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Millerton to seek \$3.2 million grant from NY SWIMS

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

MILLERTON — The Village Board voted on Wednesday, May 22 to apply for a \$3.2 million grant under the NY SWIMS Initiative to fund the pool project at Eddie Collins Memorial Park.

NY SWIMS is a capital grant program that was included in the 2025 New York state budget. The first round of funding for municipal swimming facilities will be available this summer, with applications due in July.

“This grant is for infrastructure and new pools,” Mayor Jenn Najdek said.

The mayor also noted that NY SWIMS grants require applicants to provide a 20 percent matching contribution towards the overall

project cost.

Last summer the Eddie Collins Memorial Park Revitalization Committee presented Phase 2 plans, which call for a pool and a pool house. Construction on Phase 1 —regrading of the park, a new entrance and paved parking areas, a soccer field, accessible playground upgrades, new basketball courts and pavilion improvements—was completed in 2022.

Under the NY SWIMS program, grants are offered to “to acquire, design, construct or reconstruct facilities, provide major renovations, improvements, and modernization or rehabilitation of swimming facilities.”

The former pool at the park

See **GRANT, PAGE A8**



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Webutuck School Band marches on Monday, May 27, celebrating Memorial Day in Millerton.

Millerton honors the fallen with Memorial Day ceremony

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

MILLERTON — Main Street was lined with families and friends on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27 in tribute to those killed in action.

The sidewalks were lined with folding chairs, strollers and leashed dogs checking each other out as neighbors visited, waiting for the

parade.

Threatening weather delayed the parade for 30 minutes, and just as the sun came out and a breeze began to exercise the host of American flags displayed at Veteran’s Park by American Legion Post 178, The Webutuck School Band could be heard coming down Main.

Cheers broke out as the procession of musicians and fire and

emergency equipment passed.

Ceremonies began as the Legion’s Sean Klay introduced Dr. Julian Strauss, who led with a prayer that remembered those “who have given their life to protect our freedom and preserve our nation.”

After a raising of the flag and the Pledge of Allegiance, Klay

See **MEMORIAL DAY, PAGE A7**

Almost a century later, student revisits her one-room schoolhouse

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

MILLERTON — Mary Leitch was retracing her steps as she entered the one-room Irontdale Schoolhouse on Saturday, May 25.

At 101 years old, Leitch, of Amenia, has rich memories of the time she and her sister Florence sat in class next to each other in a double seat, including when the teacher’s husband would come in and play Santa for the children.

The Irontdale Schoolhouse on Main Street opened for the season on May 25 with free ice cream sundaes and tours of the historical site, moved in 2013 to Millerton to serve as a public information and visitor center managed by the Friends of the Irontdale Schoolhouse.

Visitors Lillian and Estelle Cichetti, aged 7 and 5 respectively, from Pine Plains, were occupied making their own sundae treats.

Leitch was about Lillian’s

See **IRONDALE, PAGE A8**



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Mary Leitch, 101, signed the blackboard at the Irontdale Schoolhouse in Millerton on Saturday, May 25. She attended the school through second grade.

Voters approve school budgets across region’s three districts

By **LEILA HAWKEN**
Leilah@millertonnews.com

Voters in the region’s three school districts (Millbrook, Pine Plains and Webutuck) cast ballots on Tuesday, May 21, approving of their respective school spending plans for the 2024-25 fiscal year. All candidates for positions on the various school boards were seated.

Additional budget propositions for capital expenditures won approval from voters in the districts of Webutuck and Pine Plains, but not from voters in Millbrook, where all four propositions failed to pass.

Millbrook’s school expenditure budget for 2024-25 was approved by voters by a margin of 386 to

274, totaling \$34,575,075, an increase of \$575,702 (1.69%) over the current year.

The four propositions that accompanied the budget on the ballot, however, were decisively defeated. All were bonding propositions in support of major improvements, including HVAC upgrade (\$55M) in all buildings, program and compliance upgrades at the Middle and High School and Elm Drive (\$15M), and additional enhancements at the three schools (\$6M).

Candidates to fill two positions on the school board, Chris LaBelle and David LaVarnway, won reelection, both for three-year terms.

Voters in Pine Plains approved their district’s expenditure budget

by a margin of 261 to 106.

Total expenditures stand at \$37,689,744, an increase of \$1,274,533 (3.5%) over the current year. The amount that will need to be raised by taxes is \$27,021,126.

Propositions to purchase three new 65-passenger school buses (\$153,990 each) and to approve an appropriation of \$2M from unassigned funds to the repair reserve fund were both approved. A fourth proposition that won passage was to allow a student representative to sit at Board of Education meetings and participate in discussions of agenda items. The student representative will not be permitted to vote, however.

See **BUDGETS, PAGE A8**



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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO PROVIDED BY NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY

Assemblyman Anil Bephan, speaks about Melanie’s law, which will close a loophole in protecting victims of domestic violence. Assemblyman Brian Cunningham stands next to him. Cheryl Chianese, who lost her daughter when her ex-boyfriend murdered her, stands in the first row, far right, next to Cunningham. She has advocated for the law. Photo from the State Assembly.

Melanie’s Law Passes in NY Assembly

By **ROBIN RORABACK**
Special to The Millerton News

ALBANY — New York state took another crucial step in the passage of Melanie’s Law, a law which will protect the families of domestic violence victims, whatever their age.

On Tuesday, May 21 the Assembly gave its approval to the measure.

Assemblyman Anil Bephan, who represents the 105th Assembly district, announced that the law passed in the Assembly and was on its way to the governor’s office for signature. The 105th district includes parts of Dutchess County: Amenia, Dover, and Wappingers. Melanie Chianese, for whom the bill is named, was from Wappingers.

As it stands now, the law only protects those family members who are under eighteen.

Melanie was stabbed to death by her mother’s ex-boyfriend, Paul Senecal, in May of 2022. While Melanie’s

mother and three-year-old son were granted protective orders against Senecal, Melanie, then twenty-nine, did not qualify for one. Melanie’s Law will correct this loophole if signed into law by the governor.

Bephan introduced Melanie’s Law in February of 2023 and it failed to pass the Assembly. He is “proud to confirm” its passage this year.

“The bill was able to pass this time because we were able to secure more bipartisan co-sponsors who advocated for the bill to be reported out of committee. As this was a new bill introduced in 2023, it sometimes takes the full session to get things to the floor. None of this would have been possible without the support of Assemblyman Cunningham.” Brian Cunningham, a Democrat, represents the 43rd district. As part of the majority in the Assembly, he helped Bephan introduce the bill.

State Senator Michelle Hinchey, who co-sponsored the bill in the Senate, com-

mented about the Assembly’s passage of the bill, “The tragic murder of Melanie Chianese reminds us of the far-reaching consequences of domestic violence and the work that must be done to better protect victims and their loved ones. I’m proud to sponsor Melanie’s Law, developed in her memory, and heartened that both houses of the Legislature were able to pass it before the end of the session. We remain hopeful that the Governor will see the need for this common-sense legislation and sign it into law.”

Bephan said of the law and the work put into it, “I want to thank Cheryl, Melanie’s mother, for sharing her story and bringing awareness to this issue. I feel incredibly honored to have been part of this body of advocates and legislators to enact real change that will protect people in the future. The best of government is people coming together to solve problems, and in Melanie’s memory, I was glad we could do that here.”

North East Planning Board considers two applications

By **CHRISTINE BATES**
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — The North East Planning Board held its regular meeting on May 22 and moved forward on two applications.

Pine Plains surveyor Wesley Chase representing Robert and Leah Sprague, the owners of 43 Old Post Road, showed survey maps rearranging the parcel boundaries of the property owned by the Spragues which is divided by Route 22 and Old Post Road 3 and borders on the Rail Trail to the east and Columbia County to the west.

Two new tax parcels would be created — 57 acres of forested vacant land west Route 22, and a smaller parcel stretching east including a renovated farm house on 12 acres. After discussion the board approved an escrow amount of \$250 and will make

a recommendation at the next meeting.

The second presentation was by Peter Sander of Renna Engineering representing the Buddahfield on Cooper Road.

Buddahfield first was approved for development in phases in 2003 when the 42-acre property was purchased by Rangrig Yeshe, a Buddhist affiliated non-profit with U.S. headquarters in Syracuse.

Wednesday night was a Phase IV Site Plan request to extend and straighten the existing driveway and construct a four-bedroom residence. (See photo.) Discussion ensued about what had been approved in 2003 when the overall plan received a Special Use Permit from the ZBA and again in 2013 when several revisions were made to the plan.

“Of the 7 phases approved in the 2013 Amended Master Plan, Phases 1 -3 have since been reviewed and approved

by the Town of North East Planning Board,” according to the accompanying request from Renna.

Under consideration is a 4-bedroom 2,945 square foot footprint building which will serve as a part-time residence for the Buddahfield’s founding lama and teacher Shyalpa Tenzin Rinpoche. The Board agreed to a site visit on June 3 at 3:30 pm to “alleviate any visual concerns” according to Sander and observe whether any part of the building could be seen from the road by floating balloons above the site at the height of the proposed structure. Following this visit a public hearing will be held during a Special Planning Board meeting on June 12 at 7:45 p.m. In the meantime Planning Board Clerk Lorna Sherman will be emailing previous site approvals to all board members for their review.

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Young writers recognized in Pine Plains' 10th annual Friends of Library competition

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — Young writers have a step up in the world of communication thanks to the Pine Plains Friends of the Library, which recently announced winners of the 10th annual writing competition.

The group has distributed some \$10,000 in prize money over the years and provides an important opportunity to have students' writing acknowledged.

Friends' board member and coordinator of the contest Victoria LoBrutto, says that the much of the credit goes to the teachers who encourage students in the sixth through 12th grades to enter.

In many cases, they provide a helpful push by assigning the competition as homework. Topics range from those assigned to those chosen by the young writers themselves.

LoBrutto, who contributes garden articles to the New



PHOTO BY PINE PLAINS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

From left, Vicente Mercado, Ren Babcock, Leandra Costa, Coraline Dell'Amore, Jenna Martin and Elliot Campbell were each awarded \$100 as first place winners in the 10th annual Friends of the Pine Plains Free Library Young Writers competition.

Pine Plains Herald, judges the competition, this year reading all 75 of the entries. She says she "keeps in mind" the New York State writing standards,

but is mainly focused on the creativity and imagination of the writers which, she notes "cannot be taught."

Having watched the prog-

ress in students' writing over the years, she says, "I'm pleasantly surprised. From sixth grade to eighth grade some of the writing is pretty sophis-

icated. And then when they get to high school, you can see there is a real development."

LoBrutto is even hopeful that she will someday see the name of one of the competitors she has followed annually on a book.

Besides giving credit to the teachers, LoBrutto cites the Pine Plains Free Library's teen writing program, which, according to Head Librarian Dee Ann Johnson, is run weekly each Friday from 4:30 to 6 p.m. with both virtual and in-person sessions.

Johnson, in the same spirit, lauds the Friends saying, "They are indispensable. They work so hard on our behalf, and we are grateful for all they do for us and for all the programs they run.

In addition to cash awards, winners of the writing program are acknowledged in the graduation program and each participant receives a certificate provided by Moore and More printing of Millerton which is known far and wide for its generous support of

many local not-for-profits.

