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For the Love of Your Health
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PHOTO COURTESY REBUILDING TOGETHER

Rebuilding Together volunteers at a National Rebuilding Day project in Poughkeepsie in April.

Building back Hudson Valley

By NATALIA ZUKERMAN
 nataliaz@millertonnews.com

POUGHKEEPSIE — Rebuilding Together Dutchess County (RTDC), a leading nonprofit in repairing homes, revitalizing communities and rebuilding lives with more than 40 years of experience, is rebranding as Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley (RTHV) with an expansion into Ulster County.

With the expansion, its reach now extends across the Hudson, continuing its mission to help

those in rural communities often overlooked by traditional assistance programs.

At the helm of this organization is Darcy McCourt, who took the reins as executive director in April 2022. McCourt's vision for Rebuilding Together reflects the organization's core values, as she stated, "We repair homes, we revitalize communities, and we have a deep impact on people's lives."

This impact is not just measured in bricks and mortar but in the restoration of dignity, inde-

pendence and safety for those in need, said McCourt.

"We've been around for 32 years here in Dutchess County," she said. People know about us, and they've been begging, literally, since I joined and prior to see if we would expand into additional counties."

Not only were homeowners with critical home safety needs asking for support, but the U.S. Department of Housing and Ur-

See RTHV, PAGE A8

Recreation Commission unveils plans for new parks in Amenia, Wassiac

By LEILA HAWKEN
 leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — About 10 residents attended the regular meeting of the Recreation Commission Tuesday, Feb. 27, to hear details of conceptual plans for recreational enhancement through the phased development of two town parks.

Landscape architect Jane Didona of Didona Associates in Danbury, who has been working with the commission for more than a

See PARKS, PAGE A8



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Conceptual design plans for two new parks were detailed by Jane Didona of Didona Associates at the regular meeting of the Amenia Recreation Commission Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Nuvance Health to join Northwell

Sharon Hospital could be absorbed into new 28-hospital system

By MAUD DOYLE
 maud@millertonnews.com

NEW HYDE PARK — Nuvance Health will combine with Northwell Health, the largest health provider in New York state, to form a 28-hospital system that spans the New York-Connecticut border, the two organizations announced Wednesday, Feb. 28.

Before the agreement is finalized, it must be approved by New York, Connecticut and the Federal Trade Commission.

Nuvance Health, based in Danbury, Connecticut, operates seven hospitals in western Connecticut and Dutchess County, including Sharon Hospital and Northern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck, while Northwell, based in New

Hyde Park, operates 21 hospitals and nearly 900 outpatient facilities. According to Northwell, its 85,000 employees also make the system the largest private employer in New York state.

"This partnership opens a new and exciting chapter for Northwell and Nuvance and provides an incredible opportunity to enhance both health systems and take patient care and services to an even higher level," said Michael Dowlner, president and CEO of Northwell Health, in a statement.

Nuvance Health, has been struggling financially. At Sharon Hospital, which loses some \$20 million annually, Nuvance hoped to cut losses by closing the maternity

See NUANCE, PAGE A3

Rezoning the Town of North East

By CHRISTINE BATES
 Special to The Millerton News

NORTH EAST — Every first and third Monday of the month, members of the Town of North East Zoning Review Committee (ZRC) meet at 4:30 p.m. to discuss revisions to the town's zoning code.

The current six-member committee includes Dale Culver, Bill Kish, Julie Schroeder, Ed Downey and Dave Sherman. It is headed by Edie Greenwood and advised by land use consultant William Agresta. North East Town Board members are frequently in attendance at meetings as well. Transparency is key to the process with agendas published in advance and a public Zoom link available.

The group was appointed by the Town Board to update town zoning code in accordance with the comprehensive plan approved in November 2019 and has been meeting since July 2020. The priority is to update the zoning code for the town's commercial districts including the Boulevard District east

This project is one of the most interesting things I've ever been involved in.
 — Edie Greenwood

of Cumberland Farms on Route 44; the Irondale District, which is north of the village along Route 22; and the Light Industrial District, where Harney Tea is now located.

The committee has now simplified the Boulevard into two districts East and West of Kelsey Brook, and drafted new regulations that will include a provision for residential housing above retail and multifamily apartments. "We are encouraging walkable, affordable residential alternatives adjacent to the village," commented Greenwood.

The first full draft of the reviewed regulations relating to the commercial districts is now being prepared by Agresta. Next, the draft package of regulations will be sent

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OUR TOWNS

Local fire companies eye state grant funding, making lists of needed facility improvements

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Fire companies have until Tuesday, April 30, to submit their applications for \$25 million in grant funding to New York's volunteer fire departments announced in December by state Sen. Michelle Hinchey.

"We just hired a grant writer this week to take advantage of the grant money," said Richard Howard of the Amenia Fire Company at a breakfast held in its station house.

He looked around. "This building will come down," he said. "We're tearing down the old building, and erecting a new hall, a larger building. We'll have offices within the hall. We also need to replace the washer and dryer."

North East Fire District (Millerton) Chief Jason Watson brought up the purchase

of a PPE (personal protective equipment) dryer for use in the department at a recent meeting. He had other equipment in mind as well that the company will consider to determine its needs, keeping in mind the April deadline.

Stanford fire Chief Ed Cerul said the town's department intends to apply for some of the grant money, especially for infrastructure. It already has projects in mind. As of now, Cerul said, it is waiting for materials for projects already in progress, waiting on materials and hoping to start painting and performing other work in April. Grant money, if awarded, would be used for a training facility.

Pine Plains fire Chief Brian Walsh, who is also the town supervisor, related that the fire company is very much in need of storage space, and that will take priority if it receives grant money.

Millbrook Fire Department President Matt Roch-



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

This is the building in Amenia that will be torn down, and replaced with a bigger building with a hall and spaces for offices.

fort said that his department hasn't decided on whether or not it will apply for grant money.

The department has been making repairs and replacing some of its building appliances, so the company is in pretty good shape. It built its own hall, and would have to make a close inspection to see if and what was needed, he said.

He said that it received and still has money from the Town

of Washington last year, and so far, hasn't discussed any plans to seek new grants.

\$25 million

The millions announced by Gov. Kathy Hochul's office are geared toward infrastructure and response equipment items.

Twenty million dollars is allocated for construction, renovation or facility purchase projects including fire stations, substations and shared sta-

tions as well as fire training towers. The funds can also be used for meeting exhaust systems, spaces, rooms for instruction, and for decontamination shower facilities.

The other \$5 million will be used to purchase some allowable fire service equipment. This would cover personal protective equipment such as washer/extractor, dryers, radios and communications systems, mask service unit/air compressor, and rehab equipment.

While recruitment and retention are major problems for the volunteer fire departments in the area, there are no grants currently open for those items.

Hochul has often talked about her commitment to the volunteers who devote their time, energy and even their lives in protecting their communities. She said at the time of the announcement:

"The volunteer firefighters of New York are selfless public servants who put their

lives on the line to keep their communities safe[...] This funding will go a long way in reminding those who continue to serve that we will always support them in any and every way we can."

The grant is the fiscal year 2023-2024 Volunteer Fire Infrastructure & Response Equipment (V-FIRE) Grant Program. It is a state-funded competitive grant program that will allow eligible fire companies to submit grants that will aid them in supporting the safety and security of the public that supports the enhancement of the security and safety of the citizens they serve. It is aimed at funding projects such as construction, renovation, or purchase costs for critical facilities of buildings, training facilities, or other structures that support fire operations, for up to \$1 million or up to \$500,000 if proposing projects for allowable fire service equipment to upgrade and improve their response capabilities.

Democrats' conversation disrupted by demonstrators

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Motivating New York Democrats in 2024, a conversation with U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and state Sen. Michelle Hinchey was held Sunday, March 3, at the Stissing Center for Arts and Culture.

Kenya Gadsden, who is running on the Democratic ticket for Dutchess County clerk, talked briefly about the importance of this year's political contests, asking if the audience understood the enormity of the outcome of the vote.

She introduced Hinchey, saying that she had been voted "Advocate of the Year 2022" for her work in affordable housing, and also noted her work on aging water infrastructure and other environmental issues.

Gadsden introduced Gillibrand by saying that she was originally voted into Congress in 2006 and, in 2009, was appointed to fill the seat in the Senate left by Hillary Clinton. In 2010 she was voted into the Senate, where she has served since, advocating for health care, the environment, jobs and equality.

The discussion centered on the need for the Democrats to mobilize, to come together working toward the 2024 election.

Upstate priorities

Hinchey said that in many matters, the interests of upstate New York are left on the table. Reliable internet, accessible health care and other interests are left wanting because the communities are small. Getting the message out is imperative and can make a difference, she said.

Getting free breakfast and lunch to schoolchildren was a priority, she said; last year, that goal was 88% attained.

Chris Drago, county legislator for Dutchess County District 19 — which includes Stanford, Pine Plains, North East/Millerton — cited the need for change. In particular, he underscored the need for broadband accessibility and emergency services in the area.

Gillibrand said that violence is one of the main problems facing New York, but that while people think it is being caused by gun prolifer-



From left, Kenya Gadsden, facilitator, with state Sen. Michelle Hinchey and U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand at the Northern Dutchess Democrat get-together at the Stissing Center in Pine Plains Sunday, March 3.

eration, the actual problem is illegal gun trafficking.

She also brought up some of the problems including sexual abuse in the military and the lack of equality for transgender and LGBTQ people.

She is sponsoring a bill that will provide free college tuition to 1,000 students, provided they serve the government for five years in a cyber-related discipline after their education.

War in the Middle East, division at home

Shortly after she began to speak, several audience members rose, some holding signs, chanting, "No cease fire, no vote," referencing the ongoing devastation in Israel and Gaza. Some of the signs stated, "Stop the genocide."

Gillibrand acknowledged that there was a need for discussion on the subject because it is a situation everyone cares deeply about. She tried to speak to the protestors while they continued to chant.

Gadsden began to sing, "There's a train coming, you don't need a ticket, you just

get on board."

Pine Plains and state police escorted the protestors out. Gillibrand said that the Middle East situation is dividing us. She summarized that on Oct. 6, a plan had been devised to allow for a two-state solution, that Jordan was providing support for the process, and that the attacks on Oct. 7 ended that plan.

She said that Hamas are not freedom fighters, but are paid by Russia. She said that the money the United States gives to Israel is for defense purposes, and that Biden is pushing Israel to the peace table.

At this juncture, the Rev. Peter Cook, executive director of the New York State Council of Churches, rose and questioned the accuracy of her statements. Gadsden offered to see him afterward and exchange phone numbers.

Hinchey, like Gillibrand, encouraged everyone to work for the reelection of President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, naming the accomplishments of their administration, and adding, "The House of Representa-

tives is a — show. They don't want to stop assaults on the LGBTQ community, don't want to help kids with food or college," she said.

