarah, one of the main characters in "Leaving."

Robinson said of the comparison to Sarah's self-sufficiency and independence: "It's true. Sarah is very comfortable living alone. She

has a beloved dog. She has a job. She has work that interests her. She has children that interest her. And you don't see her as being needy because she's alone, which is rare."

Continued on page B3

Tickets for Sharon Playhouse's summer season on sale

The Sharon Playhouse has unveiled the lineup for its 2024 season of summer stock theater in Sharon, Connecticut. The MainStage series will begin with the progressive rock jukebox musical "Rock of Ages" directed by Hunter Foster (June 21-July 7). After that will be a production of the recent Broadway musical comedy "The Prom" directed by Carl Andress (July 26-Aug. 11). The lineup continues with Robert Harling's Southern stage play "Steel Magnolias"

directed by Jackson Gay (Aug. 30-Sept. 8), and concludes with the musical based on Charles M. Schulz's comic strip characters, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" directed by Julia Murney (Sept. 20-Sept. 29). Eric Thomas Johnson will act as the music director for the season and Judy Bowman will oversee casting.

The YouthStage series will feature a teen adaptation of William Shakespeare's comedy "As You Like It," as well as a children's adaptation of Roald Dahl's "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" titled "Willy Wonka Kids"; a children's adaptation of Disney's "High School Musical"; a new youth play titled "Sassy Cinderella" written by Michael Kevin Baldwin; as well as a production titled "Sharon Playhouse Stars" devised by Sarah Cuoco. Tickets for these performances are now on sale at www.sharon-playhouse.org

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COMPASS

FILM: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A dish best served cold

I was feeling surly recently, so I dialed up “revenge movies” on the streaming gizmo.

There are a lot of revenge movies.

I skipped obvious titles that I’ve seen multiple times, like the “Death Wish” flicks starring Charles Bronson.

But I didn’t skip John Boorman’s oddball entry from 1967, “Point Blank,” in which Walker (Lee Marvin, wearing a very sturdy pair of wingtips) wreaks all kinds of havoc in order to recover the \$93,000 that was his share of a previous caper.

This was the 1960s, so the film’s story is “non-linear,” meaning the viewer wonders what the heck is going on.

But who cares when you’ve got Angie Dickinson wearing as little as the producers thought they could get away with, and bad guys like Carroll O’Connor and John

Vernon.

William Lustig’s 1982 “Vigilante” is a coherent film that stars Robert Forster as Eddie, a regular guy pushed to extremes by indifferent policing and general societal breakdown.

Here we get into what is critical in a revenge movie: The hero has to pretty much kill everybody and break everything.

This one gets bonus points for giant land yachts and overall greasiness.

Brian Helgeland’s 1999 “Payback,” based on a novel by Donald Westlake (as is “Point Blank”), has Mel Gibson rampaging around the nameless city that just happens to look a lot like New York in order to get back at the creep who double-crossed him on a heist and left him for dead.

This one has kinky

sex, always a plus when you’re in a bad mood, and like “Point Blank,” the hero has a similar obsession with recovering the exact amount of money — no more, no less.

He also kills everybody and blows up what he doesn’t break.

Moving into a contemporary mode, there are three more or less current franchise films that explore the revenge angle.

The “Taken” series, starring Liam Neeson as retired CIA guy Bryan Mills, starts with Mills’ daughter getting kidnapped in Paris by Albanian sex-trafficking thugs. Mills hops on a plane and kills everybody in creative ways and breaks everything. Oh, and gets his daughter back.

But one of the Albanian thugs has a grieving father who’s got the same



MGM STUDIOS

Lee Marvin, Angie Dickinson, Carroll O’Connor and a cigar.

general idea as Mills when it comes to killing everybody, etc.

This forms the basis for the imaginatively titled “Taken 2.”

In the third installment, Mills is framed for the death of his ex. There’s some unnecessary plot involved, but Mills gets to waterboard his deceased ex’s smarmy second husband and eventually wipes out the sinister Russian mobster.

What’s fun about these flicks is Mills’ ability to MacGyver, or to find simple solutions to knotty problems.

MacGyver used a Swiss Army knife a lot. Mills, when trying to prevent the private plane from taking off, simply crashes the stolen Porsche into the plane’s landing gear.