The winners of each category in this year's competition receive prizes of \$100 for first place, \$50 for second and \$25 for third with a number of others receiving recognition through honorable mention.

Top winners in order of their placement are: Grade 6 - Group 1 - fiction - Coraline Dell'Amore, Juliet Shiels, and William Gallier; Grade 6 - Group 2 - fiction - Jenna Martin, Amelia Anderson, and Christopher Spada; Grade 6 - Group 3 - fiction - Elliot Campbell, Madison Johnson, and Margaret Johnson; Grade 8 - poetry - Vincente Mercado; Grades 9 - 12 academic non-fiction - Leandra Costa, Joshua Dolansky, and Charlotte Phillips; Grades 9 - 12 - creative non-fiction - Leandra Costa, Joshua Dolansky, and Estrella Ruano; Grade 9 - fiction - Ren Babcock, Brianna Blackburn, Kaylei Murphy; and Grade 9 - 12 - poetry - Ren Babcock, Emma Henderston, and Kaylei Murphy.

Developers seek guidance from Planning Board

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The status of two applications and clarification of the next steps to move those applications ahead were topics of lengthy discussion at the regular meeting of the Planning Board on Wednesday, May 22.

The first of the two was an application from Siland to install seasonal athletic domes at the Silo Ridge development. The other application seeks approval of a subdivision application for the Keane Stud Farm property on Depot Hill Road, presently a thoroughbred breeding facility.

Reviewing the history of the Siland athletic dome application, Attorney Diana Kolev of DelBello, Donnellan, Weingarten, Wise and Wiederkehr of White Plains, noted that Siland is re-submitting an application for the domes, although the Planning Board had voted on the special permit for the project two years ago.

"They have some elements that are not shown on the plan," said Planning Board Engineer John Andrews, reporting on his visit to the site on Friday, May 17, as confirmed in his memo to the Planning Board on Tuesday, May 21. He added that an operations plan has not been fully completed.

"This is a work in progress," Andrews said.

Still at issue are plans for lighting the fabric domes and implementation of noise reduction, a concern for neigh-

boring residents.

"The question is whether the board is satisfied with the information provided and whether the board wants to receive a current landscaping plan," Kolev said.

The board's planning consultant, George Janes, raised the issue of visual impact represented by the domes, and concerns that suggested plantings include species that are not native to the area.

"How can we get a better idea of what the domes will look like at night?" board member Nina Peek asked.

Janes responded that the domes' interior lights would turn off at 6 p.m. in the winter, and up to 10 p.m. in the summer months, with minimal night lights for safety. He added that the fabric domes are to be opaque. Recreational activities under the domes would include a pool, tennis, pickle ball, paddle tennis and more.

Attending his first meeting as a planning board member, Ken Topolsky asked whether plans might incorporate renewable energy sources as an assist to the environment.

The applicant agreed to assemble information in response to planning board concerns and appear again at the board's next meeting on

Wednesday, June 12.

A subdivision application for the 705-acre Keane Stud Farm property on Depot Hill Road that proposes 31 lots, 26 of which are large residential lots was discussed by the developers who sought a review of the project's status, visual concerns, and definition of next steps.

"The application is for a subdivision approval, not a site plan approval," Attorney Kolev reminded the board.

Rennia Engineering, represented at the meeting by Rich Rennia, has created the subdivision drawings for review by the planning board.

Planning Board attorney Paul Van Cott instructed the board that it needs to be confident about what the applicant shows in projected home sizes and fencing plans, along with any risk of adverse visual impact. He said that the board needs to look at not only lines on the ground, but what the build-out will look like.

Van Cott said that no provisions of the present code restrict the size of a structure. Only the height of a structure or home is limited.

Andrews reminded the board that the developer's application concerns subdivision of the land into lots that will be sold to buyers who

would then need to approach the board with any plans to build on those lots.

"There are many ways to develop those lots," Andrews noted.

Janes commented that 80% of each of the projected large-acreage lots would be designated for agricultural uses.

"What is a reasonable footprint of buildings," Andrews asked.

"It seems like a lot of open land to do what you want," Topolsky observed, reminding the planning board of the town's comprehensive plan of 2007, now being updated.

Janes suggested that the developer create a viewshed map to define visual impact, with Peek voicing agreement.

Andrews reiterated that the application is for a subdivision of land, but agreed that the planning board will define deed restrictions for each lot.

In her role as Town Board liaison to the Planning Board, councilmember Rosanna Hamm raised the question of impact of the development on the underlying aquifer (town

water source). The response indicated that the impact of 26 wells on a 700-acre property would be negligible.

Newly seated on the Planning Board and attending his first meeting was Jamie Vitello who asked board attorney Van Cott for clarification of the code that would define home sizes.

Engineer Rennia had indicated that subdivision planning maps generally draw a 5,000 square foot home as an average size for planning purposes.

The Keane Stud developers will return with additional information at the Wednesday, June 26, regular meeting of the Planning Board.

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Hopefully many of our land owners and Land Trusts will delay mowing their fields until at least July 15th this summer. The reason is to allow the grassland birds to nest in the fields and the fledglings to fly off before the fields are cut. There has been a significant reduction in grassland birds with due to loss of habitat and early mowing. To know which birds are affected, please see: www.vagrasslandbirds.org/birds/. Best practices include delayed mowing, leaving a 30 foot buffer on the edge of fields and using a flushing bar on the tractor which allows birds time to escape. For more details on the best practices to help preserve the populations of grasslands birds, please visit: www.vagrasslandbirds.org/best-management-practices/.



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OBITUARIES

Frances Anna Phillips

AMENIA — Frances Anna Phillips, 90, a longtime resident of Amenia, died on Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Canaan.



From 1955 to 1972, Mrs. Phillips owned and operated the Edge-wood Restaurant in Amenia with her husband George. A certified teacher of ceramics with the National Ceramic Manufacturers Association, she also owned and operated Ceramic Crafts in Amenia for 22 years retiring in 2001.

Born on Nov. 25, 1933, in Sharon, she was the daughter of the late Otto and Mabel (Somers) Sprossell. On Feb. 3, 1953, in Cornwall Bridge, she married George E. Phillips who survives in Canaan.

Mrs. Phillips is also survived by two daughters; Diane Phillips of Wakefield, Rhode Island and Debra Phillips of Pine Plains, New York; four grandchildren, David Fletcher and his wife, Amber, Peter Faggella and his wife, Megan, Daniel Faggella, and Shan-

non Fierro and her husband, Frank, as well as four great grandchildren; Dominic and Leah Fletcher, Hannah Faggella and Charlotte Fierro.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by four brothers, Otto, William, Robert and Carl Sprossell and one sister, Gerda Binotto. She is survived by a sister, Shirley Adrian of Jacksonville, Florida and a brother, Thomas Sprossell of Homosassa, Florida, and many nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at Hufcut Funeral Home, 3159 Route 22, Dover Plains, NY. Funeral services followed at 1 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial took place at Amenia Island Cemetery, Amenia, NY. In lieu of flowers, Anne had requested that memorial contributions be made to the Dutchess County SPCA, 636 Violet Avenue, Hyde Park, NY 12538. To send the family an online condolence, please visit www.hufcutfuneralhome.com.

Dolores Marie Leffingwell

NORTH CANAAN — Dolores Marie “Dodie” Leffingwell (nee Heath) passed away peacefully on Jan. 11, 2024, in New Haven, at the age of 70. She was born on April 7, 1953, in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. Dodie was known for her creativity, love, adventurous spirit, sarcasm, pride, stubbornness, hard work, and easy-going nature.

Dodie was a dedicated machinist at Becton, Dickinson from 1980 to 2005. Outside of work, she found joy in solving puzzles, tending to her garden, horseback riding, and expressing herself through painting.

She is survived by her children: Brian Heath, Stephanie Heath, Elijah J. Leffingwell, and Tiara Leffingwell; grand-

children: Jacob Gibling and Elijah H. Leffingwell; great-grandchild: Jasper Gibling; and siblings: Susan Heath and Mary-Theresa Stalker. Dodie was preceded in death by her husband, Richard Leffingwell, her parents, Ernest & Marie Heath, and her sister, Irene Heath.

A private service will be held, while a Celebration of Life for Dodie will be held on June 8th at 1 p.m., at the North Canaan VFW, to which friends and extended family are welcome. Rather than floral tributes, donations are encouraged in Dodie’s memory to your choice of Cancer or Dementia Research—a cause near to her heart.

May she rest in eternal peace.

Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

Twenty-six mile Harlem Valley Rail Trail beckons

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

With sunny days and blue skies overhead, the Harlem Valley Rail Trail is calling all nature lovers. The Millerton entrance is located next to the Irondale Schoohouse on Main Street with parking in a lot around the corner on south Center Street.

There is no charge for the 26-mile paved trail, which is open from dawn until dusk.

According to Executive director of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail association Lisa DeLeeuw, trail regulations are simple and basically follow general “rules for the road.” They may be found at hvt.org under Usage at the About tab.

Courtesy involving littering, noise and disruption of wildlife or the environment is based on common sense with fire, camping and alcoholic beverages banned.

Animals are permitted, but owners are expected to clean up after them.

Electric mobility wheel-

chairs and Class 1 and 2 e-bikes are permitted, but horses and “motorized vehicles” are not.

For the convenience of trail users, portable toilets are available in Millerton, Coleman Station, Amenia and Wassaic.

If trail users notice any problems such as downed limbs or necessary work, they may contact DeLeeuw through the website above or call the Dutchess County Parks at 845-298-4611. Emergency calls can be made to 911.

The Trail is supported by a combination of public and private funds, and DeLeeuw says, “We always need matching funds for our projects.” She notes a ‘Bridge to Nature’ is currently being developed and will eventually provide a “series of nature and history signs that will be right at the trail head by the double bridge by the Railroad Plaza.”

DeLeeuw reminds visitors that the Columbia County section from Undermountain Road in Ancram to Rt. 344 is closed for reconstruction.

Send news items and briefs to editor@millertonnews.com

Stephen Andrew Mitchell, Sr.

ANCRAM — Stephen Andrew Mitchell, Sr., 71, of Ancram, passed away on May 15, 2024, at Sharon Hospital in Sharon. Born Jan. 17, 1953, at Lynn Hospital in Lynn, Massachusetts, he was the son of the late Raymond C. and Jacqueline M. (Benware) Mitchell. Stephen worked on the family farm for 25 years, he then went to work at Taconic DDSO in Wassaic, New York for 20 years before retiring.



Stephen loved hunting, fishing, family get-togethers, cookouts, bonfires and listening to music. He met Jennifer Gallagher when he was thirty-six years old. They were married on Sept. 21, 1985, and spent the next thirty-eight years together.

Stephen is survived by his wife, Jennifer Mitchell of Ancram; his son, Stephen Andrew Mitchell, Jr. and his wife Beckey; his sister, Audrey Campbell and her husband Thomas; four grandchildren, Jacqueline Mitchell, Kaitlyn Acklin, Justin Acklin and Jeffery Rodriguez; four brothers-in-law, John Gallagher, Glen Gallagher, Harry Gallagher and his wife Lori and Willy Gallagher and his fiancé Sandra Brown; three sisters-in-law, Penny Thornberry, Sue Gallagher, Joyce Gallagher and her boyfriend Steve Proper and many nieces and nephews and cousins.