Both Hinchey and Gillibrand agreed that the party has to be united and lift up the



PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

About 25 protesters, some carrying signs, disrupted the discussion at the Stissing Center in Pine Plains Sunday, March 3.

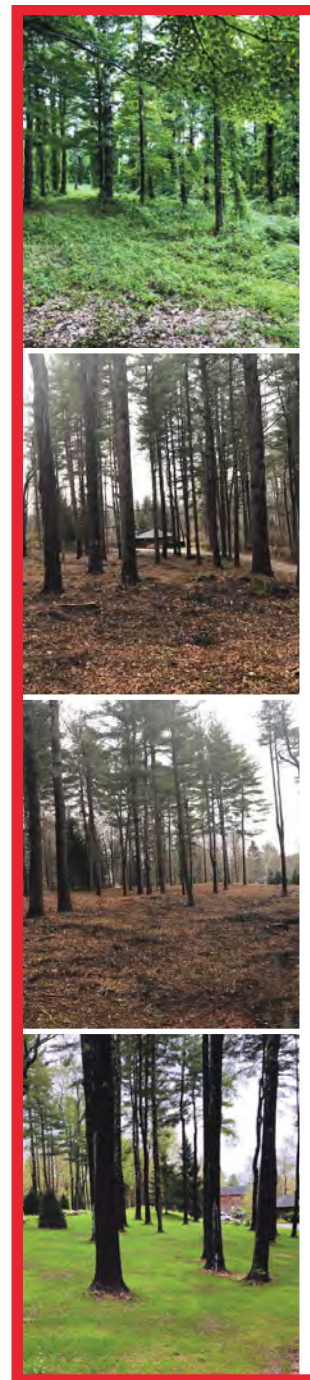
Biden and Harris team. Gillibrand said, "The great protector of our nation is democracy, but," she admonished, "to be strong, democracy must be exercised" by voters.

Climate crisis

Hinchey said that we are not talking enough about the ongoing climate crisis, and that we're not doing enough

to mitigate it. "We need to have sweeping change," she stated, "or our kids and grandkids won't have a future. This is uncomfortable, but necessary. Young people are asking, 'Can we have a family?' We have to make changes."

She added, "If we lose next year, we'll be asking, 'How do we stop the damage?'"



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SHARON HOSPITAL

Sharon Hospital asks state to reconsider denial of bid to close labor and delivery

By JOHN COSTON
Johnc@millertonnews.com

SHARON — Sharon Hospital has petitioned the state Office of Health Strategy (OHS) to reconsider its Final Decision denying the hospital's request to terminate labor and delivery service.

OHS issued its decision Feb. 5, determining that the application for a Certificate of Need (CON) failed to meet the statutory requirements intended to protect the "quality, accessibility, and cost-effec-

tiveness of care" in the region served.

In its petition filed Feb. 20, the hospital cited new evidence regarding the current state of operations at the labor and delivery operation, as well as evidence relating to the financial health of Sharon Hospital and Nuvance Health, its parent.

The hospital also stated that the Final Decision contains factual and legal errors that must be corrected, and that there is good cause to grant the petition "in order for OHS to

work with Sharon Hospital to address significant new challenges to the sustainability of the L&D services in the same manner as OHS has to similarly situated providers."

The petition, filed eight days before Northwell Health announced it planned to merge with Nuvance Health, cites updated evidence that shows the hospital is "on the precipice of having to temporarily suspend the service because it has lost essential physician coverage in recent months."

"The conditions at the Hos-

pital related to the L&D service have meaningfully deteriorated from an already challenged state and further threaten the sustainability of the L&D service and the [hospital's] ability to operate the L&D unit safely and reasonably."

The petition also argues that the decision relies heavily on data about Nuvance Health's finances in 2022, yet doesn't account for 2023 and 2024 budgeted losses.

Sharon Hospital's petition also states that OHS committed legal errors in applying

certain statutory criteria. It also argues that OHS should reconsider its denial and negotiate conditions "for the closure of the L&D unit," alluding to the recent agreement OHS entered with Windham Hospital that received approval to close its L&D unit "subject to certain conditions."

Christina McCulloch, president of Sharon Hospital, confirmed that the announcement of Nuvance's agreement with Northwell Health will not alter Sharon Hospital's pursuit of permission to terminate the

labor and delivery services. "Nothing has been approved with Northwell Health," said McCulloch.

"It has to go through the regulatory process, which we think could take a year or more."

She said that with regards to the petition for reconsideration, "nothing will change." The petition for reconsideration, she said, is "just another step in the regulatory process with the Office of Health Strategy. And we await their response to that."

NUVANCE Continued from Page A1

ward, which it said loses \$3 million a year. Its application to close the unit was denied by Connecticut in February.

Sharon Hospital's losses are not unique in the Nuvance network. Nuvance as a whole, apart from a \$6 million net gain in 2021, has been operating at annual net losses of eight and nine figures since its formation in 2019.

Last summer, its outstanding debt was downgraded again by S&P and by Moody's; Moody's noted that Nuvance's "next several quarters" would be "pivotal." For its fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2023, Nuvance posted a net loss of \$121.5 million.

In a statement, Dr. John M. Murphy, president and CEO of Nuvance Health, said that "By joining forces with Northwell Health, we are taking a giant leap forward in our shared mission to enhance the quality, accessibility and equity of the health care we provide to our communities."

In their joint announcement, the two companies stated that "Northwell will make significant investments in Nuvance Health," and that the "integration" would create more, and better, health care jobs.

Asked what this means in



PHOTO BY BRIDGET STARR TAYLOR

Sharon Hospital, currently part of a 7-hospital system operated by Nuvance Health, may become part of a 28-hospital system under Northwell Health if an agreement between Northwell and Nuvance is approved by regulators.

Sharon, Sharon Hospital CEO Christina McCulloch noted that "the details of what will happen, if all gets approved" and the Nuvance system becomes part of Northwell Health, "are yet to be determined." But, she said, "Northwell has agreed to invest in all of the [Nuvance] hospitals if this does come to be" and if the deal gets approved, the agreement will strengthen SH's ability to provide care."

"The news of Nuvance's merger into Northwell Health

comes at a time of general consolidation of healthcare systems across our state," observed state Rep. Maria Horn (D-64).

"I understand the financial challenges Nuvance has been facing," said Senate Republican Leader Stephen Harding, whose district includes New Milford and Sharon. He continued: "I am encouraged to hear that 'patient-facing' jobs are not in jeopardy. I am also encouraged to hear that key investments will be made and

that health care access will be increase."

Harding added: "however, like many, I have significant concerns for myself and my fellow neighbors in the 30th Senate District. Ensuring that existing medical services in our local hospitals remain fully open and operational, particularly Sharon Hospital's Labor and Delivery Unit, is of the utmost importance to me, and I hope it remains of utmost importance to Connecticut's Office of Health Strategy as they review this merger."

McCulloch noted that the arrangement between Nuvance and Northwell is not legally considered a merger or an acquisition but an "agreement."

Also noting Nuvance's financial difficulties, District 19 Dutchess County Legislator Chris Drago said he hoped that this deal would end Nuvance's attempts to cut services at Sharon Hospital. He also said that he hopes that it will improve the hospital's ability to attract and retain staff and medical talent to better serve the community.

"I do worry that typically consolidation drives cost up and quality down," he said. "I'm cautiously optimistic."

Horn shared: "In my conversations with Sharon Hospital leadership, it has been suggested that the significant resources of the new system will lead to increased support for Sharon Hospital and the community it serves. I look forward to learning about the system's strategic commitment to Sharon Hospital specifically, and look forward to a public process at which these questions can be addressed."

Nuvance and Northwell describe an "integrated healthcare system." The organizations say that the deal will grant "local communities" access to "coordinated

care across western Connecticut, the Hudson Valley, New York City and Long Island." They also promise that both Northwell and Nuvance will "continue to provide care to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay."

The terms of the deal, which is still subject to state and federal approval, are not

clear for Sharon Hospital, said McCulloch.

Amy Forni, a spokesperson for Nuvance Health, said that Nuvance expects to be filing for approval for the agreement in the coming months.

McCulloch noted that the regulatory and approval process could, Nuvance estimates, take a year or more.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Twelve Volt Holdings, LLC Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/26/2024. Office Location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 32 Griffith Way, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

- 02-08-24
- 02-15-24
- 02-22-24
- 02-29-24
- 03-07-24
- 03-14-24

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Jennings Cabin LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/26/2023. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to John Bolus, 112 E. Chestnut Hill Road, Litchfield, CT 06759. Registered Agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served: Anthony C. Palumbo, 365 Dover Furnace Rd., Dover Plains, NY 12522. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

- 02-22-24
- 02-29-24
- 03-07-24
- 03-14-24
- 03-21-24
- 03-28-24

Notice of Formation of Pine Place LLC

Pine Place LLC (the "LLC") filed Articles of Organization with SSNY on 12/25/24. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against the LLC may be served and is directed to mail process to 16 Meusel Road, Pine Plains, NY 12567. Purpose: any lawful activity.

- 02-01-24
- 02-08-24
- 02-15-24
- 02-22-24
- 02-29-24
- 03-07-24

of the Real Property Tax Law, Assessment Inventory and Valuation Data for the Town of Pine Plains is now available for examination and review. This data is the information that will be used to establish the assessment of each parcel which will appear in the tentative assessment roll on May 1, 2024.

To set up an appointment to review this information, please call 518-398-7193 ext 7.

Sara Foglia, Assessor
03-07-24
03-14-24

TOWN OF AMENIA ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Pursuant to Section 501 of the Real Property Tax Law, notice is hereby given that assessment inventory and valuation data is available for examination and review. This data will be used to establish the assessment of each parcel for the tentative assessment roll of the Town of Amenia which will be filed on May 1, 2024.

The information may be reviewed, by appointment, at the Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501. Contact 845. 373-8860 x 104 for an appointment.

Donna DiPippo, Assessor
Town of Amenia
03-07-24
03-14-24

TOWN OF NORTHEAST ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Pursuant to Section 501 of the Real Property Tax Law, notice is hereby given that assessment inventory and valuation data is available for examination and review. This data will be used to establish the assessment of each parcel for the tentative assessment roll of the Town of North East which will be filed on May 1, 2024.

The information may be reviewed with the Assessor. For an appointment, please call 518-789-3300 ext.605.

Katherine Johnson
Assessor
03-07-24
03-14-24

Public Notice
Pursuant to Section 501

Sharon Hospital timeline

1909 — Sharon Hospital is founded in a rented house by Dr. Jerome Chaffee.

1916 — A new building opens with 16 beds and three nurses.

1947 — Dr. Chaffee dies.

2002 — The nonprofit hospital is purchased by Essent Healthcare of Tennessee, becoming the first for-profit hospital in the state. A group called Save

the Hospital was formed to protest the sale.

2011 — Essent Healthcare merges with RegionalCare Hospital Partners, also based in Tennessee.