Would an ordinary Toyota or Subaru have done the trick? Sure, but viewers can crash their own regular cars. How often do you get the chance to destroy a Porsche?

The soaking wet Keanu Reeves stars in the four “John Wick” movies, which are darn near interchangeable. John Wick is a retired assassin but this idiot son of a Russian gangster steals his restored Mustang and kills his puppy, which is good for about 12 hours total of mayhem and destruction in several parts of the world.

These locations have one thing in common — it is almost always night, and it has just rained.

And if there is any chance for John Wick to get drenched, he does.

The momentum lags by the time you get to the fourth flick, which



LIONS GATE ENTERTAINMENT

John Wick is wet again.

spends at least 40 minutes in kung fu exercises in neon-lit rooms featuring lots of easily broken glass stuff.

Denzel Washington is the star of the “Equalizer” series, as another one of these retired CIA hitmen, Robert McCall.

He works in hardware stores and as a rideshare driver, but darn it all, he keeps running into injustice, which requires killing everybody and breaking everything.

This knight-errantry requires a more subtle touch from director Antoine Fuqua, who spends more time showing McCall drinking tea than

seems absolutely necessary.

There are three of these movies, and darned if I didn’t feel just about revenged out by the time the credits rolled on the third.

The revenge movie exercise took about two weeks, and there were numerous flicks that did not make the cut. As a general rule, I avoided anything that has been mocked by the guys at Rifftrax, and I did not go back to the black and white era, when you couldn’t throw a brick without hitting someone en route to a showing of a revenge movie.



PHOTO COURTESY BARD COLLEGE

A billboard by Bard College student James Wise was displayed at 3391 US-9in Hudson from Dec. 20 through Jan. 17. Titled “How Long Will We Be Driving?”, the billboard questions the increasing dependence on artificial intelligence and its consequences. The billboard was part of Shandaken Projects’ public art initiative 14x48.

ART: ROBIN RORABACK

Public artworks by Bard College students

A billboard with art by James Wise of the Bard College class of ’26 was on view at 3391 US-9 in Hudson from Dec. 20, 2023, to Jan. 17, 2023.

Titled, “How Long Will We Be Driving?”, the billboard came about through a partnership with Bard Community Arts Collaborative, the Center for Civic Engagement at Bard, and Shandaken Project’s Public Arts Initiative.

Wise’s piece was chosen from projects done by students in an extended media studio course at Bard College taught by Julia Weist.

Her students made 2D projects that were reviewed by Shandaken, and 3D projects that were reviewed by the Village of Red Hook’s chair for the Public Spaces

Initiative Committee.

The 3D works were installed at Richard Abraham’s Memorial Park in Red Hook. The pieces ranged from interactive sculptures to large-format photographic prints to sculptures of wood and metal. This exhibit was not open to the public; it was a pilot program with the idea of future collaborations in mind.

Student Elena Schneider ’27 said, “Being able to make something to be displayed in the landscape where we live pushed me to create something I really care about and am proud of.”

Of the class, Weist said, “If you can create art that affects a viewer, moves a viewer in the

Continued on Page B3

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January 27 – March 2, 2024

Reception: Sat. Jan. 27, 4 – 6 P.M.; Artist talk: Thu. Feb. 8, 7 P.M.

11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, CT | 860.435.3663 | www.hotchkiss.org/arts

Saturday Feb. 3, 3 pm Trinity Church Lakeville CT

Sunday Feb. 4, 4 pm Saint James Place Gt. Barrington MA

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BOOKS: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

‘When hatred gets out of hand’

Felice Cohen, a journalist, writer and professional organizer, spoke about her 2010 book “What Papa Told Me” to an online audience via the David M. Hunt Library Thursday, Jan. 18.

The “papa” in question was her grandfather, Murray Schwartzbaum, from Szczekociny, Poland, who as a Jewish boy survived five years in eight different Nazi concentration camps during World War II.

Cohen said as a child “I had no idea” about the Holocaust until she read Elie Wiesel’s “Night,” in middle school. The book, published in 1960, is a memoir about the Holocaust.

The subject scared her. It wasn’t until she was in college that she became curious. One subject of her curiosity was the death of her grandmother, which she had been told was from cancer.

It turned out the grandmother died by suicide.

She asked her grandfather about it, and in order to explain, he had to go back to the Holocaust and the Lodz ghetto.