A graveside funeral service and burial took place at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton, NY on Thursday, May 23, 2024, at 1 p.m. Rev. Robert K. Wilson officiated. Memorial contributions may be made to the Ancram Fire Company, Ancram, NY 12502. To send an online condolence to the family, please visit www.conklinfuneralhome.com Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12546.

Family Therapy and began his decades long work as a therapist. Therapy was one of his great passions, and he was deeply devoted to his work. In 1999, Dan and Mary founded the Sharon House Garden Project, converting part of their property to a small organic farm to provide fresh produce to local food banks. Along with his work, the outdoors, and gardening, Dan’s greatest loves were his children, his farmhouse on Carse Brook, and his German Shepherd, Hector. There was no one and nothing that he loved more than his wife of fifty years, Mary, his “dearie,” whom he truly adored.

He is survived by his wife and three children, as well as his beloved younger sister, Judee Flaws, of Trumbull, along with many in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends, all of whom he loved greatly. He will be very deeply missed.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Retreat Center in West Cornwall, on Friday May 31 at 12 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon House Garden Project or the Chapel of All Saints West Cornwall, CT. The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Daniel Gates

SHARON — Daniel Gates, beloved husband of Mary Gates and adored father to Andrew, Emily and Michael, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, May 24. A forty-five year resident of Sharon, Dan was an avid outdoorsman, a lover of nature, and a dedicated therapist, who believed in the enrichment of one’s life and community through service to others.

Dan was born on August 9, 1948, in Bridgeport, the son of the late Harold and Teresa (Golden) Gates. He was a graduate of St. Joseph’s High School in Trumbull, and Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. Dan began his career in special education after receiving a master’s degree from Southern Connecticut State University. He went on to found Self Enrichment Experience (S.E.E.), an outdoor education and adventure program. Through S.E.E., Dan was able to share his love of the outdoors with hundreds of students, leading countless backpacking trips along the Appalachian Trail, canoe trips down the Housatonic, and rock climbing excursions at St. John’s Ledges.

In 1988, Dan received a Master’s in Marriage and

Family Therapy and began his decades long work as a therapist. Therapy was one of his great passions, and he was deeply devoted to his work. In 1999, Dan and Mary founded the Sharon House Garden Project, converting part of their property to a small organic farm to provide fresh produce to local food banks. Along with his work, the outdoors, and gardening, Dan’s greatest loves were his children, his farmhouse on Carse Brook, and his German Shepherd, Hector. There was no one and nothing that he loved more than his wife of fifty years, Mary, his “dearie,” whom he truly adored.

He is survived by his wife and three children, as well as his beloved younger sister, Judee Flaws, of Trumbull, along with many in-laws, nieces, nephews and friends, all of whom he loved greatly. He will be very deeply missed.

A memorial service will be held at Trinity Retreat Center in West Cornwall, on Friday May 31 at 12 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon House Garden Project or the Chapel of All Saints West Cornwall, CT. The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Bikers and strollers passed by on the Harlem Valley Rail, a 26-mile paved trail open from dawn until dusk on Saturday, May 26.

ROBERT F. WRIGHT

June 1, 2009

15 years, that’s crazy. It seems like yesterday. We knew that it was coming, but it pained us anyway. 15 years, it seems so long. So long ago we said goodbye. But still it feels like yesterday we started asking why. We’ll never have an answer, an answer to the why, so we just continue thinking of the memories and try to hold on to the good times, never let them go. We love you and we miss you more than anyone will ever know.

We love you Robert, We love you Dad

Your wife Ruth
Your daughters Bobbie-Jo and Ruthanne

Mildred Dawn Dujon

ANCRAM — Mildred Dawn Dujon, 83, a twenty-six year resident of Ancram, died Sunday, May 19, 2024, at Albany Medical Center in Albany, following a brief illness.



Dawn was a retired school bus driver for the Kantonah-Lewisboro School District. She and her late husband Harry Erickson were also the founders of Chickasaw Golden Retrievers, a kennel that was founded in 1958 and continues to operate today as Chickasaw Goldens. Dawn was also famously known for breeding the large, strong and docile Mastiff as well. Dawn retired from dog breeding about fifteen years ago.

Born Sept. 23, 1940, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, she was the daughter of the late Century and Mildred (Bechtel) Milstead. She was predeceased by her husband Anthony Dujon.

Dawn is survived by three children; Harry Lief Erickson and his wife Bernadette of Brewster, New York, Erik Erickson of Copake, New York and Michelle Podbielski and her fiancé Richard “Rick” Pickering of Ancram; Eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her beloved son, Elliott Podbielski, her siblings, Century, Jr., Louette and Millicent and her former husbands, Harry Erickson and Edmond Podbielski.

There are no calling hours. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. To send an online condolence to the family or to plant a tree in Dawn’s memory, please visit, www.conklinfuneralhome.com. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Avenue, Millerton, NY 12545.

 Worship Services Week of June 2, 2023	
Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.	
Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org	The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God’s shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442
St. John’s Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Rev. Paul Christopherson SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) In-Person and on YouTube www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290	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
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	Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, June 9 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoi@gmail.com All are Welcome
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	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!
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	WINTER SCHEDULE Sunday 10:30 AM - Hebrew School Wednesday 8:00 PM - Parsha In My Life How The Weekly Portion Relates to ME! Thursday 11:30 AM - Women’s Tea & Torah Saturday 9:30 AM - Shabbat Services Followed by a Congregational Kiddush Children’s Camp Jewish Newspaper Smiles on Seniors CTeen YJP
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	ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078
The 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	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
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	The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall
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	Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org
Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service “Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors” Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!	All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 515 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 860-824-1540 allsaintsofamerica.us
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	Millerton United Methodist Church 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-5138

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Three Daring Rescues

In recent weeks, the Amenia Fire Company has showcased exceptional skill and dedication through three dramatic rescue operations, underscoring their crucial role in emergency response across Eastern Dutchess County and Northwest Connecticut. These incidents reflect not only their heroism but also the power of community collaboration and the relentless commitment to public safety.

Canine in Crisis: Rippy's Rescue

On May 6, the Amenia Fire Company joined a coordinated effort to rescue Rippy, a small terrier mix stranded on a cliff in North Canaan. The North Canaan Animal Control initially responded to a distressing voicemail about a dog's bark near Lower Road. Despite hearing Rippy, the initial search proved unsuccessful.

Leveraging social media to involve the community, and with the assistance of First Selectman Brian Ohler's drone, the search continued into the next day. Quarry worker Bobby Foley's persistence paid off when he located Rippy's barking source during a lunch break. This led to the rapid mobilization of the Northwest Rope Rescue Team and the Amenia Fire Company.

Descending 50 feet down a precarious cliff, the Rope Rescue Team, with critical support from Amenia Fire Company members, successfully retrieved Rippy. Fire Chief Christopher Howard and his team, including Lt. Richard Howard Jr., Lt. Zach Klingner, and others, were integral to this heartwarming rescue. The safe recovery of Rippy not only reunited a beloved pet with its owner but also demonstrated the effectiveness of inter-agency cooperation and community solidarity.

Mountain Peril: Millerton's Dual Rescue

On May 14, the Amenia Fire Company responded to an urgent call at 89 Quarry Hill Road in Millerton. Two individuals were injured on the mountain, one with a broken arm at the trailhead and another with a head injury higher up the mountain.

The Amenia Fire Company, utilizing specialized units 31-66 and 31-96, partnered with multiple local fire departments and emergency services. The rescue operation required advanced rope techniques and precise coordination. By 2:31 pm, the male patient was located in challenging terrain. The team meticulously stabilized him and executed a low-angle rescue.

Chief Christopher Howard praised the flawless execution of this mission, highlighting the importance of rigorous training and readiness. The patient's safe transportation to Albany Medical Center was a testament to the team's dedication and expertise.

Cliffside Emergency: Great Falls Rescue

The third incident occurred on May 20, at Great Falls in Salisbury, Conn. A man had fallen 30 feet onto a rock ledge, sustaining a head injury and an arm injury. The Amenia Fire Company, alongside the Northwest Regional Ropes Team and Northern Dutchess Paramedics, swiftly responded to the scene.

Executing a complex rescue, responders were lowered to the injured man, stabilized him, and carefully raised him to safety. The patient was then transported to Hartford, Conn., for further medical treatment. This operation involved a broad coalition of emergency responders from multiple towns, showcasing the efficiency of their mutual aid agreements and shared training.

Chief Howard noted, "This incident marks the third rope rescue in the region in the past three weeks, highlighting the importance of our ongoing training and mutual aid agreements."

Commitment to Excellence

The Amenia Fire Company's recent rescues highlight their unwavering dedication to safeguarding the community. Through continuous training, inter-agency cooperation, and a profound sense of duty, they have repeatedly demonstrated their ability to respond effectively to emergencies.

From rescuing a beloved pet to saving lives in perilous terrains, the Amenia Fire Company stands as a beacon of heroism and professional excellence. Their actions not only save lives but also strengthen the fabric of the communities they serve.

About the Amenia Fire Company

The Amenia Fire Company is dedicated to serving the local community with unwavering commitment and professionalism. As a vital part of the Northwest Rope Rescue Team, it stands ready to respond to emergencies with specialized expertise and advanced resources. Their mission is to safeguard lives and property through proactive emergency response and public safety initiatives.

These three recent rescues serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of emergency services and the bravery of those who serve. The Amenia Fire Company's expertise and dedication ensure that when a crisis strikes, they are ready to respond with skill and compassion.

Aaron Howard Jr. Public Information Officer Amenia Fire Co.

Amenia

Pulver's proposed salt vs. brine study

I agree that salt usage on county roads is an important environmental issue, but I question whether the Comptroller's proposal to study the salt versus brine question makes sense in light of the study on this very issue conducted two years ago by the Dutchess County

Environmental Management Council ("the Council"), titled "Cost Benefit Analysis of Brine vs. Rock Salt." The Millerton News's recent article covering Comptroller Pulver's announcement of his

intention to conduct what he terms "a brand-new study" fails to mention the Council's study, published on May 24, 2022.

Although the Comptroller's announcement, quoted by the Millerton News in its May 8 article, refers to "alternatives" to salt, the announcement refers only to brine — the very subject studied by the Council. I submit that until the Comptroller publishes the scope of work that he said would soon be prepared, the pub-

lic won't know whether or not this project would be an unnecessary duplication of work already done by the Council in what appears to be a careful and thoughtful manner.

Our county is plagued by so many issues — such as the paucity of public transportation and mental health services — that it would be wasteful to devote resources to a study on a subject already thoroughly addressed.