2016 — Health Quest takes over Sharon Hospital from Essent and it becomes a nonprofit again. Health Quest was formed from the merger of three hospitals: Vassar Brothers in Poughkeepsie; North-

ern Dutchess Hospital in Rhinebeck; and Putnam Hospital Center in Carmel.

2019 — Health Quest merges with Western CT Health Network, with hospitals in Danbury, Norwalk and New Milford, to become Nuvance Health.

2024 — Nuvance Health announced plan to join nonprofit hospital system Northwell Health.

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OBITUARIES

Diana Campbell Moore

PINE PLAINS — Diana Campbell Moore, 85, of Pine Plains, passed peacefully on Feb. 22, 2024. Diana was born May 4, 1938, in the Bronx, New York, to Margaret G. (Eickelberg) and Dunlap B. Campbell.



After graduating from Hastings High School in Hastings, New York, Diana began her career as a professional figure skating instructor, which she continued into her 70's. She married C. Donald Moore on Dec. 18, 1965, and raised two children, Jeffrey and Susan. Starting out in Tarrytown, she lived across Westchester and briefly in Buffalo, New York and Oberlin, Ohio. She later lived in New Fairfield, Connecticut, until she settled in Pine Plains, where she enjoyed over twenty years of bucolic, small-town life.

Diana is survived by her loving family; son, Jeffrey D. Moore and daughter-in-law Diane, daughter Susan L. Nicolari and son-in-law Timothy; grandchildren Thomas D. Moore and wife Sherlyn Abdullah, Daphne L. Roberts, Evan M. Roberts and his partner Andie, Samuel A. Moore, William A. Moore, Griffin R. Roberts, and Serena E. McKeever; great-granddaughter Maya S. Roberts-King; niece Megan E. Genthner and her husband Michael; grandnephew Maxfield Genthner; and her extended family and many dear friends across New York and Connecticut. Diana was preceded in death by her parents, her sister, Mona Campbell Thomas, and her son-in-law, Jeffrey R. Roberts.

Diana was absolutely adored by her grandchildren and her great-granddaughter. They had special nicknames for her: she was known as "Franny" to her Copake family, and "Tammy" to her Connecticut family. She carried pictures of them in her purse and would pull them out at a moment's notice and recall

special memories from their childhood with perfect clarity.

Diana also loved her calico cat, Penny, who now lives with family and is receiving extra snuggles.

Diana was a United States Figure Skating Silver Medalist. She was a skating instructor at the Riverdale Ice Rink, Rye Figure Skating Club, Hommocks Ice Rink in Larchmont, Harvey School Rink in Katonah, and several others. She trained many beginner and competitive skaters. Diana will be remembered for her love of classical and jazz music and stories about her brushes with fame. As a younger woman, she frequented jazz clubs and concerts where she saw jazz legends such as Dave Brubeck and Ahmad Jamal, and more recently, met one of her favorites, John Pizzarelli, after a performance. Diana was proud of her ability to "stretch a dollar" and her various gigs led her to babysit and paint houses for celebrities and other notables.

She also loved tag sales, thrifting, and collecting, which inspired her to join the board at Willow Roots, a nonprofit organization serving Pine Plains. There, she managed the clothing exchange, and took great care to wash, iron, and mend clothing for donation. She had a special fondness for children's clothing, toys, and books and helped many young families with gifts and clothing for their children.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, March 30, 2024, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Pine Plains Community Center above the library. The family invites Diana's family and friends to come together to share memories and celebrate a well-lived life. A luncheon will be served. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Willow Roots and Collaborative Cats - A cat rescue in Diana's memory.

Eugene 'Gene' C. Bloodgood Sr.

PINE PLAINS — Eugene "Gene" C. Bloodgood Sr., 70, of Pine Plains, passed away in Falls Village, Connecticut on March 4, 2024, surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Valley Stream, New York, the son of Clarence and Frieda (Rau) Blood-



good. At the age of 13, his family moved to Stanfordville. In 1972, he graduated from Stissing Mountain High School. At 16, he began his career as a butcher at Meiller's Slaughter House in Pine Plains until his retirement in 2019. He married his wife Lara "Kim" (Hoyt) Bloodgood in 1976 and together they moved to Pine Plains. Gene was a hard working man, who had a multitude of talents. He could build anything and was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Gene's family was always his first priority.

In his free time, Gene enjoyed hunting, fishing, boating and camping, especially camping with his family in the Adirondacks. Saranac Lake, Lake George, and Ticonderoga were some of his favorite towns to visit with his family. He also enjoyed watching baseball and football and was

an avid Mets and Jets fan.

Gene is survived by his four children: Heidi Bathrick (Kenny), Christina Swartz (Fred), Eugene Bloodgood Jr. (Cady), and Michelle Campbell (Jason). Gene is also survived by his six grandchildren: Alyssa, Liam,

Emma, Wyatt, Lara and Kimberly. Gene is also survived by his mother Frieda Bloodgood, in addition to his brother, John Bloodgood (Ellen).

He was predeceased by his wife Lara in 2019, in addition to his father and brother Charles Bloodgood and sister-in-law Connie.

A time for sharing memories and offering condolences will be held Friday, March 8, 2024 from 10 a.m. to noon at Peck & Peck Funeral Homes, 7749 South Main St., Pine Plains, NY. At 12:30 p.m., a graveside service will be conducted in Stanford Cemetery, Stanfordville, with the Rev. Andrew Smith officiating.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the American Lung Association.

For directions or to leave a message of condolence for the family please visit www.peckandpeck.net

Remembrance

Albert Tompkins

There's a different atmosphere around Elm Drive School these days; someone is missing. That someone is Albert Tompkins, who died on Feb. 20, suddenly, at the age of 50, from complications that arose from surgery.



Aside from leaving behind his beloved son, Billy, and other family, he also leaves behind the people who loved him at all four schools in the Millbrook Central School District (MCSD). His main workplace was at Elm Drive School, but as Senior Custodian he was responsible for all of the schools, a matter he took seriously and he put his heart into every project he took on, usually going above and beyond expectations.

Stephen Cabello, principal of the Millbrook Middle School, said, "Albert was an amazing man. I saw him every day across the hall and he always had a smile on his face. He was always ready to laugh off the problem of the day and get to work by finding a solution together.

"When it came to upkeep of our buildings, I can honestly say I have never worked with anyone who had such incredible vision and follow through. Whether it was transforming every blackboard into a whiteboard in the middle school, using a new and innovative technology, or connecting the PTO, NJHS, and MMS to build, paint and install reader's mailboxes here at MMS and in town, Albert always had a plan on how to make MCSD better.

"He always said the same thing when he took anything on. 'It's for the kids right? Let's do it!'"

School Superintendent Caroline Hernandez Pidala shared that during COVID, on most days, Albert was the only other person she'd see.

"He looked in on me every morning and say goodnight at the end of each lonely day," she

said. "He never forgot others, that's who Albert was. He had a smiling face that he wore each day along with his cowboy hat.

"Inside that presentation of a man was a deep soul," she continued. "And his hands shaped much of our district with his craftsmanship.

This has been a tremendous loss to the district."

Keith Russell, PE teacher at Elm Drive, said, "I have had the privilege to be a co-worker of Albert since he joined the district 32 years ago. His family has a long and distinguished service record with the MCSD.

"I worked with his father Bill for many years as he served on the maintenance and facility team here; as a young teacher I quickly learned Bill was the guy to go to if I needed something done.

"When Albert joined the district, I had only been here about 4 or 5 years, so we served together here for the majority of my career. When his dad retired Albert was the one I knew I could count on for whatever was needed, as did the rest of the staff.

"Albert was always smiling. And he always had something to say that would make me laugh."

Julie Ruuge, secretary to the principal at Alden Place Elementary and CSEA unit vice president, said, "I have known Albert for 32 years. He was a very close friend of mine, like a brother," she said. "As a friend, I could call him any time and ask his advice, ask for a joke to make me laugh, or ask for help and he was there.

"He was a loyal friend. I miss him. I will continue to work hard for everyone in my life that I can, because he was the kind of person I want to be."

All contributions to his memory should be made to The Millbrook Educational Foundation, P.O. Box 453, Millbrook, NY 12545.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Exchange student Marina Baleller Molla, who is spending the school year with the Mark Vila family in Millbrook and as a student at Millbrook High School, has a pensive moment before her presentation of her life at home and in America in a slide show at the Wednesday, Feb. 28, Rotary Club dinner meeting at the Millbrook Cafe.

Millbrook Rotary Club hosts meeting and dinner for exchange student

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Millbrook Rotary Club held a combined meeting and dinner at The Millbrook Café Wednesday, Feb. 28.

John Hedbav, past president of the Salisbury (Connecticut) Rotary Club, was a guest, and the special guest was Martina Balaller Molla, an exchange student from Spain who is spending a school year with the Mark Vila family in Millbrook through the Rotary Club. She is 17, a junior, and has a twin sister, Serafina,

who is an exchange student in Canada, both having gotten placement through the International Rotary Club. So far, as well as being a student in Millbrook High School, she has been to Washington, D.C., Boston and New York City. She has also been hiking and skiing, and was delighted to see "Wicked" on Broadway.

Molla entertained the group with a slide presentation about her hometown, some typical dishes from home, festivals that are celebrated, and her hobbies. She is a ballerina and also likes to play games. She will be in Millbrook until the end of the school year.

Paul Allen Clark

SHARON — Paul Allen Clark died peacefully on Feb. 29, 2024, at Sharon Hospital with his devoted and loving wife, Betsy (Stanton) Clark, by his side.



Paul was born in Trenton, New Jersey, and then graduated from Western New England College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Upon graduation he worked for United Screw & Bolt in Westfield, New Jersey, as a sales representative, covering the New England region. During this time he resided in Meriden, Connecticut, where he met Betsy. After their marriage, in Oct. 1986, they moved to Sayreville, New Jersey, where they lived for 26 years. In 1991 Paul started his own business, Precision Parts Inc., which was a Fastener Distribution Company. After retiring in 2012, they moved to Sharon.

In his youth, Paul sang and travelled to Europe with the St. Paul's Episcopal Church Choir

of Westfield, New Jersey. Besides music, his other interests included travelling with family and friends all throughout Europe, reading, playing cards, being the expert "chef" for holiday meals and best buddy to the three doxies he had during his lifetime, Bismark, Fritz &

Hans.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his two sisters, Nancy Aurand of Marietta, Georgia, and Amy Demos and her husband Darryl of Duxbury, Massachusetts, as well as his nieces and nephews who he loved very much.

A memorial service will be held at the Kenny Funeral Home Tuesday, March 5, from 11 a.m. to noon followed by a celebration of life. Private interment services will be held in the spring.

