



AMENIA

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HILLSDALE

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Special, Inside



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Hole in the wall

Millbrook junior Robert Smith probed a shrinking gap in Sullivan West's defensive line early in the Friday, Oct. 25, boys varsity football game at Millbrook High School. Sullivan West's defense put up stiff competition for Millbrook, only allowing the Blazers two touchdowns and no extra points. Millbrook responded to Sully's dominance by turning up the heat in the second half, but fighting their hardest still allowed another touchdown for a final Sullivan West win of 44-12.

Donors give Stanford \$2 million for ambulance; \$150,000 for park

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to the Millerton News

STANFORD — When an ambulance arrives in the next three years to save a life in Stanford, it will be doing so largely thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor who recently gave what Town Supervisor Wendy Burton describes as a "jaw dropping" \$2 million to pick up the lion's share of that service's annual fee of \$750,000.

When families build memories in the soon to be created Dot and Ira Burdick pocket park, named respectively after the former his-

torian and town supervisor, their appreciation should go to Gayle Bontecou for the \$150,000 donation she made in memory of her late husband Jesse — one of many they made over the years.

Both contributions were announced in a recent newsletter by Burton who says, "we have something going on here" with the gifts representative of the way in which the once fractured town has "come together" and is now a "town that just wants to take care of itself" with citizens stepping up to manage the

See DONATIONS, PAGE A8

Millerton Police receive \$220,000 funding increase

By COLLEEN FLYNN
colleenf@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Millerton Police Department has received \$220,000 from New York's Division of Criminal Justice Services to update infrastructure and aid in

supplying officers with uniforms and firearms.

In July, Millerton's Police Department requested an increase in funding to support the officers on duty.

The Chief of police, Joseph Olenik, requested more funding

so that his officers could receive uniforms and firearms through their budget. Olenik said officers would have to pay for their uniforms and firearms, which could cost an individual around \$1,200.

"We received an additional \$220,000 in funding from criminal justice services, which will be used to update computers, police cars and purchase laptops for officers working from home," Olenik said. "They are also installing a new surveillance system and access control system for the police station."

The funding surpassed what the chief was hoping to receive, which was \$8,000 to help officers with uniforms and firearms. Now, with a larger budget, Olenik can make departmental updates that were not possible beforehand.

"We are slowly getting the equipment in," Olenik said, "I would say within the next month, by the end of November, we should have pretty much everything."

The chief also said officers are receiving training for the new equipment to ensure everyone's safety.



PHOTO COURTESY NYSDEC

State and local conservations groups, officials, staff and stakeholders gathered for an announcement in Amenia last week that the 260-acre Rattlesnake Ridge in Amenia, visible in background, will be protected by a \$350,000 grant from the State Department of Environmental Conservation for the purchase of a conservation easement through the Dutchess County Land Conservancy.

State DEC grants \$350,000 for easement on Rattlesnake Ridge

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — The Dutchess Land Conservancy (DLC) has received a \$350,000 grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to purchase a 260-acre conservation easement on Rattlesnake Ridge, located within the Taconic Ridge/Harlem Valley.

The Amenia property, comprised of upland conifer and hardwood forests, has been identified in the New York State Open Space Plan as a "priority for protection" and will add to more than 1,100 contiguous acres of adjacent protected land, including farmland, and provide important habitat for threatened timber rattlesnakes and

See DLC, PAGE A8

Webutuck weighs faculty, staff Spanish training program

By COLLEEN FLYNN
colleenf@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Members of the Webutuck Board of Education discussed a Spanish language training program for staff and faculty during a Board of Education meeting on Monday, Oct. 28.

"So we are looking at a

Spanish introductory Spanish class for teachers and faculty," said Paul Wladarczyk, a member of the Webutuck's Board of Education. "Not just teachers; faculty, staff, clerical — whomever — after school. Two sessions a week, two different times a week to make

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CONTACT

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

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OPINION

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ELECTIONS

Incumbent Michelle Hinchey faces Republican challenger Pat Sheehan for State senate seat

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@lakevillejournal.com

MILLERTON — Democratic incumbent Michelle Hinchey (D-41) is defending her state Senate seat against Republican challenger Pat Sheehan. The following excerpts have been edited for conciseness.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Michelle Hinchey Democrat

Q: What is your professional background? How does that apply to the office you're seeking?