Amy Rothstein Pine Plains

Webutuck girls win suit; Harlem Line's overcrowded passenger cars

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

May 30, 1974

"High Court Rules in Girls' Favor": Webutuck Central School won a suit this week against the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (HSAA) which tried to prevent five girls from Webutuck High School, Tammy Thomas, Marion Brown, Coleen [sic] Ryan, Fiame Kri- vac and Sandy Murphy, from

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Millerton News

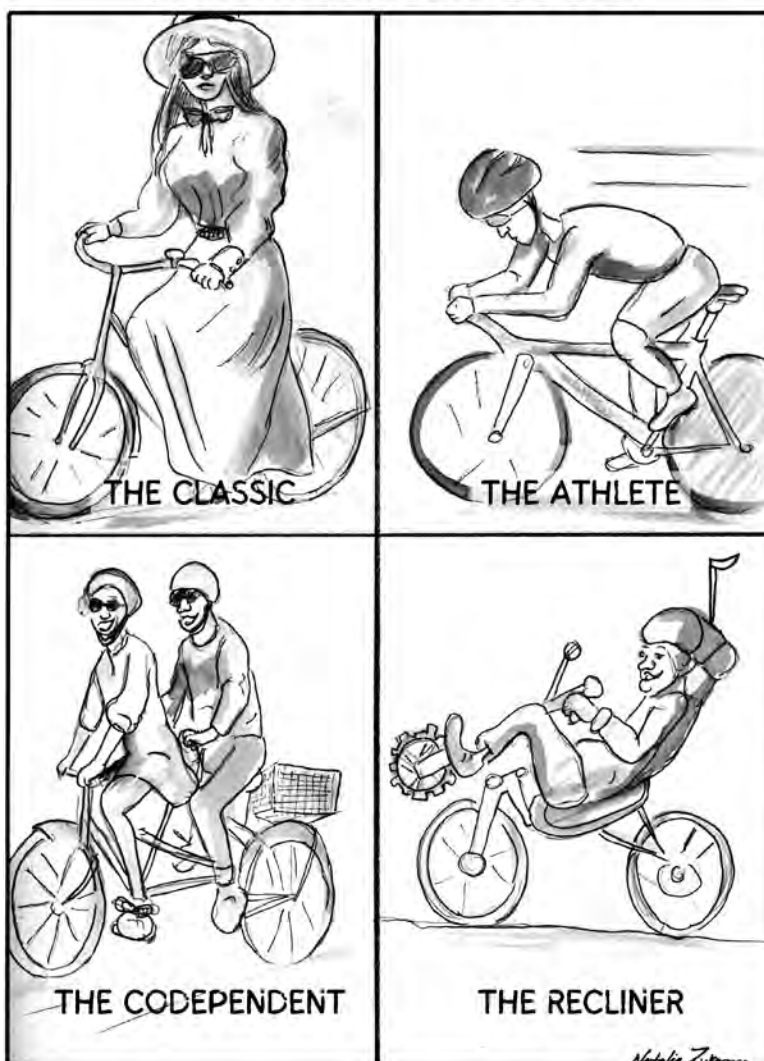
competing in the Section I Girls Northern Divisional Track Meet.

The suit, was filed ...because they contended that the girls should be barred from competition since, during the school year, the girls ran in track events as team members with Webutuck boys.

"Passenger Cars Over-

crowded on Harlem Line." Lettie Carson, President of the Harlem Valley Transportation Association (HVTA) contended ... that "Bud cars ... were so jammed that people couldn't get room on them." ... This observation came a week after Governor Malcolm Wilson said that the Harlem Division "is an operating problem of the MTA. The passengers abandoned the railroad before the railroad abandoned the passengers." Regarding this statement, Mrs. Carson said, "I'd like to know where the government got its information."

BIKING SEASON LOOKS



Finding 'the One'

Frank Sinatra sang "The Best is Yet to Come" and I now see how right he was. The summer of 2021 came around and life was settling into a post-Covid "normal" and I was still researching online dating sites. One weekend I had four dates, the first three of whom were not right for me, but the fourth piqued my interest. Rather than the corporate type I knew so well and expected to meet, he was an artist (like my late husband), and I loved his creativity, his imagination, and his intellectual curiosity. As with every date, I texted him afterwards to thank him, and when he didn't reply I texted him again — I figured I had nothing to lose — and asked if it was "something I wrote," and he replied that no, he wanted to see me "sooner rather than later." He asked me out for Thai food which I purposed to love, though I really don't except for pad Thai noodles.

We had a ball - he was funny (and equally important he found ME funny!), well read, shared my very strong political beliefs, was a great listener, ate with gusto, and when we sat on a bench in downtown Rhinebeck he kissed me, and I swear it felt like coming home (that said, he swears that after he walked me to my car and kissed me goodnight I couldn't leave quickly enough, but that may have been confusion/guilt because something felt SO right to me).

On our second date he invited me and my poodle Charlie for dinner. I can't imagine a better way to a woman's heart than through her dog and indeed he had several biscuits for Charlie.

We dated until the end of the year, talking a lot about our relationship and what it meant for each of us, and who

RETIREMENT — WHAT NOW? Gwen Greene

doesn't love a man who will openly talk about his feelings. He had a long and generally happy marriage, a divorce and then a two-year relationship, and I had been dating for two years; we each admitted we were not sure each other was "the one." I'm five years older than he is and he had spent most of his life with much younger women; my late husband was 12 years older, and brought me thematurity and self-confidence that I was seeking. Nevertheless, it was one of the many things we'd each have to think through, so we decided to take a break.

For the next six months we were each back on Match, busily meeting even more people, but we remained each others confidante, critiquing the people each other met and definitely not meeting "the one." We then realized we'd never know if we could really build something unless we worked at it, so that June we became "exclusive." In October we moved in together, and a year a half later we remain the best of friends and lovers; we count on spending our remaining years together, convinced we could not be any happier.

We're probably still not each other's "ideal" person,

but for starters neither of us wants to ever date again, and we love just being together, having someone to ask "how was your day," sharing our histories, and creating our own memories. Back in the day it was so important that the man I chose was liked by my mother (seriously? I was almost 40), by my friends, grew up the way I did, attended a similar college and so on, but I realized that none of that mattered any more. Now I only wanted to feel certain we would be happy growing old together, and would always be there for each other. When people asked what drew me to him I'd say that we never ran out of conversation, and I realized that was a pretty good indication of what our life together could be. Can we make each other crazy — absolutely — we have a combined 155 years of baggage that's part of who we are, but we never try and change each other. We may tweak a few things along the way, but at this stage in life you fall in love with a fully developed human and you need to accept the whole package.

I continue to urge friends to try online dating — of course you kiss a lot of frogs — but you have the ability to present your best self, pick and choose, and sometimes if you're very lucky, find THE ONE, as I did.

Gwen Greene is retired and lives in Pine Plains with her partner Dennis, her puppy Charlie, and 2 Angus cows, also retired.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Alex Taylor, left, and Samantha Lake, both of New York City, visited the NorthEast-Millerton Library used book sale on Saturday, May 25.

NorthEast-Millerton Library book sale opens

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Residents and visitors hoping to expand their own libraries and at-home entertainment will find plenty of options in the used book sales room of the NorthEast-Millerton Library located in the front section of the Annex at 28 Century Blvd.

The offerings, all of which have been donated, include both fiction and non-fiction books for children and adults as well as DVD's, games and puzzles.

Library Director Rhianon Leo-Jameson says the program is maintained entirely through volunteers who "go through the donations to make sure they are in good shape. They clean the books and make sure they are in a condition that would make people actually want to buy them."

Once they organize and shelve the books, the volunteers "maintain the offerings

and try to rotate them consistently through the year."

All the items are priced to move with hard cover books costing \$1, paper backs 50 cents, children's and young adults 25 cents and anything else \$1.

The room is open every Saturday throughout the summer from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. except for July 4th or if library is closed.

The book sale is open to all with no library membership needed, but Leo-Jameson adds that cards are available online and at the main desk. They are free for residents of North East and Millerton with a \$25 annual fee for non-residents.

Leo-Jameson notes that all funds from the book sales go to supplement the Library's budget. She says that other libraries in the area have similar projects, so she recommends checking their websites for availability.

For more information, call 518-789-3340 or go to nemillertonlibrary.org.

Children's author to talk at Roe Jan

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

COPAKE — The bright colors that splash across the pages of author and illustrator Aimee Sicuro's latest children's book "If You Spot a Shell," promise an equally cheery day when she will read from that work at the Roeliff Jansen Community Library on Saturday, June 1, at 2 p.m.

Besides presenting a charming story of a day at

the beach designed to open up a world of imagination in "Shell," Sicuro demonstrates meticulous detail in her introductory drawings of 32 types of shells.

That talent will be on display during a live drawing session which will conclude with a take home craft kit for creating shell rubbings.

By the time she authored her own 2022 debut, "If You Find a Leaf," the inaugural book of her two volume

Treasure set, Sicuro's art had already appeared in publications such as The New York Times and Parent Magazine and had gained acclaim in such highly regarded books as Elizabeth Brown's Dancing Through Fields of Color, and The Stuff Between the Stars.

The free session at the library at 9091 Route 22, Hillside is open to the public. For more information call 518-325-4101 or visit roejanlibrary.org.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Aimee Sicuro

Getting museum entry with NEML passes

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Planning a family vacation just became more user friendly and less expensive with the addition of access through the NorthEast-Millerton Library to special passes for nearby museums and similar locations.

According to Library Director Rhianon Leo-Jameson, passes may be borrowed for up to one week by residents of Millerton or North East who are at least 18 years old and have a library card in good standing.

Depending on the policy of the location to be visited, the passes provide either free or discounted admission with the details including the number of admissions per pass provided on each organization's website.

The passes may be accessed through the NEML Library of Things tab which also provides items such as board games, fishing poles, internet hotspots, laptop comput-



PHOTO BY RHIANNON LEO-JAMESON

Passes to museums and similar locations may be borrowed for up to one week by residents of Millerton or North East who are at least 18 years old and have a library card in good standing.

ers, microscope kits, nature backpacks, seeds, spices, and a thermal camera.

Passes are available for: The New York State Empire Pass which, according to its

website at ny.gov/services/get-empire-pass includes entry to "most facilities operated by the New York State Parks and State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

including forests, beaches, trails and more"; The Eric Carle Museum, in Amhurst, MA; Springfield (Mass) Museums which feature "art, history, science and Dr. Seuss exhibits"; The Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MassMOCA) in North Adams, MA; and the Norman Rockwell Museum in Stockbridge, Massachusetts.

Leo-Jameson notes that some policies may be subject to change, so locations should be checked before any trips are finalized.

She adds that other area libraries also provide similar passes with each library setting its own rules for distribution so non-NEML members should check with their own branches for availability.

For more information, see nemillertonlibrary.org or call 518-789-0079.

Town of Washington real estate activity

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to The Millerton News

Only five residences were sold in the Town of Washington with two in the Village of Millbrook in the last 90 days, according to First Key Multiple Listing records as inventory continues to pile up at the luxury end of the market.

Three of the five sold closed below \$500,000 while one estate brought over \$5 million. Out of 21 active listings only five are below one million dollars with eight above \$6 million — the mismatch between buyers and sellers continues to grow in Millbrook.

Migdale, the Tudor estate built by Andrew Carnegie's daughter, has been seeking bids with the highest current offer of \$8 million for the 36,000+ square foot home on 68 acres.

Sold in the last 90 days in Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook:

4244 Route 44: a 3 bedroom/2.5 bath home on 3.93 acres sold for \$900,000 on March 11 119 Horseshoe Lane:



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

Stately 539 Killlearn Road built in 1832 and completely renovated with 68 acres sold for \$5,400,000.

a 3 bedroom/2 bath home built in 1973 sold for \$440,000 on March 21

26 Haight Avenue: a 4 bedroom/2 bath house in the Village of Millbrook sold for \$455,000 on March 26

14 Front Street: a 4 bedroom/2 bath home in the Village of Millbrook sold for \$435,000 on April 2

539 Killlearn Road: a 7 bedroom /6.5 bath home of 13,408 square feet on 68 acres sold for \$5,400,000 on May 23.

*Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook residential real estate sales for the last

90 days are closing date sales as presented in First Key Multiple Listing Service and do not include private transactions that are not publicly listed. Note that properties are listed by municipality, not post office. All property sales including private transactions are recorded by Dutchess County but will only be published starting in July. We'll catch up with these later this summer. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Harlem Valley Area activity report 5/16 through 5/22

5/18 Deputies responded to 289 Dogtail Corners Rd T/ Dover for a reported domestic Dispute. Matter resolved without further police intervention.