After Nazi Germany invaded Poland and the country was split up between the Germans and the Soviet Union, Polish Jews and Roma were forcibly moved into areas known as “ghettos,” where they were kept apart from the non-Jewish population.

Conditions in the ghettos were appalling, and nobody knew when they would be sent on to

one of the labor or death camps.

Schwartzbaum told Cohen that her grandmother was staying in one room with her sister and her boys when the Germans came for the sister.

As she was dragged out, she asked Cohen’s grandmother to look after the children.

The next day the Germans returned and took the boys. The day after that, they sent the grandmother to Auschwitz.

Both sisters survived, but the boys did not. And years later, when the sisters were reunited, Cohen’s grandmother was asked by her sister why she hadn’t saved the boys.

Cohen’s grandmother sank into a deep depression. Treatment was ineffective, and she eventually hanged herself.

Cohen wrote about this unhappy history in college, and Schwartzbaum suggested he tell her his story as well.

Cohen said it took 18 years to put “What Papa Told Me” together. Her grandfather lived in Florida, and she was in New York, so she visited frequently, with tape recorder and notebook at the ready.

A sample:

At the Treblinka extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland, Schwartzbaum and others were ordered outside in winter and told to form a circle.

An officer in a Jeep-type vehicle drove into the circle. In the vehicle was a Jewish prisoner with an apple in his mouth.

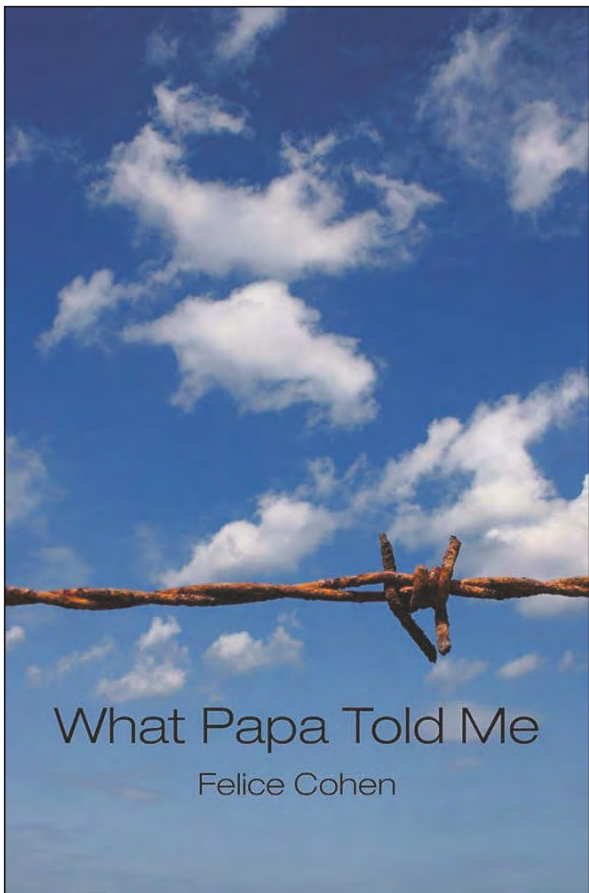
The Nazi drove around the circle for everyone to get a good look.

He stopped and announced that the man had been caught stealing an apple.

As punishment, he was forced to hold the apple in his mouth, like a roast pig.

“But a Jew is no better than a pig,” yelled the Nazi before shooting the man in the head.

Cohen recalled being overwhelmed, not only by the savagery but by the realization that these



DIVIDENDS

...Bard College

Continued from previous page



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARD COLLEGE

A Bard College student installs her sculpture at Richard Abraham’s Memorial Park in Red Hook. The installation was part of a pilot program with the village of Red Hook’s Public Spaces Initiative.

parking lot of a grocery store, which is where our billboard project is located, you’ve succeeded profoundly as an artist.”

Wise’s piece was selected for the billboard outside of Hudson by Shandaken as part of its Public Art Initiative 14x48, which has exhibited “new work by contemporary artists across New York State since 2021.”

The title refers to the increasing reliance of society on artificial intelligence (AI) and the potential loss of human independence with such things as self-driving cars, Wise has explained; it questions the very use of cars in the face of global warming. The figure at the center of the work, an avatar created with AI, reminds viewers that AI is a field dominated by white males.