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

Worship Services

Week of March 10, 2023

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

<p>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</p>	<p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p>
<p>St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p>	<p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville Offering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org Misa en español al mediodía (12 pm) el último sábado de mes The Revs. Heidi Truax & Felix Rivera trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p>
<p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p>	<p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, March 10 at 10:30 a.m. The Life of a Hindu For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome</p>
<p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p>	<p>Chabad of Northwest CT On the Green 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759 chabadNW.org 860.567.3377 office@chabadNW.org Rabbi Joseph & Mina Eisenbach A home away from home, a gathering place where unity is paramount. We are here for you, welcome to the family!</p>
<p>Congregation Beth David A reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly - Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p>	<p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p>
<p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p>	<p>UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall</p>
<p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!! 860-824-0194</p>	<p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall</p>
<p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</p>	<p>Sharon Congregational Church 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org</p>
<p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!</p>	<p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p>
<p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow! Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p>	<p>Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutcher Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 5:00 P.M. 518-789-3138</p>

EDITORIAL

Our hospital's history

When Sharon Hospital was founded in 1909, it was an eight-bed, two-nurse hospital in a rented house on Caulkinstown Road. In its first year it served 88 patients. By the spring of 1916, thanks to the public-spirited generosity of the community that raised the funds for a building, a 16-bed hospital was officially opened.

The following day, Dr. Jerome S. Chaffee, a surgical veteran of the Spanish-American War who was the moving force behind the founding of the hospital, performed an appendectomy in its new emergency room.

Over the years, the hospital underwent more expansion. In a 1969 Lakeville Journal article commemorating Sharon Hospital's 60th anniversary, its history was described as "written by thousands of dedicated people who founded it, planned its development, staffed its facilities, financed expansion programs and, in many cases, became thankful patients." The article further noted: "A special feeling permeates the whole institution. Letters from appreciative patients and relatives emphasize the fine quality of patient care and the friendly, helpful spirit of everyone involved."

While Dr. Chaffee is credited with starting Sharon Hospital, the success of the hospital as a cherished community institution that has provided acclaimed care for patients for all these decades is also due to the support from the people in our community. From the beginning, two years after the first patient was treated, a women's auxiliary was started with 40 charter members who made bed linens, provided free meals for special occasions and pinch hit for staff when there was a shortage. The dream of Dr. Chaffee was realized in his lifetime. He died in 1947, and the hospital has grown and been supported decade after decade by an appreciative community. However, in the last two decades, it has changed hands more than once. In 2002 it became the first for-profit hospital in the state. In a 2016 takeover, it again became a nonprofit. Then in 2019, a merger folded seven hospitals, including Sharon Hospital, into Nuvance Health.

Last week, Northwell Health, the largest non-sectarian, nonprofit health care operation in the United States and the largest health care provider in New York state, announced that Nuvance would become part of Northwell (see story on A1), pending state and federal approval, marking yet another significant milestone in the history of our rural hospital.

We hope that the leadership at Northwell will preserve what the people of our community have built and supported and fought for over the past century, including the recent citizen campaign to retain labor and delivery services. In that engagement, the people of the state of Connecticut, represented by the Office of Health Strategy (OHS) and its Executive Director Deirdre Gifford, made the decision, not corporate guidance.

Northwell has vowed to make significant investments in Nuvance. It would seem the timing is right. On Feb. 20, a little over a week before Northwell's announcement and citing three principal factors, Nuvance appealed to OHS to reconsider its Final Decision to deny the request to close labor and delivery (see story on A3).

Studies by the American Hospital Association point to hospital acquisitions as a way for hospitals to succeed in reducing costs and improving quality of care; certainly the trend to hospital mergers is evident.

Last year, Sharon Hospital was awarded its fourth consecutive 5-Star rating by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, based on patient experience and timely and effective care, among others. We imagine that Dr. Chaffee would be proud.



When reusable water bottles get together.

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

We accept gifts, grants and sponsorships from individuals and organizations for the general support of our activities, but our news judgments are made independently and not on the basis of donor support.

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

'The greatest president we never had'

"How do you 'do justice?' How do you balance idealism with pragmatism?" asked James Traub, elucidating a key theme of his latest book, "True Believer: Hubert Humphrey's Quest for a More Just America."

Traub, a journalist, professor at NYU Abu Dhabi and Sharon resident, will be speaking about the book at the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon on Sunday, March 10, at 4 p.m.

"True Believer" follows Humphrey, a pharmacist's son with more hours in the day than Beyoncé, from his idyllic childhood in Doland, South Dakota, through his remarkably effective political career as chairman of the liberal, anticommunist Americans for Democratic Action (expunger of the Communist elements in Minnesota's Democratic and labor machines); mayor of Minneapolis (destroyer of organized crime and obstructor of government corruption); senator for Minnesota (champion of labor and liberalism, anticommunism, Soviet containment, foreign aid, nuclear nonproliferation and civil rights); vice president of Lyndon Johnson (enforcer of the Civil Rights Act and, distressingly, a mouthpiece for Johnson's position in Vietnam); and presidential candidate for the United States. In his last decade, Humphrey served as a Democratic "elder statesman" — a powerful advocate for disarmament, foreign aid, civil rights, employ-

WHAT WE'RE READING

Maud Doyle

ment opportunity, housing opportunity, "law and order and justice," people with disabilities, the aging, for labor, and pretty much everyone else.

Humphrey was an idealist, but he was also a legislator, a statesman in a sense that seems almost archaic today

"The question I always begin with is, why should anybody who didn't live through that moment read this book?" said Traub, a journalist who has written eight books on affairs foreign and domestic, as well as writing for The New Yorker, The New York Times, Foreign Affairs and others, and authors his own ominously titled Substack, "A Democracy, If You Can Keep It."

"[Humphrey's] brand of pragmatic, incremental, melioristic idealism is really important," said Traub. "Biden, too, is a meliorist who is blamed for timidity on the left — he too suffers from the sense among so many progressives that he's failed their high hopes," as Humphrey did. "So those lessons, to me, are

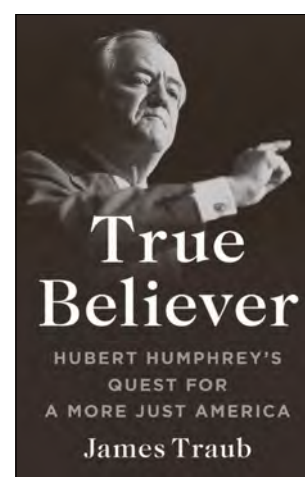


PHOTO COURTESY BASIC BOOKS

both perennial and particularly relevant to our moment."

Humphrey was an idealist, but he was also a legislator, a statesman in a sense that seems almost archaic today. In the name of progress, he encouraged his colleagues not just to accept "half a loaf" but, at times, to content themselves with crumbs. He believed that incremental change could lead to real change, and during his lifetime, that was true.

Reading "True Believer" as a millennial, I was also fascinated by another central theme of Humphrey's story: the role that race has played in the undoing of the American liberal consensus, which governed the country's politics from FDR's election in 1932

through Dwight Eisenhower's Republican administration until the "law and order" election of Richard Nixon in 1968.

According to Traub, it was Humphrey who succeeded in making Civil Rights a central tenet of the Democratic Party in 1948, and who, after a solid two decades of arm-twisting, politicking, speechifying and, above all, talking — more or less nonstop — finally succeeded in passing the Civil Rights Act in 1964. This month marks the 60th anniversary of the introduction of the watershed legislation.

The Civil Rights Act, "perhaps the most important piece of legislation" to come out of the 20th century, said Traub, "was both the apogee" of the nation's liberal ideal and, in a sense, its undoing: Once Black Americans had been legally elevated to equal footing with their white compatriots, white labor began to vote conservative for the first time in the country's history.

"Anybody who writes about history sees profound patterns in human life and in human society, which are constantly recurring," said Traub. "If you're thinking about the nature of power, and how certain people wind up in power, that's a perennial question."

Support local journalism in your community.

Please donate to The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News at LakevilleJournalFoundation.org/donate or by mail
PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

Of odd-even rations and a Dairy Goat Princess

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

91 years ago: March 9, 1933

'About Millerton': Martin Black has recovered from his recent illness and is able to be out again.

Worthy Pulver, Harry Miller, Malcom Hunter and Thomas Flood were in New York City attending a Chevrolet meeting.

'Lost': Large foxhound on Mt. Riga. Blue, speckled brown ears, large collar. Louis Lindsay, Millerton

50 years ago: March 14, 1974

'Residents Favor Odd-Even System': Most Millerton citizens polled by The News this week reported that they

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Millerton News

approved of the odd-even gasoline rationing system in New York [...] "It does seem to be working," said Patricia Ambrose of Irondale. "I've had much less trouble getting gas than several months previously. There was less waiting in line." The basic complaints were the hours the area fueling stations were open and the high price of gasoline.

'Dairy Goat Club Seeks Princess': The Progressive Dairy Goat Club is sponsoring a Miss Dairy Goat Princess contest. The Dairy Goat Princess must be between the ages 12-20, talented, single, and have an interest in goats. The prize is a \$25 savings bond or a purebred kid goat.

25 years ago: March 11, 1999

'Cub Scouts Display Craft, Sportsmanship': The Millerton Cub Scout Pack 43 recently completed a family event. The youngsters built their own cars and spaceships, and then raced them [...] The winners of the competitions were as follows: Den 1: (Space Derby) Larry Watson, Stephen Bradley and Charlie Porteus. Den 2: (Pinewood Derby) Rich Katan, Dustin Smith and Andrew Watson. Den 3: (Pinewood Derby) Nicholas Carlin, Richard Peek and Patrick McCaffery.

'Three Plots Proposed for Historic District': Three properties in the town of North East have been proposed for listing in the New York State Register of Historic Places. They are: The Dakin-Coleman Farm on Coleman Station Road, the Thomas N. Wheeler Farm on Indian Lake Road at Mill Road, and

the Oliver Barrett House on Regan Road [...] the properties will be considered by the state review board.

'Residents Decry Lack of Town Support for Rec Programs': A large contingent of parents appeared at the March 8 joint meeting between the village of Millerton and town of North East to support the formation of a joint recreation commission between the town and village. "The parents feel the board is dragging its feet," said Joe Matteo, president of the Millerton Minor League. "We request it be done in a more expedited fashion." [...] "Financial sponsorship of the minor and softball teams over the past three years has come solely from the generosity of the merchants of Millerton and North East," he stated. "No funding whatsoever has come from the village of Millerton or town of North East."

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

The crowd is gathered under the tent with the original builders to check out the contents of the time capsule that was buried in the park when it was built in 1991.

Old Sparc Park sent off, new volunteer builders called

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

STANFORD — Town residents and friends gathered at the Stanford Recreation Center Saturday, March 2, to say goodbye to the 33-year-old playground structure that so many of Stanford's children have grown up playing in.

Said Town Supervisor Wendy Burton, "It's old, it's wooden, so full of splinters, and it's not ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act]-compliant."

Although it was raining and cold, the pavilion at the park was crowded with people of all ages. There was fresh popcorn from Big Rock Farm, homemade donuts from Big Rock Market, hot coffee from All That Java, and music courtesy of DJ Jared Rosenberg from Not Donuts Records, all free.