5/18 Deputies responded to a domestic dispute at 3370 Route 343 in the Town of Amenia. Matter resolved without further police intervention.

5/20 Deputies responded to 378 Smithfield Valley Road in the Town of Amenia for a reported forced entry burglary at that location. Mat-

ter currently under investigation.

5/22 Deputies responded to 3309 Rt. 343 in the Town of

Amenia for a report of an Intoxicated Subject at that location. The Subject was located and moved from the area.

COVERED BRIDGE ELECTRIC BIKE

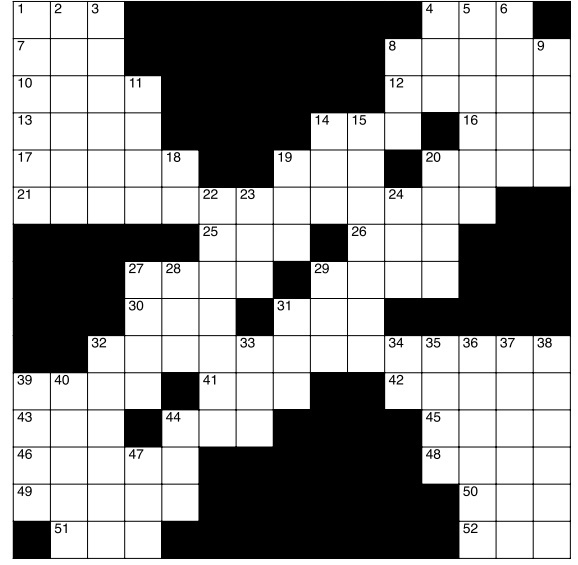
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8. Gives a job
10. Self-righteous person
12. Caucasian language
13. Surinam toad
14. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
16. Former French coin
17. Levels the score
19. What stage performers do
20. Egyptian Sun god
21. Localities
25. Spherical body
26. Licensed for Wall Street
27. Perfect
29. It's on many people's heads
30. Boxing's GOAT
31. Photo
32. Popular HBO show
39. Popular music awards show
41. Pouch
42. Lake in Botswana
43. Unruly group
44. One-fourth
45. Very eager
46. Edward __, author and writer
48. Flying insect
49. Dragged forcibly
50. Thus far
51. Not just "play"
52. Commercials

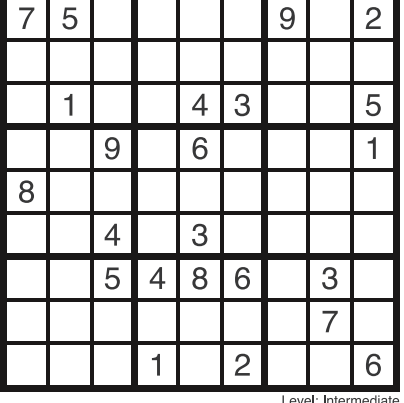


14. Type of vessel (abbr.)
15. Accept and handle
18. Sacrifice hit
19. One who buys and sells securities simultaneously
20. Month
22. Most thin
23. Naturally occurring material
24. Luke's mentor ___ - Wan
27. Postmodernist Austrian "House"
28. Aquatic salamander
29. Baseball stat
31. Beginning military rank
32. Talk rapidly and unintelligibly
33. Paddle
34. Caregiver (abbr.)
35. Old Irish alphabet
36. Japanese city
37. In a way, acted
38. Things to see
39. Nursemaid
40. Type of tooth
44. To be demonstrated
47. Defunct European group

May 23 Solution

	M	A	D	M	A	N		E	D	D					
A	T	O	N	A	B	L	E	C	L	A	N				
P	R	O	S	T	A	T	E	C	A	E	C				
O	I	D	I	A				O	N	C	E				
S	T	P						S	N	O	T				
S	H	O	D					A	T	E					
R	E	L	O	C	A	T	E	M	O						
M	I	C	H	A	E	L	J	O	R	D	A	N			
P	R	E	F	A	S	T	E	N	E	D					
C	O	L	D					G	A	B					
G	A	G	E					A	B	O	R	T			
P	A	R	E	S				P	E	R	S	O	N	A	E
C	L	A	Y					S	A	N	C	T	O	M	S
T	A	T						T	R	A	I	T	S		

Sudoku



May 23 Solution

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

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MEMORIAL DAY *Continued from Page A1*

addressed the dozens assembled in Veteran's Park and beyond.

"Today is the day we put aside to remember the fallen heroes and pray that new heroes will never need to die for us again," Klay began.

"We owe those who never came home and their families a solemn promise that just as they did not forget their comrades, neither will we."

Town Supervisor Chris Kennan and Village Mayor Jennifer Najdek provided a proclamation commemorating the solemn day.

Klay, a teacher and military historian, took the assembly back to April 1861, which marks the beginning of the American Civil War and a time when President Abraham Lincoln called for a federal militia to suppress the rebellion.

Klay recounted that the Governor of Minnesota volunteered 1,000 men, and how in due course those soldiers, confronting significant odds, marched to Gettysburg to confront a Confederate bri-



PHOTOS BY JOHN COSTON

Town of North East Supervisor Chris Kennan read a proclamation from the town and Village Mayor Jennifer Najdek commemorating Memorial Day, Monday, May 27.

gade that was five times bigger than their ranks. In the end, of the 1,000 that left Minnesota, 262 arrived in Gettysburg — and after the battle 42 remained.

"That's an 82% casualty rate," Klay noted.

Klay explained that Me-

morial Day ceremonies are credited to Civil War veterans, who started them in Millerton in 1887.

And he emphasized that "no other war comes close to the Civil War in terms of casualties" — when 750,000 men died. World War II ranks second, with about 100,00 fewer casualties.

Following a rendition of "God Bless America" by the Webutuck School Band, a bell

was rung to recognize each veteran from Millerton who died in the line of duty from the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Global War on Terror.

Taps was played and Dr. Strauss followed with a benediction. And a few in the crowd wandered closer to examining the Battlefield Cross in front the Veteran's Monument that had been recently spruced up by Townscape volunteers.



Battlefield Cross placed by American Legion Post 178,



Military historian Sean Klay recounted a Civil War battle to a rapt gathering on Memorial Day, May 27.



Flags waved in the wind on Memorial Day, May 27.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

A traditional Memorial Day observance to honor the fallen was held at Town Hall due to forecasts of rain. The ceremony included an Honor Guard from local VFW post #5444. A solo performance of the national anthem was provided by Joseph Sobol.

Amenia honors the sacrifice of the fallen on Memorial Day

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

names of all the honored who sacrificed.

"We gather again to honor and reinforce patriotic values," Blackman said.

Joseph Sobol presented a folk rendition of the national anthem.

Speaking of the depth of national gratitude, the Rev. A.J. Stack of St. Thomas Episcopal Church asked for kindling of the flame of unwavering devotion to duty that preserved the peace and tranquility of the nation.

A closing prayer was offered by the Rev. R. Kent Wilson of Immaculate Conception Church remembered the fallen as having given the most precious gift for others and for us. He asked that their memory be honored by ensuring that their comrades are cared for.

"May we never forget what they have done," Rev. Wilson said.

In closing the ceremony, Commander Woodard thanked all who contributed to the ceremony, including the local fire departments, the Community Enhancement Committee, Vicki Doyle, Leo Blackman and members of Post #5444.

AMENIA — Veterans, townspeople and children gathered on Monday, May 27, for a traditional Memorial Day observance to honor the fallen who bravely served their country. Prayers, speeches and patriotic music brought the community together to remember.

Usually held at Fountain Square, this year's observance was moved indoors to the Town Hall because of rain. The event was organized by VFW Post #5444 of Dover Plains.

The ceremony began promptly at 11 a.m. with an Honor Guard presenting the colors.

VFW Commander Nick Woodard welcomed the more than 100 who gathered in the Town Hall auditorium, to honor the memory of the brave men and women who answered the call to duty.

"Those who served left farms, friends and loved ones," Town Supervisor Leo Blackman remembered, citing the responsibility borne by all to maintain freedoms. He noted that Amenia's Memorial Wall at Fountain Square holds the

Millbrook rallies for Memorial Day in ceremony held at high school

By GAVIN MARR
Special to The Millerton News

Despite cancellation of Millbrook's Memorial Day parade due to adverse weather forecasts, the community rallied for a ceremony held in the Millbrook High School auditorium.

Arranged by Commander Jeff Moseman, the Millbrook VFW Post 9008 featured Millbrook High School Band performances as well as guest speaker Sargeant Jonathan Ialongo.

Ialongo, a Millbrook native who served two tours in Afghanistan, delivered heartfelt remarks surrounding his deployment.

"Many people always wonder how you honor those who make the ultimate sacrifice,



PHOTO BY GAVIN MARR

Sgt. Jonathan Ialongo, who served two tours in Afghanistan, delivered heartfelt remarks on Monday, May 27, at Millbrook's Memorial Day ceremony.

and I always say, be somebody worth that sacrifice," he said, regarding the observation of

this holiday and remembrance of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

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GRANT *Continued from Page A1*

was closed in 2016 due to structural issues and high maintenance costs.

Mayor Najdek also introduced Crystal McCarthy and Sebastien Bauer at Wednesday's meeting. McCarthy is the new part-time recreation director for the Village. Bauer will serve as the Summer Camp director.

The hirings mark the return of a recreation program at the park and a focus on expanding recreational use of the park and the planned six-week Summer Camp represents a return since pre-pandemic summers.

The Summer Camp will run from July 1 to Aug. 9 Monday through Friday.

In other business related to the park, the Board voted to accept a donation from Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley related to providing lighting at Eddie Collins Little League field.

The lighting will be donated by a group of private citizens.

The Board set a public hearing on June 5 at 6 p.m. to amend purchase contract provisions to allow the Village to create a "best value" category in evaluating bids.

BUDGETS *Continued from Page A1*

Three candidates for the Board of Education were all elected to fill openings, including Jean Stapf, Claire Copley-Eisenberg and Joseph Kiernan.

Webutuck school district voters approved the proposed expenditure budget by a margin of 155 to 54 and passed both accompanying propositions. The district's expense budget totals \$27,054,075, an increase of \$1,081,377 (4.16%) over the current year. The amount to be raised by taxes is \$18,431,291.

Propositions that passed included \$222,238 for pur-

chase of a school bus and another vehicle, and an expenditure from the Capital Reserve Fund of \$4,500,000.

Two unopposed candidates for the school board will be seated, including Joanne Boyd (174 votes) and Amanda Gallagher (172 votes). One will be seated immediately; the other will begin serving on July 1. Both terms will expire in 2027.

According to preliminary results compiled the New York State School Boards Association, voters approved 97.3% of proposed school district budgets on Tuesday, May 21.