Explaining his approach to the work, Wise said: “My main concern was in conveying my concept as clearly as possible. I wanted the billboard to blend in, so I researched local insurance billboards for a base.” He added: “After layering and collaging the AI images I’d generated from various local insurance-themed prompts, I ended up landing on the final product. I was always cautious to keep my work as close to the source material as possible, while still subtly distinct under closer inspection.” Wise created the billboard by layering more than 50 AI generated images.

...Robinson

Continued from page B1

In true O’Keeffe fashion, the characters in “Leaving” break with convention in order to really investigate what it means to love.

As for what is next for Robinson, she said, “I’m always at work on a book, so I have another book that I’m engaged by.” Her eyes then wandered to the corner of the book-lined room.

“That’s it,” she laughed, “that’s what writers do.”

“Leaving” (W.W. Norton & Company), Robinson’s 11th published book, will release Tuesday, Feb. 13, with a book launch at The White Hart in Salisbury and a conversation with writer Dani Shapiro. Robinson will also discuss the book in conversation with Gillian Blake at The Cornwall Library Saturday, Feb. 17 at 4 p.m.

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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 27

Cornwall Author Talk

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

On Saturday, Jan. 27, at 4 p.m., The Cornwall Library is starting off its 2024 book talks with an event that should enthrall literature fans throughout the area. Distinguished best-selling novelists and memoirists Dani Shapiro and A.M. Homes will discuss their work, with novelist and biographer Roxana Robinson moderating. This event is live only (no Zoom). Registration on the library website is required at: cornwalllibrary.org/events/

Art Exhibition

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

David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village will host WINTER WONDERLAND, an exhibition of painted winter scenes by art students at Lee H. Kellogg School. There will be a reception for the public, and parents of the artists, on Saturday Jan. 27, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The exhibition will remain on display during operating hours through Feb. 23.

JANUARY 30

Startup Community Night

The White Hart, 15 Under Mountain Road, Salisbury, Conn.

The NCCC Entrepreneurial Center is hosting a local business Startup Community Night on Jan. 30 from 5 to 7 p.m. Attendees will have the chance to pitch their business, network with the entrepreneurial community, contribute to community economic development, and mentors will pay forward the support and knowledge from their years of experience. Complimentary food and drink will be provided. Visit nwcc.edu/startup for more info.

FEBRUARY 2

Art Exhibition

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

On Friday, Feb. 2 at 4 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library and the Falls Village Equity Project will host a Banned Book Club. This month we will be discussing the book "Clap When You Land" by Elizabeth Acevedo. Copies of the book are available at the library. This group is open to anyone high school aged and older.

FEBRUARY 3

Hygge Party/Take Your Child to the Library Day

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

Join us on Take Your Child to the Library Day, Saturday Feb. 3, at 10:30 a.m. for a Hygge Party of Coziness. Dress in your pajamas and bring a blanket for our cozy story time, warm up with hot chocolate, and settle in with books or puzzles

as we embrace the Danish idea of making a warm atmosphere and enjoying the good things in life with good people. Snacks and crafts will be available at the library or to take home. This event is free and open to the public, registration is not required.

The Orchestra Now (TÖN) Season Premiere

Fisher Center at Bard, Sosnoff Theater, Manor Ave., Annandale-On-Hudson, N.Y. fishercenter.bard.edu

On Saturday, Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 4, at 3 p.m., The Orchestra Now presents its season premiere: Stephanie Blythe Sings Brahms.

The Orchestra Now, the visionary orchestra and master's degree program founded by Bard College president, conductor, educator and music historian Leon Botstein, returns to launch its 2024 winter/spring season at Bard's Fisher Center with a concert featuring Metropolitan Opera star Stephanie Blythe in an all-Brahms program. The performance also features tenor Joshua Blue. Tickets: Priced at \$15–\$35 are available online at fishercenter.bard.edu, or by calling 845.758.7900. Patrons can RSVP for the free concert at ton.bard.edu/events/schumann

Crescendo Concerts

Trinity Church, 484 Lime Rock Rd, Lakeville, Conn.