Burton was enthusiastic, saying: "I'm thrilled. So many people have come, even with the rain. It's a dream come true. This is a 40-year event, bringing the community together for the sake of the children."

One of the purposes of the gathering was to impress upon people the need for volunteers to build the new park.

The original park was built in five days. The new park will take eight days, from 8 a.m.

Habitat Dutchess ReStore seeks home goods donations

WAPPINGERS FALLS — Habitat for Humanity Dutchess County is encouraging county residents to help reduce waste in landfills this spring cleaning season by donating gently used home goods to its Habitat Dutchess ReStore.

The ReStore accepts items such as appliances, building products, furniture, home goods, and household fixtures such as lighting and cabinets. Donations provide families in the community with an affordable option to furnish their homes. Proceeds from the ReStore help families build, rehabilitate and repair their homes.

Items intended for donation can be brought to 1822 South Road. Pickup for larger items can be scheduled online at habitatdutchess.org. Habitat donors will receive gift vouchers for 10% off to use on future purchases at the ReStore. For more information, call 845-297-7610, option 2 or email restoredonations@habitatdutchess.org

Blazers basketball teams clinch section title for Millbrook

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Both the Millbrook High School Blazers boys varsity and girls varsity basketball teams are on the track to go for the state championships in high school basketball.

Exciting plays, team effort and dedication to the game allowed both Blazers teams to claim victory for Class C Section 9 at games held Wednesday, Feb. 28, at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh.

The girls beat the Pine Plains Bombers 63-54, gaining victory and the Class C Section 9 title, and are now on to the regional semifinals.

Coach Adam Peek and two assistant coaches were hap-

py, but not surprised at the outcome. Peek has coached the Blazers teams to several championships, including state.

The boys played and hard and fast, overpowering the S.S. Seward Institute Spartans of Florida, New York, 60-34. The boys will next play Wednesday, March 6, at Yorktown High School.

Boys coach Brian Lafin was overjoyed and very proud of his team. Senior Andrew Szostak accumulated 17 points, 15 rebounds, four blocks, four assists and three steals.

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) oversees the process; it is the governing body throughout the state, with the exception of New York City.



PHOTO BY MARINA CRUZ-AMODEO

Natalie Fox of the Millbrook Blazers scored 29 points in the girls varsity basketball game against Burke Catholic Monday, Feb. 26, contributing to Millbrook's 60-28 win. They advanced to finals Wednesday, Feb. 28, which they won against Pine Plains. Millbrook's girls and boys varsity teams are off to the regionals.

Webutuck Board of Ed. seeks members

AMENIA — The Northeast (Webutuck) Central School District Board of Education has two open seats to fill.

One of the seats is for a three-year term beginning July 1 and the other is for a seat from May 21, 2023 to June 30, 2027.

To qualify for membership, a candidate must: be able to read and write; be a qualified voter of the Webutuck Central School District; be and have been a resident of the district for at least one year immediately prior to the election; not have been removed from any school district office within the previous year; not live with a family member who is also a member of the school board; not be a current employee of the school district; and not simultaneously hold another incompatible public office.

An election for the new board members will be held Tuesday, May 21.

Those interested in running for the board may pick up information packets including nominating petitions in the district office at Webutuck High School, 194 Haight Road. Petitions are due back to the office by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 22, including the signatures of at least 25 qualified district voters.

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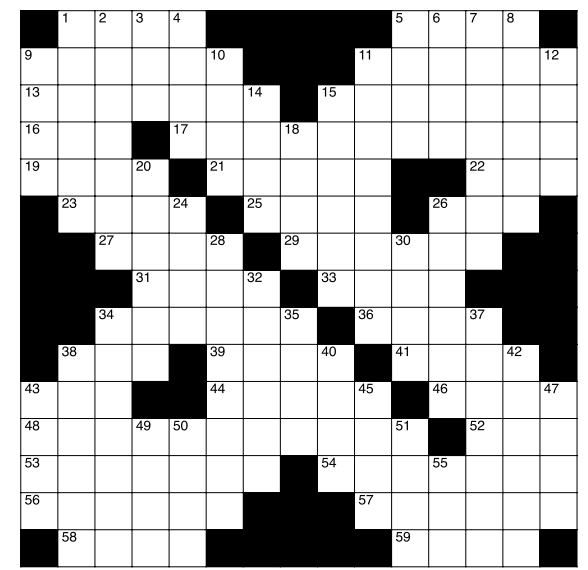
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Chaps
- Currently fashionable
- Collision
- More slim
- European city
- Implicitly
- The side of something that is sheltered from the wind
- The Mount Rushmore State
- Gold or silver wire cord
- Muscles along insects' diaphragm
- Trent Reznor's band
- Sweet juicy gritty-textured fruit
- Broken branch
- Indicates ten
- Expression of annoyance
- Brings together
- Ancient city in Thrace
- Sailors' spirit
- Looked into
- Muckraking woman journalist Rheta
- A type of cast
- One's responsibility
- Where golfers begin
- Make a mistake
- Semitic Sun god
- Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- Beheaded
- A place to stay
- Unwise
- Most supernatural
- "Dennis" is a famous one
- Ointments
- Exam
- Leaked blood

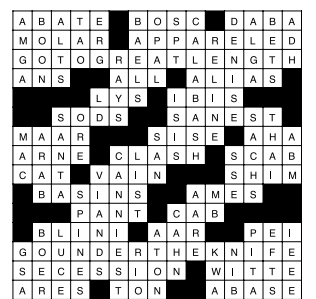
CLUES DOWN

- Baseball managers assemble it
- Revised
- Mountain is a popular kind
- Takes to civil court

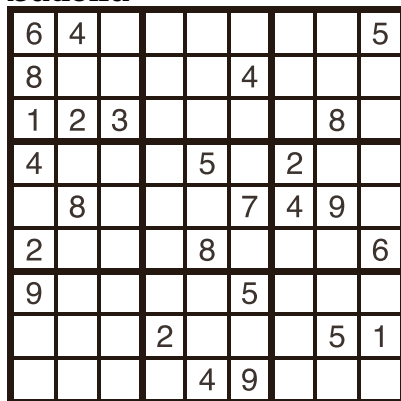


- Pouches
- A type of veil
- Chants
- Boston hoopster
- Elongated appendage
- Sailboat
- 2017 Oscar-winning film
- Actor Gosling
- Monetary units
- Assembly
- Russian pop duo
- Embellished with expressions
- Infrequent
- Temperature unit
- Hydrophilic amino acid
- Honk
- Legislative body
- Swinish
- Russian assembly
- Take over for
- Put in advance
- Satisfy
- Felt
- Dutch cheese
- Witnesses
- Strong insects
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Ancient people of Scotland
- Cheerless
- Sick

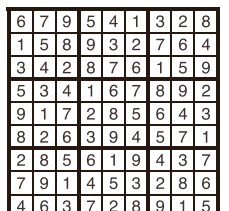
Feb. 29 Solution



Sudoku



Feb. 29 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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RTHV Continued from Page A1

ban Development (HUD) was identifying rural communities, in both Dutchess and Ulster counties, with needs that Rebuilding Together could help meet in its expansion.

HUD has identified that up to 75% of the population in these counties live in a rural community which they define in one of three ways: 1. A place having fewer than 2,500 inhabitants. 2. A county or parish with an urban population of 20,000 inhabitants or less or 3. Any place with a population not in excess of 20,000 inhabitants and not located in a Metropolitan Statistical Area.

By leveraging census data

and collaborating with local officials and community partners, Rebuilding Together identified Ulster County as the next frontier for its mission. "For all of the housing support that agencies give," said McCourt, "we're only touching 5% of the population in those same rural communities."

Reaching those in need isn't just about physical presence, but about meaningful outreach, said McCourt. She emphasized the importance of meeting people where they are, whether it's through community events, partnerships with local organizations or even bulletin board post-

ings at grocery stores. The application process, though time-limited — applications are sent out in June and must be received by September — ensures that those who qualify can access services regardless of technological barriers.

"Those who live in rural communities may not have computers," said McCourt. "They may not know about us. Perhaps they don't go to their local library or food pantry. In the past three years, we've spent a significant amount of time with our outreach coordinator to touch all corners of our county."

Central to Rebuilding Together's success is also a ro-

bust volunteer engagement platform, with over 14,000 volunteers lending their time and skills over the years. In addition to providing services for low-income homeowners, RTHV is also providing jobs for those in the skilled trades.

"Since COVID, we have identified that there is greater need for skilled labor," said McCourt. These relationships have also allowed for a greater number of in-kind donations from contractors. "They can charge us for the labor to put a roof on, but maybe they have extra roofing materials so they're able to do the work without the cost," McCourt explained.

Financially, Rebuilding Together relies on a mix of direct donations, grants and in-kind contributions. Its annual golf tournaments serve not only as fundraising events but as opportunities for community engagement and support. McCourt invites individuals and businesses alike to join the cause, whether through donations, volunteering or simply spreading the word.

A consistent grant it has received is through the Office for the Aging. Said director Todd Tancredi: "Rebuilding Together has long partnered with Dutchess County's Office for the Aging as we fulfill our mission of keeping older adults in their homes safely for as long as possible. To ac-

complish that, our organizations have worked together to oversee vital repairs and modifications to houses for older adults in Dutchess, allowing them to continue to live independently. We wish Rebuilding Together similar success as they expand into Ulster County."

The impact of Rebuilding Together's work extends far beyond the homes it repairs. McCourt shared poignant stories of homeowners whose lives have been transformed by their services. From empowering seniors to remain in their homes to providing communities resources to care for their own, Rebuilding Together's ripple effect is profound.

PARKS Continued from Page A1

year, presented conceptual design plans for the dual projects, expected to be multiphased over several years of development.

One project, Amenia Green, would improve the town-owned land adjacent to the Town Hall, and the other, Wassaic Park, would develop acreage abutting Wassaic Brook and the Rail Trail and include a new playground adjacent to Gridley Chapel.

Questions from residents mainly sought clarification with some concern expressed about future cost, although all comments were favorable toward the plans.

"Play is an important aspect of everyone's life and the life of their community," Didona said, introducing the plans.

Wassaic Park

Wassaic Park, Didona said, holds about 9 landlocked acres, with the area south of the brook considered to be a floodplain. Recent drawings have moved the half-acre dog run to another location within the park.

Speaking of dog runs, Didona said, breeds should be kept separated according to their temperaments and they need to be at least 350 feet from any residence.

Also requiring separation according to age group is the playground area anticipated for the land adjacent to Gridley Chapel. Toddlers and young children should have playground equipment that stands apart from equipment used by older children.

Planning has been done in cooperation with officials from the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) who have visited the site and made recommendations to assist with meeting regulations and eventually submitting grant applications. Included in the planning is a recreational sports field that can be used for a variety of sports. A pump track and skate park were moved within the planning to a different location within the park to offer access from the Rail Trail and accommodate inclusion of a walking trail around its perimeter.