Pastries sell like hotcakes at Indian Rock Schoolhouse

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Residents turned out at Ritchie's Deli to buy pastries at the annual fundraising bake sale to benefit the Indian Rock Schoolhouse on Saturday, May 25.

Business was brisk. Baked goods were donated by friends of the 1858 schoolhouse and displayed to good advantage by volunteers from the schoolhouse. Annette Culligan, secretary of the schoolhouse's board, teamed up with Nancy Nowak, board president, to see that the pastries found their way to good homes.

The historic one-room schoolhouse, located along Mygatt Road, not far from Ritchie's Deli, was in active use until 1927. The Webutuck Country Schoolhouse Association was formed in 2001 to restore the historic school that was subsequently renamed Indian Rock Schoolhouse.

Culligan praised the volunteers who continue to offer time and effort to help with the schoolhouse mission and programs, and most recently, those who donated baked items to be sold.

The next schoolhouse event is scheduled for Friday, May 31, when Webutuck Elementary School students from Grades 2 and 3, will visit to experience what a one-room school day was like in the 19th and early 20th centuries. There will also be activities including planting things and period games to round out the experience.

Also in the planning stages is the annual Community Day at the Indian Rock Schoolhouse to be held in October.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

A scrumptious selection of donated pastries was ready for purchase at the traditional bake sale to benefit the restored 1858 Indian Rock Schoolhouse on Saturday, May 25, held at Ritchie's Deli on Route 22. Service with a smile was provided by Annette Culligan, schoolhouse board secretary, at left, and Nancy Nowak, schoolhouse board president.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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IRONDALE *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Lillian, right, and Estelle Cichetti, aged 7 and 5 respectively, from Pine Plains, made their own sundae treats on Saturday, May 25, at the season opening of the historic, one-room Irondale Schoolhouse.

age when the schoolhouse closed and she moved on to Millerton High School. She chuckled a bit when someone pointed out that she went from second grade to high school.

Leitch's walk to the Irondale school was down a hill, through a field and then up Route 22. Upon graduation from high school, Leitch started work doing housework and then worked in a

laundry. Her father, Antonio, was a masonry contractor and her mother, Alena, was a stay-at-home mom.

Prompted for a photo-op Leitch, who had been ensconced in a chair in front of the building, she walked inside. Glancing around, she recalled memory after memory of a childhood partly spent there. She seemed to possess a photographic record.

"That's where the teacher

was," she said, pointing to the front wall.

"I sat up front," she said, with my sister.

The Irondale Schoolhouse, with records dating back to 1858, was one of fourteen one-room schoolhouses in the Town of North East. It was closed in 1930.

The photo-op: Leitch strolled to the blackboard and signed her name. Then turned and gave a little smile.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

LIFESTYLE: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Rising demand for home elevators

Ray and Eve Pech were in their late 30's when they built their dream house 40 years ago on the side of a mountain overlooking Ski Sundown.

The modest, 2,000-square-foot, vertically-designed home offered privacy, ample space for their young family, stunning scenery — and stairs galore.

"It's on three levels because it's on the side of a hill," said Ray Pech, a retired lawyer who serves on the Northwestern Connecticut Transit District board of directors. "We fell in love with the tremendous views."

As for the stairs, he said, "We really didn't think a lot about it. The thought never occurred to us that the day would come when we wouldn't be able to go up stairs forever."

The Pechs are among the growing number of Baby Boomers who aren't planning to sell because they like their homes and have decided to age in place.

During a 2020 expansion project, they retrofitted their home with an elevator so that in their Golden Years they could safely enjoy all levels of their home, and also make it easier for visiting friends with mobility problems and wheelchair bound relatives to visit without climbing stairs.

"We thought, 'how do we make this house so that we can stay here?' and that was the logical choice, even though we didn't need it physically yet," Pech explained. "But I guess it's there when we need it."

Elevators are no longer just a luxury. Connecticut is home to 823,529 people aged 60 or older, representing 23% of the state's population, according to a Healthy Aging Data Report. For many seniors, assisted living is out of reach due to rising costs and health concerns, particularly post-pandemic. Caregiving, too, can be costly for those on limited incomes.

A challenging housing market is discouraging senior homeowners from selling their homes, so many aging Baby Boomers are choosing to stay put. But with age comes the inevitable potential for decline in mobility. Home elevators, and to a lesser degree, stair lifts, are solutions to this growing problem,



PHOTO BY DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Ray and Eve Pech inside their Sevaria home elevator, which was recently installed as part of a larger renovation project.

according to industry experts.

Elevator Service Company, Inc., (ESCO) based in Torrington, currently has licenses to install lifts and elevators in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island, and installs more than 100 residential elevators annually, according to company officials.

"For the Northwest Connecticut area, towns that are most abundant in our installations would be closer to the New York border, as the square footage of private homes are larger and more frequented to owners who live there year around," said Managing Director Mat Montgomery.

Over the past five years, Montgomery said he has noticed a change in the attitude that elevators are reserved for the wealthy. "Today, the elevator is a mainstay in the design of the home as building outward for most is challenging with limits in land."

And while the market continues to grow, he said, the manufacturing for the type of equipment offered by ESCO is growing, too, "bringing down costs which allow

us to put these units in every type of home, regardless of wealth."

The cost to install a residential elevator varies according to layout of the home, the number of levels served and the elevator style, said the ESCO official.

"Our customers all have different needs and wants for their elevator, so the price range will vary with equipment and product offerings." Generally speaking, he said, a two-story home prepped for an elevator shaft requiring two closets stacked on top of each other, "will spend about \$45,000 on a new elevator for this shaftway. This is much cheaper than the price of some newer cars, making an elevator a low barrier to entry to having the to move around your home freely and safely for decades."

That estimate does not include construction costs to house the unit.

Ray Pech said when he and his wife crunched the numbers, their elevator cost them the equivalent of about three years of rent in a "reasonably nice" senior living complex.

"For us it made sense financially" to stay put, said Pech. "We built the

house and decided to redesign the house again in 2020, and the elevator was the instigation of it." They enlarged their living and dining areas to make up for lost space on the third level where the elevator shaft took up one of the bedrooms.

For the Pechs, the idea was to make the elevator look as if it had always been in the house. It appears as an ordinary door off the living room. Ray Pech opened the door, then slid aside a safety gate leading to a well-lit, wood-paneled box elevator with a weight capacity of 1,000 lbs. and ample space for a wheelchair and another adult.

Once inside, he secured the gate, and with a push of a button, the elevator, which operates via a pulley chain, smoothly and quietly ascended to the upper level at a barely noticeable speed of 40 feet per minute.

Beyond function, elevators can also be aesthetically attractive in a home.

"We do need to hang some art in there," Eve Pech said to her husband as the elevator door opened on its return to the main level.



PHOTO BY ANNE DAILY

Benjamin Hochman and Friends opened the 2023 Music Mountain summer series at Gordon Hall

MUSIC: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Summer series triumphs at Music Mountain

Music Mountain in Falls Village is set to begin its 95th season on June 2.

The summer will open with a benefit concert and reception featuring pianist Benjamin Hochman and Friends from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Oskar Espina Ruiz, the festival promises a season rich with transformative musical experiences.

Oskar Espina Ruiz, who has been Artistic Director of Music Mountain since 2016, brings a wealth of experience and passion to the festival. He divides his time between performing, teaching clarinet at the School of the Arts in North Carolina during the winter and residing at Music Mountain in the summer.

"It's very convenient," said Espina Ruiz. "I mean, it's such a peaceful place."

Espina Ruiz's first full season was in 2017 when he took over from Music Mountain's founder, Jacques Gordon. Gordon was also the concertmaster at the Chicago Symphony from 1921 to 1930 and the founding first violinist of the Gor-

don String Quartet. "I had been curating concerts for over ten years at Treetops Chamber Music Society in Stamford, which put me in touch with many groups that play at Music Mountain," Espina Ruiz recalled. "When the opening came up at Music Mountain, I applied. Despite being a clarinetist, my extensive experience organizing festivals made me a good fit."

His diverse background allows Espina Ruiz to play many roles as director including performing, teaching, writing grants, organizing and more. "It's all connected," he explained.

"I love playing more than anything else, but I also love teaching, and organizing is something I've done all my life. So, it kind of comes naturally."

The 95th season's theme, "From Struggle to Triumph," is a testament to the transformative power of music and in particular, music performed live at this venue.

Espina Ruiz noted, "The place itself is quite transformative. It was built to emulate the

Continued on page B3

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Eco-type, species, nativar: Nuances of native plants

The plant sale that I wrote about in my last column, a joint effort of Lindera Nursery and Tiny Meadow Farm, was fantastic. I came home with pots of rattlesnake master, *Eryngium yuccifolium*, which I planted in the meadow with the hope that their tall glaucous leaves and round balls of white flower will punctuate the otherwise mostly grassy green expanse. For a shady spot left by transplanting a witch hazel, several pots of Jacob's ladder, *Polemonium reptans* echo the tones of the violet and bluebells nearby.

I added two plants to the river path beds: *Echinacea pallida* — a restrained looking echinacea with thin pale pink petals that drape downward, and obedient plant, *Physostegia virginiana*, whose whitish-pink upward-growing flowers are reminiscent of snapdragons or lobe-



lia. These should fill in alongside the existing penstemon, mountain mint and the low growing, shocking-pink *Silene caroliniana* that is flowering right now.

Not only are all the new acquisitions native, most of the plants are also local eco-types; the seed from which the plants were grown was from plants grown locally. The thinking is that insects and birds are accustomed to the particular tastes, smells, shapes and colors of local plants and so, from the perspective of habitat preservation, they will have the best opportunity to succeed. Even humans, who are the most adaptable species, can relate to this notion: one person's award-win-



PHOTO BY DEE SALOMON

ning three-alarm chili is another person's digestive nightmare.

On the other end of the native plant spectrum are the cultivars. These are versions of na-

tive plants, selected and bred because they have an appealing aesthetic or disease resistance that differs from the original species. Some cultivars are strains of native plants found in nature and are grown from seeds from these plants, others, mainly woody plants, are created by cloning using plant cuttings.

Also called nativars, they are most often what you will find in nurseries and garden centers when looking for native plants. A cultivar, native or not, will always have its specific name in quo-

tation marks; this is the best clue to identify it as a cultivar. Producers are allowed to trademark cultivars of plants, such as 'Balmy™ Purple' Bee Balm which is one of the many nativars bred and sold under the American Meadows brand.

I succumbed to this mild-mannered marketing about ten years ago, well before I really paid attention to native plants, when purchasing a redbud nativar that has deep purple leaves, rather than the green leaves of the species. Even if the nursery had carried the species, I

would have selected this one; I was seduced by its name, 'Forest Pansy', as well as the charming color and shape of its leaf.

What I did not know at the time, and wish I had, is that nativars with purple or red leaves are far less interesting as a food source to caterpillars than are the original green leaves of the straight species. The chlorophyll of the green leaves is replaced by anthocyanins, flavonoids that, while healthy, are 'feeding deterrents' according to Doug Tallamy who did the research with Mt. Cuba, a botanic garden and research center focused on native plants. Mt. Cuba's research team looks at native species and their cultivars, assessing them over many years and then rates them for considerations including growth habits, hardiness and habitat benefits.