The Crescendo Vocal Ensemble and instrumentalists will present two concerts of early motets on Feb. 3 and 4. This program features sacred four- to seven-voice works by these composers. A central subject in the program is the plea for peace, featured in several compositions. The performances take place Saturday, Feb. 3, at 3 p.m. at Trinity Church, Lakeville, Conn., and on Sunday, Feb. 4, at 4 p.m. at Saint James Place, Great Barrington, Mass. Please visit Crescendo's website www.crescendomusic.org for online ticket purchases, more details, and other season concerts, or call 860-435-4866. Tickets will also be sold at the door 45 minutes before each performance.

FEBRUARY 4

The North East Historical Society Dine Out for History

Millerton, N.Y.

The North East Historical Society's popular Dine Out for History series returns this month. On select dates through March 11, participating Millerton restaurants will host their own Dine Out for History nights, where 10% of the proceeds from all patrons that night will be donated to the historical society to support its research, digitize its collection and make historic content more available to the public, particularly educators.

Sunday, Feb. 4, Oakhurst Diner, 19 Main St., 5-8 p.m., 518-592-1313.

Thursday, Feb. 15, Willa, 52 Main St., 5-9 p.m., 518-789-0252. Reservations requested.

Monday, Feb. 26, Round III, 5523 NY-22, 5-9 p.m., 518-592-1240.

Monday, March 11, Golden Wok, Railroad Plaza, 2 Main St., 5-10 p.m., 518-789-9236. Takeout only.

FEBRUARY 6

Virtual Book Talk

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

On Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 6 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library will host a virtual evening with C.W. Goodyear, author of "President Garfield: From Radical to Unifier." In this book, the most comprehensive biography of Garfield in decades, Goodyear charts the life and times of one of the most remarkable Americans ever to win the Presidency. This virtual event is free and open to the public. Register for this event tinyurl.com/u8bx5ajj

FEBRUARY 9

The Conceivable Future

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

The Cornwall Library is excited to present Meghan Elizabeth Kallman and Josephine Ferorelli, authors of "The Conceivable Future: Planning Families and Taking Action in the Age of Climate Change." They will discuss the ways in which the climate crisis is a reproduction crisis, and what you can do about it. A Q&A and book signing will follow the discussion. Attend in-person or by Zoom.

Registration required cornwalllibrary.org/events

FEBRUARY 10

Dewey Hall's Celestial Ball

Dewey Memorial Hall, 91 Main St., Sheffield, Mass.

Dewey Hall is celebrating the final night of its Reaching for the Stars annual fundraising campaign with a Celestial Ball on Lunar New Year, Saturday, Feb. 10, from 7 to 10 p.m. (snow date Sunday, Feb. 11, from 6 to 9 p.m.). Attendees are encouraged to dress to shimmer, shimmy and shine in sequins, sparkles, and glitter and come prepared to dance the night away to DJ BFG. There will be music for dancing, hors d'oeuvres, event tarot card readings by Emily Schuhmann of GettinIntuit, a cash bar, an otherworldly photo station, glittery face painting, and a silent auction of extra special items. Tickets cost \$25-\$75 and can be purchased online at secure.givelively.org/event/dewey-memorial-hall-inc/dewey-hall-s-celestial-ball

Midwinter's Night in the Village

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

The Friends of The David M. Hunt Library will hold its annual winter fundraiser, A Midwinter's Night in the Village, at the library Saturday, Feb. 10, from 6 to 8 p.m. (snow date Sunday, Feb. 11, 2 p.m.). The main feature is the library's famous 16-foot-long bread board piled high with a variety of homemade baked goods ranging from sweet dessert loaves and hearty savory breads to delicious hors d'oeuvres and chocolate treats. Wine, beer, and non-alcoholic refreshments are included in the ticket price. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children ages 3-17 and can be purchased in-person or online.

FEBRUARY 11

The Art of the String Quartet

Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass.

Close Encounters With Music presents the notable Avalon String Quartet returns with another Berkshire

premiere pm Sunday, Feb. 11 at 4 p.m. "For Such a Time as This" is a retelling of the biblical Esther story for string quartet and vocalist, from a feminist perspective. Afterglow Reception in Saint James Place's Great Hall following the concert in the Sanctuary Space. You are invited to meet the artists and enjoy bites and beverages.