Before running for office, I spent a decade working in the communications field within the technology and media sectors, where I managed teams, built diverse coalitions, and served as a central connector across departments. Alongside this, I stayed deeply committed to environmental advocacy, serving as a grassroots organizer for Environment New York and a member of the board of directors for the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development. These experiences prepared

me to bring different voices together and find common ground on issues that can drive meaningful change.

I've always believed that government has a responsibility to work for the people, and since taking office, I've introduced over 100 bills that have brought both sides of the aisle together to make life better for Hudson Valley residents. I've been a State Senator who puts solutions above partisan politics, and that's likely why over half of my bills, like those expanding cell service, healthcare, strengthening EMS, and holding utility companies accountable, have passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

What would be your top priorities?

My top priorities are centered around fighting for what matters to our communities — housing, healthcare, emergency services and making life more affordable, including expediting the lowest middle-class tax rate in the state in 70 years.

One area I'm especially proud to champion is strengthening EMS. I've worked with providers to create new laws, including authorizing Medicaid to reimburse EMS for treating patients at the scene of an emergency and transporting them to other points of healthcare. We also removed restrictions that prevented ambulance services from administering life-saving blood transfusions through legislation I sponsored. In 2025, I'll be working on more legislation

to officially recognize EMS as an essential service, which would guarantee better funding and support for our providers.

I'm also leading the charge to expand universal school meals, a program that supports students and helps families save money on groceries. In Dutchess County, 70% of students are now covered, and we're pushing to reach 100%. As Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Food Committee, I've delivered four of the strongest budgets for NY Agriculture, including new measures advanced this year to protect prime farmland from large-scale developments. I'm committed to fighting for the resources our communities deserve, and I look forward to continuing this work in another term.

Why are you the best person for the job?

Albany needs strong leaders from the Hudson Valley who not only understand the dire need to make life more affordable, tackle the housing crisis, and support emergency services but who also deliver real results. My time in office has proven that I'm the best advocate for this district, bringing the energy and creativity to get things done in Albany to improve life for our residents.

Expanding housing across the Hudson Valley remains critical, and I'll continue building on the housing package I created to ensure we have access to affordable homes for people and families to rent and own. Expanding

cell service through my bill, the Cellular Mapping Act, is another key goal I'll be pushing to improve quality of life and ensure this necessity becomes a reality for all our residents.

I'm proud of my work to hold utility companies accountable and fight for measures aimed at lowering our utility bills. My bill to ban estimated billing is headed to the Governor's desk, and we've already prevented utility companies from sending late bills over two months old. But there's more work to do. I'll be working on new legislation that pushes for stronger oversight of utilities and ensures the Public Service Commission is working in the best interest of ratepayers. I'm ready to keep delivering solutions to make life better in Northern Dutchess and across the Hudson Valley, and I hope to have that opportunity in another term.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Patrick Sheehan Republican

What is your professional background?

I've dedicated my career to

public service, with experience as a volunteer firefighter, Fire Commissioner and former prosecutor. I worked as Director of Business Development for the Ulster County Development Corporation, and have a strong background in economic development. I am a local realtor and a small business owner, and have been a business owner since 2008.

How does that apply to the office you're seeking?

Like that Farmers Insurance commercial, I know a lot because I've seen a lot. My diverse background has afforded me practical hands-on experience in business, government, and public safety — three key areas critical to our community's success. I've faced the challenges of both business overregulation and community insecurity firsthand, courtesy in part to the 2019 bail and discovery reform act. I understand what our local families, business owners, and first responders need from our elected representatives in Albany.

What would be your top priorities?

My top priorities are reducing the cost of living, restoring public safety, and creating opportunities for economic growth. I'll fight to roll back the 2019 bail and discovery reforms as well as

the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. I would like to cut taxes and reduce government overreach so businesses can thrive, hire more of our local people, who then can contribute with their wage taxes to support needed programming within the state and provide opportunities for our residents.

Why are you the best person for the job?