I spoke with Melissa Starkey, Ph.D., from Mt. Cuba who agreed that "there seems to be a lot of misinformation floating around that cultivars are 'bad' though in our research sometimes they are the winner for pollinators."

What do we need to take into account when making a decision about a nativar, so that we end up with a plant that, in

Continued on page B4



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Richard Benfield at the Hunt Library on Thursday, May 16.

GARDENING: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Globetrotting and garden hopping

On Thursday, May 16, The David M. Hunt Library hosted "Around the World in 80 Gardens" with Professor Richard Benfield, a virtual tour of gardens around the world highlighting Benfield's interests in biogeography, particularly the area of garden tourism.

Benfield is the former Chair and Professor of Geography at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain where he taught courses in human geography, plants, predators and parks, Russia, the European Union and many of the courses in the department's tourism track. His current research interests include tourism as a conservation tool through the great botanic gardens of the world.

With great humor and enthusiasm, Benfield

took attendees through the three acres of gardens in the Singapore airport which light up delightfully for the night time traveler. The tour continued through the arid gardens of Australia, the tropical gardens of the Seychelles, a quick trip through the Canary Islands, through the beautiful English gardens of his home country, and many of the unique and different gardens in the United States and Canada.

With connections to most of the gardens' curators and stewards worldwide, Benfield has been able to capture unique images of public spaces without the usual throng of crowds.

"I'm a garden junkie," laughed Benfield. "I can't get enough of botanic gardens!"

Having traveled to

"I'm a garden junkie," laughed Benfield. "I can't get enough of botanic gardens!"

125 countries, Benfield's book "Garden Tourism," and its latest edition: "New Directions (post Covid) in Garden Tourism," is an essential tool for those involved in the development and operation of gardens as a visitor attraction. Written in Benfield's engaging style, it's also captivating for any garden lover.

Benfield distributed packets of seeds as gifts for the attendees who, inspired by his talk, filed out of the library into a rainy spring evening, ready to plant seeds in their own growing gardens.

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ART: LEILA HAWKEN

Remembering Frank Stella, artist and farmer

A profound commitment to the notion of rural life and farm ownership centered Frank Stella in the Smithfield Valley in Amenia, New York. His artistic talents, spanning 60 years, brought renown first as a pioneer minimalist and later as an abstract painter and sculptor, earning him numerous awards. His decades at his Amenia farm allowed him to pursue the breeding and racing of his horses.

In 2009 Stella was one of ten recipients of the National Medal of Arts from President Barack Obama, awarded in a White House ceremony.

Stella's rural Smithfield Valley community and The Smithfield Church mourned news of his death that had occurred on Saturday, May 4, at his home in Manhattan. He was 87, just short of his 88th birthday. The following day, on Sunday, the little congregation gave thanks to God for all in Frank Stella that was good, kind, and faithful, imbuing him with an extraordinary imagination that poured into his art, his deep sense of color, and his unique gifts brought through paint to canvas.

When in residence at his Smithfield horse farm, Delahanty Stock Farm, neighbor to The Smithfield Church, Stella and his wife, Harriet,

would happily attend concerts or suppers, enjoying conversations with the locals. The Smithfield Valley Association events were also likely to attract their attendance and relaxed participation.

Noticing that Stella was in the audience for a solo organ concert being performed by Kent Tritle, organist of the New York Philharmonic, Director of the New York Oratorio Society, and organist at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, the Rev. Douglas Grandgeorge, pastor of the church, seized the opportunity to introduce the two to each other. As the pastor reached for superlatives in praise of both giants in the arts, Stella interrupted with his own self-introduction. "Here, I am a farmer," Stella said simply.

Stella's local friendships were long and significant. During an interview on Wednesday, May 15, Nan Cassidy spoke of her own decades of association with Stella, firm admiration, and Stella's enduring friendship with her mother, Ethel Doshna, until her death at 104.

"He was always kind, always made Ethel feel special, always bringing a present to remember her birthdays, Cassidy recalled.

"He was just the sweetest person," Cassidy said. "He always made



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARTIN FRANCIS

Misty stillness on an October morning in Smithfield found Frank Stella observing a few of his horses. The image was captured by Stella's visiting friend, Martin Francis.

people feel special."

They met in the 1970s, nearly 50 years back, when Cassidy and her husband, Jim Cassidy, were managing the farm that at that time was owned by a partnership. Frank Stella went on to buy out the other partners, and the farm became Delahanty Stock Farm.

"He was a wonderful person, so kind. He just loved coming to the farm," Cassidy said.

A favorite story that has endured describes the Cassidys' first encounter with Stella. In the early years, Nan and Jim Cassidy were living at the farm and Nan was

busy inside making dinner while Jim and Ethel's husband, Mike, were outside waiting for someone who was coming to see about painting the barn. A young man arrived, clothing and shoes splattered with paint.

"The painter is here," Mike called in to the kitchen, but it wasn't the barn painter, it was Frank Stella, owner of the farm and a different kind of painter.

"On one occasion, we met at one of the Amenia restaurants and Frank gave Ethel a gift of a tiny titanium sculpture that he had fashioned, Nan Cassidy recalled. It wasn't clear to Ethel how

the little piece should stand. "Think of it as a puzzle; you can put it together any way you want," he told Ethel.

"What you see is what you see." Frank Stella said in 1966 of his art. The directness of the saying has lasted.

In remembrance of two of his paintings that had hung in corporate offices at the World Trade Center, but been lost on 9/11, Stella installed a stainless steel sculpture at 7 World Trade Center Plaza in 2021, a piece titled "Jasper's Split Star." The sculpture was inspired by his own 1962 painting titled "Jasper's Dilem-

ma," a tribute to Sharon, Conn. artist Jasper Johns.

He nurtured the passion for thoroughbred racing and breeding of horses, a passion pursued at his Smithfield farm. He enjoyed the excitement of turf racing and had earned stature in the racing world as a breeder of winning New York-thoroughbred horses.

Stella's horses raced at notable tracks including Belmont, Arlington, and Saratoga. Stella's preference was turf racing and he always put the welfare of the horse first, according to the New York Thoroughbred Breeders' Association.

...music mountain

Continued from page B1

inside of a violin, and it's a very beautiful campus. It's at the top of a mountain so it's quite an experience just to drive here. Then you come inside this theatre that looks exactly as it did 95 years ago. Many people come in with headaches and problems and leave feeling renewed because they went through this trip that the music brought them through." He added, "They are ready to take on life as they come out of Music Mountain."

Opening night on June 2 promises a spectacular start with pianist Benjamin Hochman, violinist Ben Bowman, and cellist Joel Noyes from the Met Opera Orchestra. The trio will perform Beethoven's Piano Trio in C Minor, Rebecca Clarke's Piano Trio, and Schubert's Piano Trio in E Flat Major. The concert will also feature the presentation of Music Mountain's Lifetime Achievement Award to former board president Ann McKinney and will be followed by a free reception on the Great Lawn.

"I very much wanted

to make sure that every program included what we call 'a discovery piece.' It's very contemporary, but it's also a way we are looking back because Jacques Gordon, the founder, did that from the very beginning; to include music by living composers or lesser-known composers. So, the idea of the discovery piece goes all the way back to the beginning, although back then the living composers might have been Ravel and Turina which are considered classics now," he laughed.

The festival also

At The Movies

includes a robust jazz program.

"Jazz is very interesting," said Espina Ruiz. "It's similar to chamber music in that it's a small group, they are listening to one another and having a conversation very much like in a Beethoven string quartet."

While Espina Ruiz is not a jazz player, he enjoys improvisation and works with knowledgeable board members to curate the jazz pro-

grams. This year, the jazz concerts will continue to delight audiences on Saturday evenings at 7 p.m., while Sunday afternoon chamber music concerts offer a chance to enjoy music outdoors with a picnic on the lawn.

Espina Ruiz shared that intermission is also a big part of the Music Mountain experience. "People come out and talk to friends and enjoy

an ice cream or a glass of wine. Others come early or stay afterwards and have a picnic. It's just wonderful."

With a capacity of 265, Gordon Hall remains the heart of Music Mountain, providing exceptional acoustics in a historic setting. As Music Mountain looks to the future, ongoing renovations and grant funding aim to restore the historic

houses on the campus and revive residential education programs. For now, the Music Mountain continues to nurture both adult and younger musicians, ensuring that the tradition of teaching and performing remains vibrant.

As Oskar Espina Ruiz reflected, "Music sends you on a trip at every concert, and you come out transformed."

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COMPASS TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. To submit calendar items, email editor@lakevillejournal.com

MAY 30

Book Discussion with Project SAGE: Demon Copperhead, by Barbara Kingsolver

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

On Thursday, May 30, 5:30 to 7 p.m., join the staff of Project SAGE for a book-club-style discussion of Demon Copperhead, by Barbara Kingsolver. This 2023 Pulitzer Prize winner and NY Times best-seller transports Dickens's David Copperfield to current-day rural American, weaving a story of poverty, opioid addiction, and fierce perseverance through the voice an indomitable, engaging main character. To register, visit www.scovillelibrary.org.

MAY 31

Big Talk

The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.

Venture out of the default small-talk zone with strangers and friends, guided by a facilitator. Equally satisfying for extroverts and introverts, this program provides the opportunity for meaningful connection. Suggested donation of \$10. Non-alcoholic drinks provided. Ages 18+. Space is limited; advanced registration required: www.thecenteronmain.org/events

JUNE 1

Plant and Rummage Sale

Sharon Grange Hall, Sharon, Conn.

Taghannuck Grange #100 in Sharon will host its annual plant and rummage sale on Saturday, June 1, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sharon Grange Hall. The sale will feature plants, flowers, and vegetables, as well as crystalware, books, kitchen items, and more. For more information about the sale call Debbie Hanlon at 845-418-9755.

Sharon Playhouse Spotlight Gala

Sharon Playhouse, Sharon, Conn.

Spotlight Gala is back with a fresh twist this year! To Bobbie, With Love, directed by Sarah Combs, choreographed by Amy van Norstrand, with special appearances by Kate Baldwin, two-time Tony Award Nominee: starring in The Prom at Sharon Playhouse this season! Danny Drewes, a Sharon Playhouse favorite, starring in Rock of Ages & The Prom this season! Julia Murney, Drama Desk Award Nominee & Broadway favorite, directing You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown at Sharon Playhouse this season! Tickets and info: www.sharonplayhouse.org/spotlight-gala

Twelve Moons Coffee House

The Center on Main, 103 Main St., Falls Village, Conn.

Twelve Moons Coffee House builds community through live music, poetry readings and storytelling on the 1st Saturday of each month. Doors open at 6 p.m. with

open mic performances beginning at 6:30 p.m. Featured Professional Artists play from 8 to 9 p.m. Guests are welcome to bring their own dinner and beverage or enjoy the venue's light refreshments. Saturday, June 1 will feature the Lied-To's —Susan Levine and Doug Kwartler, award-winning singer-songwriters who perform a thought provoking, gritty blend of original folk, rock and country songs.

Town of Copake's Inaugural Pickleball Tournament

Copake Memorial Park, Copake, N.Y.

Copake Picklemania: 32 teams playing at 3 skill levels from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Spectators are welcome, bring your own seating. Medals and prizes will be awarded to the top three teams in each division. All games will be played on the new court surfaces at Copake Memorial Park. Aloha Tacos food truck will be selling food from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 1 (rain date Sunday June 2). https://www.copakepicklemania.org/

Hike Cornwall

Furnace Brook Preserve, Cornwall, Conn.