Book Signing and Presentation

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

Get ready for Valentine's Days with one of America's most iconic couples: Joanne Woodward and Paul Newman. Their love story wasn't always a fairytale, but it is the stuff of legend. Newman and Woodward's daughter Melissa will offer a uniquely personal look into her parents' lives and love affair, as presented in her book: "Head Over Heels." Newman will lead a presentation and book signing on Sunday, Feb. 11 at 4 p.m. Register at: hotchkisslibrary.libcal.com/event/11843350

ART: EMILY EDELMAN

Sculpture at The Mount

The Berkshires-based SculptureNow outdoor art exhibition, which has been hosted at The Mount in Lenox, Mass., for the past nine years, has been adopted as an official Mount program.

The newly renamed Sculpture at The Mount will continue to present the work of rising and longtime artists while maintaining the variety of styles and mediums that visitors to the popular showcase have come to expect. The exhibit entertained over 55,000 guests in 2023.

The change comes on the heels of the announcement of the retirement of Ann Jon, who founded SculptureNow in 1998 and served as its executive director. "By formally integrating SculptureNow into our programming, there is great synergy between Wharton's literary legacy and the compelling narratives expressed through contemporary sculpture," said Susan

Wissler, executive director of The Mount, in a statement.

Set to encompass approximately 25 works, Sculpture at The Mount will open Friday, May 24, and run through Sunday, Oct. 20. Artist submissions for this year's exhibit are being accepted through Friday, Feb. 9. For exhibition and submission information, see edithwharton.org/calendar/sculpture

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OUR TOWNS

SOLAR Continued from Page A1

of 2023,” the town’s motion states. “As recently as December 15, 2023, Hecate distributed a project map to prospective parties and the ALJ’s (administrative law judges) that represents the Property as participating in the facility.”

The lease option expired Sept. 17, 2023, and on Jan. 2, the property was purchased by Craryville Farms LLC from Main Farm LLC.

The town requests dismissal of the application and cancellation of any further proceedings; or for ORES to permanently cancel public hearings on the current application and direct Hecate, if it chooses to proceed, to submit a revised application.

The ORES staff filed a response to the town’s appeal on Monday, Jan. 22, noting that based on the town’s motion it “appears that the applicant [Hecate] may not meet the regulatory requirements

necessary to obtain a final siting permit for the facility as initially proposed. [...] Such deficiency, if not meaningfully rebutted by the applicant, may require denial of the application.”

Under state regulations, no amendments are permitted to an application once ORES has deemed it “complete,” which it did in August 2023. The ORES statement continued that given this circumstance, the options for Hecate include withdrawing its application and resubmitting. Or, “ORES may consider the scope of the proposed changes and either incorporate any required changes in the final siting permit or deny the application.”

The ORES staff “requests the opportunity to address any responsive filings provided by the applicant,” the filing concluded. As of Tuesday morning, Jan. 23, no filing from Hecate appeared on the state’s website.

Reading series at Roe Jan Library

COPAKE — Beginning Thursday, Feb. 15, the Roeliff Jansen Community Library, 9091 Route 22, will host a six-session reading and discussion series titled “Land Liberty and Loss: Echoes of the American Revolution.”

Facilitated by Roe Jan Library director and historian Tamara Gaskell, participants will read and discuss one book each month that focuses on the intertwined histories of Native Americans, Europeans and the environment. Authors and special guests will join

participants virtually during several sessions. The books are available to borrow from the library as well as online through the Libby app.

The series is free and open to the public, and will meet from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month through July 18. Participants are asked to commit to attending the full series. Space is limited and registration is required by emailing director@roejanlibrary.org. For more information, call the library at 518-325-4101.

Real estate

Growing disparity in Amenia

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

November real estate sales in Amenia showed the extreme bifurcation of local housing prices compared to homes and land in the Silo Ridge Club. There were nine sales recorded in Amenia in November: three in Silo Ridge, which were all above \$4 million; and six outside the club, all below \$260,000.

These results show the important difference between average and median prices in evaluating a real estate market. The average price of an Amenia property in November was \$2.26 million compared to the median, or midpoint, price of \$250,000.

Unlike most towns, Amenia has an ample inventory of properties. Silo Ridge has

condos starting at \$2.9 million; building lots for \$2.86 million; and estates for up to \$15 million. Outside the club, in the town, there were nine single-family homes actively listed for sale ranging from \$339,000 to \$8 million; and 15 parcels of vacant land for \$14,999 to \$6.9 million.