The land area to be converted to Wassaic Park and the Gridley Chapel yard is largely owned by the Wassaic Project. The owners have indicated that the pump track area would be developed by the Wassaic Project and the land leased to the town for \$1 a year. The town would assume responsibility for insurance.

An existing small pond at the site could be used for winter skating, surrounded by a short walking trail, Didona said.

"We have to keep the brook cool because it is stocked with trout," Didona explained while outlining the group of improvements to facilitate fishing within the park, in-

cluding the construction of a fishing platform, accessibility for people with disabilities, and other improvements. The DEC has offered to assist with construction of the fishing access features.

Expert in landscaping, Didona described the presence of large amounts of invasive plants on the site, noting that grant funding is readily available if planning includes environmentally desirable plantings and features.

Amenia Green

Review of the plans at the Tuesday meeting, Didona explained, had focused more on Wassaic Park because plans for Amenia Green had already been accepted by the town in June 2023. Responding to a resident's request at the end of the meeting, however, Didona reviewed the plans for Amenia Green, noting the planning phases are nearing completion for that project.

The Amenia Green plans envision correction of the existing drainage issues, expanded parking opportunities, a walking trail around the perimeter of the green area, a pavilion to offer concerts, and a splash pool for the playground area with sheltered seating for adults.

Details of the drainage plans involve new technology including underdrains combined with newly developed drainage fabric to allow water to seep away, an alternative to clay pipes. The system also uses a gravel layer, but Didona explained that soil testing will determine the volume of the gravel layer.

"There will be more places for water to go and to be absorbed gradually," Didona said.

Next Steps

Recreation Commission secretary Peter McCaffrey noted that this planning for both park areas is akin to a master plan for the multiphase, multiyear effort.

Speaking of the phased program, Didona said that the town's Recreation Commission needs to "build momentum" toward the next steps in the phased program of recreational park enhancement.

Commenting after the meeting when asked about the next step, McCaffrey replied that the Recreation Commission will study the plan and focus on what is needed for the first phase, including surveying and mapping of wetlands and floodplain, and assessing impact on endangered species in the area, notably salamander and bog turtles.

The next steps will also call for the creation of formalized design drawings by an engineer, in advance of receiving cost estimates for construction.

To view images of the park plans, go to www.ameniany.gov



Conceptual plan for Amenia Green.



PLANS COURTESY DIDONA ASSOCIATES

Conceptual plan for Wassaic Park.

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ZONING Continued from Page A1

to the ZRC's land use attorney Dave Everett of Whitman, Osterman & Hanna for legal review, with a turnaround time estimated by Greenwood to take approximately three weeks.

By June, the ZRC hopes to present a final version to the Town Board. After review by the town's attorney, the document will be sent on to Dutchess County Planning and Economic Development for its comments, which may take another month. Once all this expertise is combined in a final version, the town will publish the large document for all to see and then set a public hearing date.

The public hearing may send the plan back to the drawing board on specific issues.

"It's a balancing act of competing interests and views," Greenwood commented. "This project is one of the most interesting things I've ever been involved in — not just the details, but the realization of the impact zoning has on our community."

Bill Kish, a member of the Planning Board and the ZRC, observed: "Completing and adopting updated commercial zoning is critical to ensure the town's future economic viability. Our existing zoning regulations are almost 50 years old, which is one of the reasons why our commercial districts have fared so poorly in recent years."

Completely updating the zoning code from 1977 is a huge undertaking. Two former attempts were not successful, and over the years, the town made changes by enacting specific laws. The result has been zoning regulations that are inconsistent and patched together.

"What we are doing is taking a giant step backward," said Greenwood in an attempt to connect and update

the original zoning laws with the 2019 Comprehensive Plan.

The biggest changes foreseen are permitting residential in commercial districts and being more heedful of environmental issues, Greenwood said.

In preparing the revised code, the ZRC took over a year to review, update and expand the 32 pages of definitions that are the foundation of every zoning code. For example, Greenwood cited the 1977 definition of "family" referenced "family, domestic servants and gratuitous guests" and will now read "family, staff and occasional guests."

North East Town Supervisor Christopher Kennan, who frequently attends ZRC meetings, understands why the revision is taking so long: "I am deeply grateful to Edie Greenwood and to each of the six members of the ZRC committee. They have worked for three long years, usually meeting twice a month, to complete this gargantuan task. Imagine if you had to take every single item in your house out of the house, inspect it, evaluate it, and record it. Every single item — every single dish, every stick of furniture, each item of clothing, everything. And then think if wasn't just you, but actually six people, who all had to agree on what it was, what its condition is, and where it should be put back! Think about it. That's sort of what a zoning review like this involves. It is very, very detailed work. And soon enough, their work will be presented to the Town Board, and it will be in our lap. Thank you, ZRC!"

Once the Town Board officially approves of the commercial portion of the zoning revision, the ZRC will next begin the task of updating the Agricultural, Residential, and Land Conservation zoning code.

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Spent last Saturday night in the rain bringing a few wood frogs across the road to avoid the traffic up on Taconic Rd. They are the first to make the run to the vernal pools for their mating season and unfortunately there is a high percentage of road kill, so it would be good to be aware of that as we drive on a rainy spring night. Vernal pools exist only for a few months and then usually dry up in the summer. They are essential for amphibians to breed and are protected watercourses in Connecticut. For more information please visit: portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Water/Wetlands/Vernal-Pools for more information. I also found this website from the University of Maine to be very helpful in understanding the importance of vernal pools and why it is so important to protect them from over development: www.vernalpools.me

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Finding 'The Right Stuff' for a documentary

If you've ever wondered how retrospective documentaries are made, with their dazzling compilation of still images and rare footage spliced between contemporary interviews, The Moviehouse in Millerton, New York, offered a behind-the-scenes peek into how "the sausage is made" with a screening of director Richard Dewey's biographical film "Radical Wolfe" on Saturday, March 2.

Coinciding with the late Tom Wolfe's birthday, "Radical Wolfe," now available to view on Netflix, is the first feature-length documentary to explore the life and career of the enigmatic Southern satirist, city-dwelling sartorial icon and pioneer of New Journalism — a subjective, lyrical style of long-form nonfiction that made Wolfe a celebrity in the pages of Esquire and vaulted him to the top of the best-seller lists with his drug-culture chronicle "The Electric Kool-Aid

Acid Test" and his first novel, "The Bonfire of The Vanities."

The film is rife with local connections, featuring talking-head anecdotes by Wolfe's former agent and Sharon resident Lynn Nesbit as well as Wolfe contemporary Gay Talese of Roxbury and Christopher Buckley, the son of the late Sharon resident William F. Buckley Jr., who interviewed Wolfe on PBS' "Firing Line" in 1970.

Present at The Moviehouse was the film editor for "Radical Wolfe," Brian Gersten, a Millerton resident who recently worked on "Enter The Slipstream," documenting an American cycling team through the 2020 season of the Tour de France, and the film's archival producer, Rich Remsburg of North Adams, Massachusetts, a two-time Emmy winner who recently produced "Street Gang: How We Got to Sesame Street" for HBO.

Remsburg admit-

ted that in his archival search, there is a competitive sense of "trophy hunting" — the quest for a previously unseen piece of footage that will add an exclusive peek into the past of a film's subject. "The trophy-hunting aspect of [archival producing] is the rarity of a clip," he said at The Moviehouse. "I did a piece about George Lucas recently and found an interview with his high school art teacher. It was just mind-blowing. I found four interviews with Lucas before he became famous. But the director only used two minutes. And you can't get hung up on, 'But it's rare!' You have to consider how useful it is."

Remsburg added: "One of my favorite sequences in this film is when Wolfe is being introduced onto all these talk shows, and we spliced 'Ladies and gentlemen... Tom Wolfe, Tom Wolfe, Tom Wolfe, Tom Wolfe...' And you



FILM STILL FROM "RADICAL WOLFE" COURTESY OF KINO LORBER

Tom Wolfe

see the rapid succession of him entering, shaking hands, doing his 'hair thing' three or four times, then crossing his legs three or four times. Beautiful rhythm to it, right? It's really the musicality of filmmaking."

"I think, as you could tell from how we structured the film,

Tom Wolfe's personal life was private. There wasn't much there, to be perfectly honest. So the substance was all in the writing," said Gersten on the documentary editing process. "If you open a book of his, it has so much style, so much is going on, and we did our best to replicate that in

the editing style of the film. I think the quick cuts are effective at certain points. At other points, you want to let the story tell itself. When Tom Wolfe describes his interaction with [then-U.S. Sen. John F.] Kennedy, there's no reason to stylize that. You want to hear Wolfe's words."

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Art on view this March



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

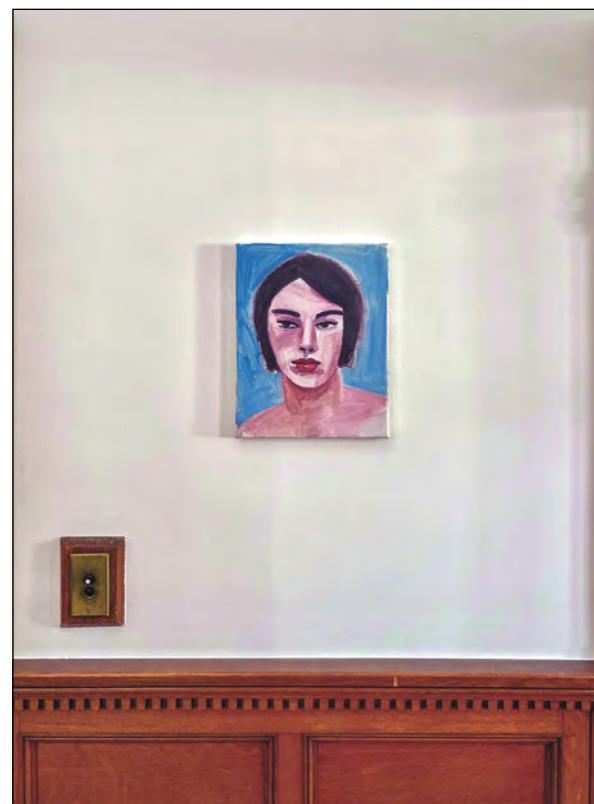
"Spooky Action #2" by Will Hutnick

While there are area galleries that have closed for the season, waiting to emerge with programming when the spring truly springs up, there are still plenty of art exhibitions worth seeking out this March.

At Geary Contemporary in Millerton, founded by Jack Geary and Dolly Bross Geary, Will Hutnick's "Satellite" is a collection of medium- and large-scale acrylic on canvas abstracts that introduce mixtures of wax

pastel, sand and colored pencil to create topographical-like changes in texture. Silhouettes of leaves float across seismic vibration lines in the sand while a craterous moon emerges on the horizon, all like a desert planet seen through a glitching kaleidoscope. Hutnick, a resident of Sharon and director of artistic programming at The Wassaic Project in Amenia, New York, will discuss his work at Geary with New York Times art writer Laura van Straaten Saturday, March 9, at 5 p.m.