CT Trail Days Weekend, June 1 at 10 a.m., hike the Furnace Brook loop with Terry Burke, Bart Jones and Katherine Freygang. There will be two options: a shorter hike through the Preserve with loop back thru town and longer hike to Echo Rock and then back thru town. We will highlight bird habitats and discuss wetland water conservation. Park at the Foote Field parking lot, 65 Furnace Brook Road in Cornwall.

JUNE 2

Davis IGA 50th Anniversary Party

Kent Community House, 93 N. Main St., Kent, Conn.

The entire Kent community is invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the opening of Davis IGA, Kent's beloved grocery store, on Sunday, June 2, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Kent Community House, on 93 N. Main St.

The 2024 4-H A-Fair To Remember

Wilcox Memorial Park, Rt. 199, Stanfordville, N.Y.

A 4-H Fair will be held on June 2, 2024 at Wilcox Memorial Park in Stanfordville, N.Y. from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

JUNE 5

Snakes in the Catskills: A Primer

Lovejoy Auditorium, Cary Institute, Millbrook, N.Y.

On Wednesday, June 5 at 7 p.m. there will be a lecture on snakes featuring John Vanek, a zoologist with the New York Natural Heritage Program. Offered in partnership with the Catskill Science Collaborative. Register for live stream viewing at www.eventbrite.com/e/snakes-in-the-catskills-a-primer-virtual-tickets-903762837977 or for in-person seating at our Lovejoy Auditorium in Millbrook, N.Y. at www.eventbrite.com/e/snakes-in-the-catskills-a-primer-in-person-tickets-905111501867

JUNE 6

Why Op-Eds Matter and How to Write One: John Coston in Conversation with Laura van Straaten

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

On Thursday, June 6, 5:30 to 7 p.m., learn all about newspaper opinion pieces at this evening with John Coston, Editor in Chief of the Lakeville Journal, and Laura van Straaten, a seasoned journalist and a mentor-editor for the Op-Ed Project. Learn about the importance, power, and practice of writing opinion articles. Ask questions, try out your ideas with the experts, and sign up for an op-ed writing workshop. To register, visit www.scovillelibrary.org.

JUNE 7

Banned Book Club

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

On Friday, June 7 at 4 p.m. the David M. Hunt Library and the Falls Village Equity Project will host a Banned Book Club. This month we will be discussing the book "Last Night at the Telegraph Club" by Malinda Lo. Copies of the book are available at the library. This group is open to anyone high school aged and older.

JUNE 8

Spongy Moths: An Interpretive Walk

Cary Institute, Millbrook, N.Y.

Have you noticed the boom in spongy moth caterpillars? Are you interested in learning what's going on from an ecological perspective? Join Cary Institute's Clive Jones and Mike Fargione

for an interpretive spongy moth walk on the grounds of our Millbrook, NY campus on Saturday, June 8 at 10 a.m. Registration required at www.eventbrite.com/e/spongy-moths-an-interpretive-walk-tickets-901506479147

JUNE 9

Blessing of the Bikes

All Saints of America Orthodox Church, 313 Twin Lakes Rd. Salisbury, Conn.

The annual Blessing of Bikes will be held on June 9 at All Saints of America Orthodox Church at 12:30 p.m. Anyone who has a motorcycle or bicycle is welcome. The church is located at 313 Twin Lakes Rd. Salisbury, CT. Refreshments will be provided. For more information call 860-435-9632.

JUNE 15

Art Exhibition

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

Opening with a reception on Saturday, June 15, 5 to 7 p.m., David M. Hunt Library (Falls Village, CT) will host an exhibition of abstract paintings by Robert Cronin, Serious Paintings, on display through July 12.

ONGOING

Imperiled Species in Our Community

Academy Building, 24 Main St., Salisbury, Conn.

A new exhibit, "Imperiled Species in Our Community," is now on view at the Academy Building, 24 Main St., Salisbury. Sponsored by the Salisbury Association Land Trust, the exhibit includes photos of these species. Learn about their preferred habitats, the roles they play in our environment, and what we can do to help them.

INCIPIENCE

The Souterrain Gallery of The Wish House, 413 Sharon Goshen Tpk, West Cornwall, Conn.

The Souterrain Gallery will be hosting Joseph Clarke's exhibit titled INCIPIENCE. The exhibit will be running through July 31. Open Thursday to Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Joseph Clarke is a Connecticut based artist living in Litchfield County and working from his Kent studio.

...ungardener

Continued from page B2

In addition to being pleasing to us, is helpful to caterpillars, bees, other insects and birds? Apart from avoiding red and purple cultivars of green-leaved native species, Melissa advises that we be aware of natives cultivated to have double or triple rows of petals. These plants, while more decorative forms of the original species, are far less attractive to pollinators. Some cultivars, such as mophead hydrangea, have mostly sterile flowers and therefore are of little use to bees and other pollinators. Lacecap hydrangea, such as Mt. Cuba's highly rated 'Haas Halo', is a haven for pollinators.

To compensate for the three Ninebark 'Coppertina' shrubs I had planted 8 years ago, Robin Zitter, the horti-

culturalist who helped me create the river path, wisely advised that I plant a few straight species alongside these deep coppery red-toned natives. Robin sourced one plant and the others came from Earth Tones, a wonderful source for native plants in Woodbury.

Our sources for native plants have improved over the last few years and seeing examples of the beautiful native flowers, shrubs and trees has encouraged many to seek them out. We can aim for the local ecotype of a species when available to us and strive to plant native species first and natives second.

Dee Salomon "ungardens" in Litchfield County.



PHOTO BY TOM BROWN

Race day at Lime Rock Park

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OUR TOWNS

Pine Leaf Boys sets June 7 fundraiser at Chaseholm Farms

By MIKE COBB
Special to The Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — The Pine Leaf Boys will perform in a fundraiser for the Oldtone Music Festival Friday, June 7, 6 p.m. at Chaseholm Farm (at 115 Chase Road in Pine Plains).

The Pine Leaf Boys have made a name for themselves with their unique brand of Louisiana music blending the sounds of Cajun, Zydeco, Swamp-Pop, Country, and Soul.

The group began busking on the college campus in Lafayette in 2004 and have since become one of the best known Cajun/Zydeco bands today. Accordionist, pianist and singer Wilson Savoy, won a Grammy award in 2012 for Best Regional Roots act.

As a child Savoy was given a hand-built accordion by his renowned musician father

Marc Savoy. The accordion was built from the wood of a sassafras tree that was planted by Savoy's grandfather.

Though The Pine Leaf Boys are rooted in the traditional Cajun sound, they explore the different facets of Cajun, Creole, and Zydeco music.

"We play traditional Cajun tunes, sung mostly in French, the language of our ancestors. We make it "new" by adding our own elements and "non-Cajun" musical inspirations of a little rock n roll, a little country music. We don't hold back by boxing ourselves into a traditional cell, but rather allow the music to go wherever it wants," Savoy says.

While studying at the University of Louisiana in Baton Rouge, Savoy became enamored with the accordion inspired by his heroes, Iry Lejeune, Amede Ardoin and



PHOTO BY OLIVIA PERILLOUTLINE

The Pine Leaf Boys are rooted in the traditional Cajun sound, they explore the different facets of Cajun, Creole, and Zydeco music.

his father, Marc Savoy, as well as the boogie-woogie piano style of Jerry Lee Lewis.

Now a teacher himself, Savoy has given classes on Cajun Music Ensemble at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He's also acted, appearing

on HBO's "Treme" and in the film "All the King's Men" with Sean Penn and John Goodman. These days he's busy with The Pine Leaf Boys, The Savoy Family Band with his mom, dad, and brother Joel, and his Grammy award-win-

ning group Courtbouillon.

About the state of Cajun music today, he says, "It has its ebbs and flows. I just flew back from Brooklyn where I played Swamp in the City festival. The scene and support is just as strong (if not stronger) than ever. All ages were out supporting and dancing to our music, and it's quite a wonderful feeling to see it continue with such excitement from the audience."

As he travels, Savoy has noticed that the band's merry brand of music resonates particularly well in New England and California.

"Every day on tour is a dice roll, but usually we get a great response. The music is great-simple as that-time tested approved. But the venue/festival is important. If we get booked to play at a rock fest, it probably won't go over as well as if we played a folk fest," he says.

Cajun music is a melange of different world styles brought to Louisiana by French Arcadians. Typically it involves fiddles, accordion, and for The Pine Leaf boys often piano, bass, drums, and guitar. "It's important to make each song sound different, otherwise you'll lose them to thinking it's the same song over and over. We make great effort to tailor the set to interesting rhythms and vibes of songs so we keep the audience engaged. We love to see people dancing any which way- as long as they're feeling it!" he says.

The Oldtone Festival has a history of supporting Americana roots music in upstate New York. They've produced festivals in Hillsdale, New York. Tickets are \$30 and available on Eventbrite.

For more information on the band, see their site: www.pineleafboys.com

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SHARON, CT

GRANGE PLANT & RUMMAGE SALE: June 1, 9AM to 3PM & Sunday June 2, 10AM to 3PM at 7 Dunbar Road, Sharon CT 06069. Off Route #4 between Sharon and Cornwall Bridge. Signage will be out. Flowers and vegetables including Heirloom varieties, ready to plant selling for \$2.00. Rummage includes clothing, crystalware, lamps, books, kitchen items, small appliances, bakeware, cast iron, pizza stones, candles and holders, bell collection, tools, toys, electronics, books, LP albums and much more. All priced to sell. Call Debbie with questions 845-418-9755.

AMENIA, NY

MOVING SALE: Saturday 6/1, 10am-2pm. Furniture, tools & housewares. No early birds. 19 Yellow City Rd., Amenia.

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OPEN POSITIONS TOWN OF AMENIA: The Town of Amenia is seeking applications for the paid 20 hour/week position of Deputy Building Inspector 1. Starting salary \$28.00 per hour or \$29,120 per year. Letter of Interest and Resume may be submitted via email to dmkingner@ameniany.gov or via mail to Town Clerk, Dawn Marie Klingner, 4988 Route 22 Amenia NY 12501. Application Deadline: Noon, June 6, 2024.

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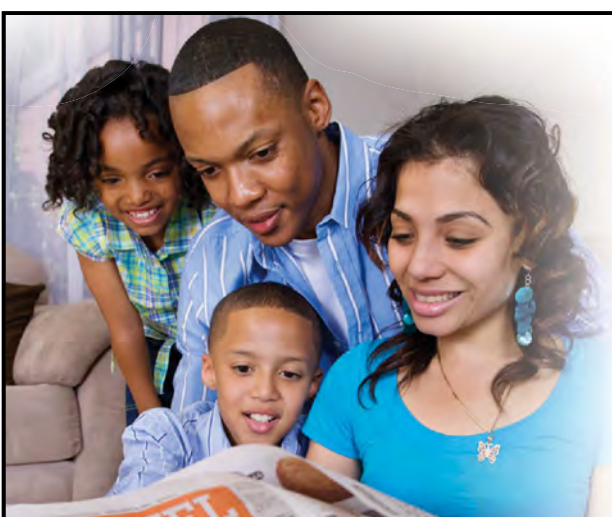
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