November 2023

4942 Route 22, a single-family home with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sold for \$260,000.

5251 Route 22, a single-family 2-bedroom, 1-bath home, sold for \$237,500.

111 Redtail Pass, Silo Ridge Club, a single-family with an accessory apartment and 5 bedrooms, 6 baths and 2 half baths, sold for \$8.75 million.

34 Peregrine Drive, Silo Ridge Club, a single-family with an accessory apartment and 5 bedrooms, 5 full baths and 2 half baths, sold for \$6.5



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Built in 1850, this three-bedroom, two-bath home on 4942 Route 22 is located in the center of Amenia and zoned for mixed use. Owned by the same family since 1875, it was formerly the home of the Jenkins Bakery. It sold Nov. 10, 2023, for \$260,000.

million.

436 Bog Hollow Road, a two-family residence in need of renovation with 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, sold for \$165,000.

6 Depot Hill, a three-family house with 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, sold for \$250,000.

426 Old Route 22, a rural year-round residence with 6 bedrooms, 2 baths in poor condition on 152.9 acres, sold for \$250,000.

66 Roundabout Way, Silo

Ridge Club, a residential lot sold for \$4.25 million.

Town of Amenia real estate sales recorded as sold between Nov. 1, 2023, and Nov. 30, 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.

SHERIFF’S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for Jan. 11-17, 2024.

Jan. 17 — Deputies responded to 5270 Route 44 in Amenia for the report of an intoxicated male laying down in the ball fields. Subject moved from the area.

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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Classifieds

HELP WANTED

VACANCY ON THE TOWN BOARD: The Town of Amenia has a vacancy for the unexpired term position on the Town Board. We are inviting interested individuals to apply for the position. This appointed position will be for a period expiring on 12/31/2024. The remainder of the term will be filled at the General Election in November 2024. If you are interested, here are the key details you need to know: Application Deadline: The deadline for submitting your resume and letter of intent is 12 pm on Monday, January 29, 2024. Submission Location: You can drop off your resume and letter of intent at the Town Clerk’s office, 4988 Route 22, Amenia or via email to dmklngner@ameniany.gov. Eligibility Requirement: To be considered for the position, you must be meet the qualification of a Public Officer. You must be a resident of the Town of Amenia, you must be at least 18 years of age, and a United States citizen. Make sure to prepare a resume highlighting your relevant skills and experiences. Additionally, your letter of intent should express your interest in the Town Board position and outline the reasons why you believe you are a suitable candidate. If you have any questions or need further clarification, consider reaching out to the Town Clerk’s office or contacting a current member of the Town Board before the specified deadline.

HELP WANTED

BERKSHIRE SCHOOL: is looking for a full-time Library Assistant to work the circulation desk in Geier Library. Qualified candidates will have a four-year bachelor’s degree or equivalent, previous experience in a public, academic, or school library, and the ability to work in a diverse, collaborative environment and interact effectively with faculty, staff, colleagues, and academically motivated high school students. Interested applicants please send information to Cheryl Geerhold, Director of Human Resources, at cgeerhold@berkshireschool.org.

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With thanks to those who serve.

Real Estate

REAL ESTATE

PUBLISHER’S NOTICE: Equal Housing Opportunity. All real estate advertised in this newspaper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1966 revised March 12, 1989 which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap or familial status or national origin or intention to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination. All residential property advertised in the State of Connecticut General Statutes 46a-64c which prohibit the making, printing or publishing or causing to be made, printed or published any notice, statement or advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling that indicates any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry,

REAL ESTATE

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ROOMS FOR RENT

FALLS VILLAGE: Furnished Bedroom. Use of Kitchen/Bath. Quiet Home. No Smoking. No Pets. \$250 weekly. 860-992-2900.

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MT. RIGA CABIN FOR RENT: Sleeps 5. Covered porch and fire pit. Lake access with boats provided. Contact robsolarmiller@gmail.com for more info.

COMMERCIAL RENTALS

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE: has a need to lease 2,208 Rentable Square Feet, yielding approximately 1,840 - 1,932 Usable Square Feet (ABOA) of office space in Dutchess County - Millbrook, NY. Find more information by searching for Solicitation No. 57- 36027-23-FS on Beta.SAM.gov. You may also contact USDA’s Lease Contracting Officer Iris Bates at iris.bates@usda.gov. or Realty Specialist E. Shawn Hayes at eulando.hayes@usda.gov.

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