In Falls Village, the vacant bank building at 105 Main St., with its



COURTESY OF NEW RISEN

"Untitled" by Maureen Dougherty

white masonry exterior and revolving glass door, has recently been adopted by David Noonan and digital abstract artist Millree Hughes for the duo's self-described "roving gallery" New Risen. The second show curated by Noonan and Hughes, "Faraway, So Close" is on display through Saturday, March 23. In addition to one of Hughes' own electrically lit disco "Matrix" landscapes, the group show features a pair of bedroom-eyed oil portraits by Maureen Dougherty, who recently exhibited at Cheim & Read before the 26-year-old New York City gallery closed its doors in December 2023, as well as an enigmatic and sensuously pouty graphite drawing of an astronaut by Judith Eisler, who lives in Warren and has exhibited work at Casey Kaplan in New York, with praise from The New Yorker's Hilton Als.

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Caught on Camera: Our wildlife neighbors

‘You don’t need to go to Africa or Yellowstone to see the real-life world of nature. There are life and death struggles in your wood lot and backyard,’ said Michael Fargione, wildlife biologist at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York, during his lecture “Caught on Camera: Our Wildlife Neighbors.”

He showed a video of two bucks recorded them displaying their antlers, then challenging each other with a clash of antlers, which ended with one buck running off. The victor stood and pawed the ground in victory.

In another video, a bear stood on its hind legs eating hickory nuts from a tree. “Bears are omnivores and will eat just about anything that becomes available,” said Fargione.

Bears first showed up on the property in 2004.

Fargione said, “Black bears have relatively poor eyesight but an excellent sense of smell.” In another video, a bear ran away from the camera after catching of whiff of human scent that had been left days before by researchers were setting up cameras. “They are typically shy and retreat when they encounter humans. Despite their large size, they move across the landscape very quietly.”

Fargione added that black bears are very curious and have chewed the cameras, changed the viewing angles, and even broken a few.

NATURE’S NOTEBOOK

ROBIN RORABACK

The trail cameras are self-contained and waterproof; they run on batteries or are solar-powered.

Cary Institute first began to use camera traps or trail cameras 10 years ago to study animals, particularly deer, on Cary’s 2,000-acre property. Its researchers hoped to learn about the growth and declines of the deer population, but they got much more than they bargained for.

Fargione said that the videos captured allow researchers to study animal behaviors they are rarely privileged to see.

“Camera placement is crucial,” stressed Fargione. To get different animals recorded, the biologists at Cary had to “think outside the box,” which resulted in placing cameras near an old logging road by a stone wall and then by two log jams on Wappingers Creek, which runs through the Cary Institute property.

At the stone wall, they set up two cameras on either side of the old logging road. They found that “prey species use the wall to move silently through the forest without attracting predators,” while “predators use the wall to move silently along and sneak up on their prey.”

Wildlife using the top of the wall as a walkway and the logging road

were deer, bobcats, cottontails, coyotes, turkeys, raccoons, bears and squirrels.

At the log jams on Wappingers Creek, the logs made convenient bridges for wildlife to cross the water. The logs were again used to tread quietly and quickly and evade predators or catch prey.

Those animals using the log jams were deer, bears, bobcats — notably a mother with three of her young — coyotes, turkeys and raccoons along with mallards, mergansers, a great blue heron, a mink, a fisher, a pair of wood ducks, a blue jay, a white-footed mouse and a grackle.

Rarer sightings of animals on the cameras are moose, river otters, barred owls and heron. A bull moose crossed through Cary land for a few days and a moose cow stayed for a few months. Some animals, such as the river otters and owls, aren’t seen because a camera may not be in the correct location to catch their images, which is why Fargione began to “think outside the box” for camera placements.

While they don’t often catch beavers on the cameras at Cary Institute, an opportunity arose when a beaver dam was causing flooding on a public road. The institute asked permission to dismantle the dam and set up cameras to record the rebuilding.

The video that was recorded showed at least two beavers carefully



COURTESY OF CARY INSTITUTE OF ECOSYSTEM STUDIES

Clockwise from upper left: Wildlife more rarely caught by trail cameras at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies: great blue heron, river otters, a bull moose, presenter and wildlife biologist Michael Fargione, a moose cow, and a barred owl.

placing branches, jamming them in the bank for stability and “placing leaves collected from the bank and carried to the site along the edge of the dam,” said Fargione.

When leaving the building site, the beavers use their hind and front legs to kick up mud and pebbles from the creek bed into the dam.

Fargione noted that the “sound of running water attracts the beaver as it works back and forth along the edge of the dam.” In this way they add materials to plug places where water is getting through and make the dam more secure. The beavers began building around midnight and finished a little after 3 a.m.

Another rare opportunity came when a mother fox took up residence under one of the Cary outbuildings, which was also occupied by a groundhog. Fargione commented that the

groundhog “had to be very fast.” While the cubs were too small to hunt it, the mother was a danger.

The cameras captured the mother fox returning from hunts with food for the cubs. One cub would grab all the food and “would not share.” It also recorded the cubs play fighting and hunting and napping in the sun.

Fargione concluded with cautions on setting up cameras and citizen science opportunities; he noted that no camera should be pointed at a neighbor’s property, to respect privacy, and not to trespass.

He said it is best not to give an exact address of animals’ locations to keep them safe and to “respect wildlife; don’t interfere with what they are trying to do: make a living.”

He mentioned that those who used trail cameras could be Citizen Helpers and contribute their photos

to some projects such as iSeeMammals (iseemammals.org), which collects data on black bears in New York state, and Snap Shot (app.wildlifeinsights.org/initiatives/2000156/Snap-shot-USA), which tracks animal populations and distribution.

On eMammal (emammal.si.edu/participate), citizen helpers can identify and upload and archive photos for the Smithsonian. Zooniverse (www.zooniverse.org) does not require submitting photos. Helpers would identify wildlife from photos provided by Zooniverse. Both of these platforms allow regular people to contribute to real research.

Fargione commented, “Every time I check a camera, it’s like going downstairs on Christmas morning and opening a present, because you never know exactly what’s going to be under the tree.”

The garden is dead, long live the garden

It is indisputable that we are moving toward a new garden aesthetic. I would even go one step further to propose that gardening’s “man over nature” ethos — which has a classic exemplar in the formal gardens of Versailles — is now over. Nature reminds us, with greater frequency and intensity, that she is in control, and we are beginning to come to terms with the reality that it is a fool’s game to try to tame her.

As you think about your spring planting plans, slide into a new mindset. Let’s call it “human abetting nature.” This mindset finds beauty less in rigorous planting schemes and more in the creation of habitats. The aesthetic associated with this new mindset is, thankfully, more forgiving — not so much the baggy dress to the tailored suit, but a looser beauty that can still be shaped or contained in ways we find pleasing.

As with many of our



choices these days, mindfulness is the first step. Where are you planting?

And what are you planting there? When planting at the edge of the woods and in her fields, writer and garden designer Page Dickey will only plant natives.

Here she has incorporated American hornbeam, *Carpinus caroliniana*, redbud, *Cercis canadensis* and gray dogwood, *Cornus racemosa*. In her book “Uprooted,” Dickey writes about her experience moving from a home where she crafted and tended an intricate garden to her current home in Falls Village with acres of woodland, fields and fen. Instead of working to transform the land into something else, she now listens to

the land and responds to nurture it.

This new mindset does not mean that aesthetics are less important than before; rather, the aesthetic has shifted. In Dickey’s garden beds that surround her house, she mixes non-natives with native perennials, such as her favorite

Bowman’s Root, *Gillenia trifoliata* (The Cornwall Garden Club native plant sale will offer Bowman’s Root plants among other native perennials Saturday, May 25, in West Cornwall. cornwallgardclub.org)

Among Dickey’s favorite native shrubs are *Fothergilla*, *Clethra alni-*

folia, gray dogwood, *Cornus racemosa*, and the American cranberrybush viburnum, *Viburnum trilobum*. She also used *Viburnum lentago*, called nannyberry, in place of adding more lilac, that had originally tempted her, for a hedgerow along

Continued on next page

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MUSIC: MATTHEW KRETA

Classical quartet plays Hotchkiss Library

On Sunday, March 3, The Guild at The Hotchkiss Library hosted the final concert of a series in collaboration with Music Mountain featuring the Cassatt String Quartet.

Comprised of Muneko Otani and Jennifer Lechnower on violin, Gwen Krosnick on cello and Emily Bradengurg on viola, the New York City-based quartet has performed at venues across the globe and featured for multiple recording labels. The program contained three pieces and lasted for approximately an hour.

The afternoon of music began with String Quartet No. 1 in G Major, composed by Florence Price in 1929. This work consisted of two movements, the first of which was light and beautiful and the second of which leaned into more ominous and uncertain tones. In the first move-

ment, long, drawn-out harmonies would be interspersed with quick and upbeat portions.

These changes in tempo, though surprising to the ear when they occurred, had a continual and consistent flow to them that made this beginning of the program memorable.

The quartet literally leaned quite heavily into this piece, swaying in time with the music as it explored its rich harmony. The second movement switched to a minor tonality, evoking a sound not unlike mystery film scores. It captured an almost eerie air before resolving beautifully into the familiar ground from the first movement, ending the piece on a hopeful note.

The second piece of the program was both vastly intriguing as well as the night's greatest showcase of the quartet's incredible talent. This work, "Song of the Ch'in,"

written by Chinese American composer Zhou Long in 1982, was made to imitate that of the zither. This complex piece was constantly changing tempo, meter and volume while employing a vast array of stringed instrumental techniques.

Heavy and slow sliding notes, pizzicato and plucking, even striking the wood of the instruments as a sort of percussion was utilized to bring this work together. The majority of the composition had at least three players plucking their strings, while the fourth either also plucked along or played a more melodic line.

The final piece was Beethoven's famous String Quartet in F Major, Opus 18 No. 1. This popular string quartet is one that many would recognize from the first few notes alone. When performing pieces such



PHOTO BY MATTHEW KRETA

The Cassatt String Quartet

as this, which the audience is typically more than familiar with, what the ensemble brings forward on its own merit beyond the brilliance of the composition itself.

Cassatt not only played the familiar notes beautifully, but clearly

enjoyed and connected with the music on a level beyond making sure everything was in place. This clear enthusiasm and joy of performing helped make this particular performance shine.

While this was the final concert of The

Hotchkiss Library's mini concert series, more concerts like it are in the works for the future. If you would like to assist in underwriting next year's concerts, contact Gretchen Hachmeister at ghachmeister@hotchkisslibrary.org.

...ungardener

Continued from previous page

a rough track on her property. From "Uprooted": "Surely I could plant something with more to offer, a plant that would enrich our wild habitat." I can attest to the beauty of this native tree which grows at the edges of our marsh. It can get as tall as 15 feet and has a wide spread if given the space and light. Flowers in spring, nutritious berries for birds in fall.

Deborah Munson is one of our area's top horticulturalists and landscape designers, who happily admits that her approach to garden design changed over the past decade: "In an ecologically driven garden/landscape I love a wilder and much freer style where there is little to no delineation between the wild and cultivated landscape and incorporating natives as often as possible; a landscape that over time can find its own way, being nudged occasionally by the human hand, often planted to allow the plants to drive the design, allowing self-sowing and

covering ground." One of her favorite native plant combinations is "shadblow, Amelanchier arborea underplanted with our native foam flower, Tiarella cordifolia and miterwort, Michelia diphylla is a favorite

combo. Add some snowdrops and white daffodils if you're not a 'native only' purist."

Out with precision edging. Out with yards of trucked-in mulch covered beds: "We can often create our own

mulch on site by composting leaves and other garden debris as well as using plants as a living mulch. One should be aware that trucking in products can often bring new diseases and pests."

Key to our new mindset, Munson reminds us, is "learning about a plant's behavior... i.e. invasives (don't plant) or colonizers (be careful what you ask for.) Is it a generalist, a plant that

will grow almost any condition or specialist; for example, a plant that will only grow in wetlands or only in well drained acidic conditions?"

Many of Dickey's and Munson's favorite native plants — from Redbud to Shadblow to Clethra, Sweet Fern, Viburnum Lentago and Anenome Canadensis — will be available from the Northwest Conservation

District annual plant sale. You can preorder at nwcd.org and attend April 19-21 at Goshen fairground.

More on spring plant selection in next month's column. If you have any questions regarding spring planting, please send them to dee@theungardener.com

Dee Salomon "ungardener" in Litchfield County.



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

Bowman's Root in Page Dickey's garden.

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

■ MARCH 7

Red Cross Blood Drive

UCC Parish House, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall, Conn.

A Red Cross blood drive will take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-RedCross or visit redcrossblood.org

Ukraine Two Years Later

The Hotchkiss School, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville, Conn. hotchkiss.org

On March 7 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Hotchkiss School's main building, juniors Ira Buch '25 and Oleh Shtunder '25 of Ukraine will mark the second anniversary of Russia's invasion at a reception featuring an exhibit of recent photos from Ukraine. The students will offer remarks at 5:30 p.m.

Oleh and Ira's images, taken by friends and family at home in Ukraine, illustrate the war's impact on Ukrainian children and specifically the devastation to their schools. Guests will have an opportunity to learn more about restoring access to education in Ukrainian communities through savED, an international nonprofit supporting local educational initiatives.

Refreshments will be served at the reception for which RSVPs are requested at bit.ly/48wHNR0 or by emailing clburchf@hotchkiss.org. The Hotchkiss School is located at 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville.

Free Screening of "The Goonies"

Stissing Center for Arts and Culture, 2950 Church St., Pine Plains, N.Y.

A free screening of "The Goonies" will take place at 7 p.m. on March 7. With brothers Mikey (Sean Astin) and Brand's (Josh Brolin) house slated for demolition by greedy land developers, the boys decide their only hope lies in finding a long-lost treasure.

■ MARCH 8

Dance Workshops & Performance

Battell Chapel, 12 Village Green, Norfolk, Conn.

Garet&Co dance company will host two dance workshops on March 8. The first, "What Is Contemporary Dance?", will take place from 4 to 5 p.m. and is an absolute beginner class. Join Garet to learn the basics of contemporary dance, a discussion of what dance can be, and movement material that will feel goo for everybody.

From 5 to 6 p.m., a "Contemporary Storytelling" class is for dancers of many ages and levels and will include an improvisational warmup.

Garet&Co will be performing "Interior" Saturday, March 9, from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

There is a \$15 suggested donation for classes, and tickets for the performance are \$20. For more information, class registration and tickets, go to garetwierdsma.com

Name the Millerton 150th Celebration!

Millerton, N.Y.

The Village of Millerton is going to be celebrating 150 years in 2025. It is looking for help in naming the weeklong celebration. If you have a suggestion, visit docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4rpOeLe_4Pz8A1959aSgrvy3YAaSLAQYfqQJaHojPKjHT_g/viewform to let them know. Submissions must be entered by 5 p.m. on March 8 to be considered.

Salisbury Forum

Housatonic Valley Regional High School, 246 Warren Turnpike Road, Falls Village, Conn.

On March 8 at 7 p.m. at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, Salisbury Forum presents "Age of Danger: Keeping America Safe in an Era of New Superpowers, New Weapons, and New Threats" with authors Thom Shanker and Andrew Hoehn interviewed by Alex Ward, former editorial director at NYTimes Books.

"Oppenheimer" Screening and Talk

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

On Friday, March 8, the Kent Memorial Library will screen "Oppenheimer" at 6 p.m. Then, on Sunday, March 9, at 2 p.m., the Library will host "The Oppenheimer Legacy: Nuclear Threats, Deterrence, and Arms Control in Today's World."

On the eve of the Oscars' consideration of the movie, the Kent Memorial Library, in association with the James A. Garfield Center for Public Leadership at Hiram College, will host an event to discuss current nuclear challenges. The guest of honor for the discussion is John A. Lauder, one of the founders of the Garfield Center.

Both events are free but require registration at kentmemoriallibrary.org/programs-for-adults/events-calendar

Millbrook Fire Department Bingo Night

Millbrook Fire Department, 20 Front St., Millbrook, N.Y.

Doors open at 5 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. Food and drinks can be purchased. No outside food or drinks allowed. \$5 admission, 50/50 raffle at 6:45 p.m. Eighteen years of age or older to enter or play.

■ MARCH 9

Movie & Soup: "The Quiet Man"

Copake Grange, 628 Empire Road, Copake, N.Y.

From 3:30 to 7 p.m., in celebration of St. Patrick's Day, the Grange Classic Film Series will present "The Quiet Man," a 1952 romantic comedy-drama directed and produced by John Ford and starring John Wayne, Maureen O'Hara and Barry Fitzgerald. Stay after the movie for soup, salad, bread and dessert. Vegetarian options will be available. Movie admission is by donation. Dinner is \$10.

■ MARCH 10

Academy Awards Viewing Party

The Triplex Cinema, 70 Railroad St., Great Barrington, Mass. thetriplex.org

The Triplex Cinema will host a viewing party to watch the 96th Academy Awards on the big screen. The party begins on March 10 at 6 p.m. with red carpet coverage followed by the telecast at 7 p.m.

The party will feature a number of special events including a prize for best costume, based on a character from one of the nominated films; wood-oven pizza from Sheffield-based Roberto's Pizza; pre-show trivia contest with prizes; and an Oscar ballot competition with prizes. The event is free with a suggested donation of \$10. Reservations are recommended and can be made at www.thetriplex.org

■ MARCH 15

Sourdough Bread Contest

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

Dewey Hall will hold a sourdough bread-baking competition from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on March 15. Bakers will enter two full-size loaves of bread, one for tasting/judging and one to be raffled off. Attendees will be invited to sample the loaves along with complementary cheese boards from Rubiner's Cheesemongers and beverages provided by DARE Bottleshop. Attendees will also have the opportunity to win loaves and other prizes via a raffle. The cost is \$15 for bakers, who must register by Monday, March 11, at forms.gle/iPtR47RiMbUmpSeN8. Spectators may purchase tickets for \$30 each at secure.givelively.org/event/dewey-memorial-hall-inc/sourdough-bread-contest-2024

MUSIC: MIKE COBB

Shemekia Copeland brings the blues to Norfolk March 14

During the darkest days of the pandemic, Shemekia Copeland's anthem "Ain't Got Time For Hate" was a balm to the chaos.

The song, a rallying cry for equality, justice and peace, got frequent airplay on 98.1 KZE, an independent radio station whose motto is "Celebrating musical diversity in the Litchfield Hills, the Berkshires, and the mid-Hudson Valley."

As the daughter of legendary Texas Blues guitarist and singer Johnny Copeland, she comes from blues royalty and has spent a lifetime honing her craft. Copeland grew up around music and first stepped onstage with her father at the age of 8 in her native Harlem. By the age of 18, she'd recorded her first album with the seminal blues label Alligator Records.

Since then, she's recorded 10 albums, worked with producers Steve Cropper and Dr. John, earned eight Blues Music Awards and received multiple Grammy nominations. She's sung with Bonnie Raitt, Keith Richards, Carlos Santana, Dr. John and James Cotton, and shared a bill with The Rolling Stones. She's also performed with B.B. King, Mick Jagger, Buddy Guy, Trombone Shorty, Gary Clark Jr. and others at the White House for the Obamas. She earned the respect of soul legend Mavis Staples and was given Koko Taylor's crown as the New Queen of the Blues by Taylor's daughter, Cookie.

Her most recent Alligator Records release is "Done Come Too Far," whose title suggests forging ahead rather than turning back. In

her music, Copeland continues to explore her vision of America as a Black woman, a mother and an observant artist. She doesn't shy away from difficult issues that plague America such as racism, hatred and gun violence, but she appeals to unity rather than being divisive.

"The country seems incredibly polarized when I watch TV. But when people come to my shows, we try to forget all that. I'd like people to just come together and share in the one we all have in common, our love of music and a good time. Forget the news, let's party," she said.

Copeland recorded "Done Come Too Far" in Nashville with musician-songwriter Will Kimbrough, who produced her two previous albums. The album features stellar slide work by guitarist Sonny Landreth as well as a country-blues duet with Cedric Burnside, grandson of legendary Mississippi blues musician R.L. Burnside. The album also features Hammond organ by Charles Hodges, whose tones adorn records by Al Green.

About her current record, she said: "Done Come Too Far" is the last album in a trilogy that looks at America today and tries to figure out where we are and where we're going. It's direct, honest, and doesn't pull any punches but essentially optimistic. And it rocks like hell."

Whether collaborating with renowned blues musicians or appealing to her audiences, Copeland knows that music has the power to unify.

"I really believe music can be an antidote to

"She's recorded 10 albums, worked with producers Steve Cropper and Dr. John, earned eight Blues Music Awards and received multiple Grammy nominations."

all the hate that's going around," she said. "It's hard to hate when you're busy singing and dancing. There's no better vehicle to convey love than a song."

Inevitably, Copeland performs for people of different political persuasions as she tours the country that is increasingly divided. So how does she bring people together through music?

"There's a very fine line between encouraging people to remain positive and lecturing," she said. "Nobody likes a lecture. And I'm an entertainer, so my first job is to give people a good time. I think I'm fortunate in that the writers I work with really understand that."

Now coming out of a long hibernation, Infinity Hall Norfolk is lucky to have Copeland grace its stage Thursday, March 14. She said: "I'll be singing songs from throughout my career. You'll get to meet me, know my family dance, laugh, cry, laugh and dance again. And think about us. You and me. The way we really are, not the characters you see on TV."

Tickets can be purchased at [Infinity Hall's website: www.infinityhall.com](http://InfinityHall.com)

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