Collectively, we have seen what the past five years have looked like here in New York State. One-party rule by the Democrat supermajority and their 2019 legislative session touted as the "most progressive and productive session that's ever been in New York State," according to State Sen. Gianaris, is causing our residents to flee, our power, fuel and groceries to climb in price, and simply overburdening every one of us. I know the Hudson Valley inside and out — I've lived here my whole life, raised a family here, and served our community for over 35 years. My experience in public safety, economic development, and business gives me a unique perspective to confront the challenges we face. I'm not just running to hold office; I'm running to get Albany out of our homes and businesses, so our families and communities can prosper.

Email news and photos to
editor@millertonnews.com

Republican Stephan Krakower challenges incumbent Didi Barrett for 106th Assembly district

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Democrat incumbent Didi Barrett (D-106) is facing a challenge in the general election for her seat in the state Assembly from Republican Stephan Krakower. The following excerpts have been edited for conciseness.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Didi Barrett Democrat

Q: What is your professional background?

I was elected to the New York State Assembly in a special election in March 2012 after a career as a writer, museum professional, and longtime leader of not-for-

profit organizations.

How does that apply to the office you're seeking?

I have brought all my life experiences — as a mother, journalist, museum professional and not for profit leader to my job for more than a decade and it has better helped me understand my constituents and their needs.

What would be your top priorities / Why are you the best person for the job?

I will continue the work we have been doing to ensure a sustainable future — environmentally and economically — for our region. Building the housing we need requires adequate water and sewer infrastructure. My district has nearly 30 municipalities — many of them rural towns and small villages — and the scale of these communities is very different from both downstate municipalities and the upstate cities which often makes it challenging to access state and federal funds for water and sewer infrastructure.

For more than a decade I have made it a priority to educate the governor's team, legislative leadership and my colleagues about our unique

challenges to ensure that New York state is providing support for communities like ours to incentivize smart growth development. Additionally, as Chair of the Assembly's Energy Committee, I am working to ensure New York state is on pace to reach our ambitious climate goals while ensuring the costs of this transition are not overwhelmingly borne solely by consumers and ratepayers.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Stephan Krakower Republican

What is your professional background?

I am an attorney licensed to practice law in New York state and the Commonwealth

of Massachusetts for the past 30 years. I was also a councilman, deputy supervisor and town justice in the Town of Poughkeepsie for about 20 years cumulative.

How does that apply to the office you're seeking?

My experience as an attorney, councilman, deputy supervisor and town justice gives me very unique qualifications to serve as a New York State Assemblyman for the 106th Assembly District. I have experience creating laws, enforcing laws and interpreting laws which gives me a very deep and meaningful understanding of the legislative process, actual impact of laws and how best to understand and navigate the process.

What would be your top priorities?

My top priorities are the economy, out of control inflation, excessively high taxation,

the housing crisis and the migrant crisis that has been mismanaged in New York state and has negatively impacted our residents, seniors, children's programs, the education system, our communities and our families safety and security.

Why are you the best person for the job?

I was born and raised in the Town of Poughkeepsie, educated in the Spackenkill Schools, graduated from the State University of New York at Albany and received a law degree and masters in Tax Law in Boston. I have spent my life as a member of our community and been involved in local community organizations, youth sports, charities and devoted my efforts to improving the quality of life of those that call the 106th Assembly district home. The people of this district are

my family, friends and neighbors so I am uniquely vested in their success and well being. I didn't move here to run or be a politician and spend my weekends away from the big city. I am from here, was educated here, created a small business here and am now raising my family here in the old family farm house. In a day where far too many people are forced to leave New York state because of the excessive high cost of living and lack of real opportunity, I choose to stay and fight on behalf of the good people of our community and intend to go to Albany and be their voice and stand up for them. So I do believe that I am the best person for the job of NYS 106th Assembly person because our community needs real representation that cares about real people that are facing real problems.

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Tentative North East budget could bring 1.16% tax bump

By COLLEEN FLYNN
colleenf@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Town of North East expects tax increases with the new draft of its preliminary budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

One of the most significant cost increases on the draft is for Emergency Medical Services with the provider Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP).

The town spent \$376,858 on EMS during 2024 under its five-year contract with NDP,

alongside the towns of Dover and Amenia. Now, NDP has pitched a new contract that could cost the Town of North East \$646,300, a 71% increase.

“As currently budgeted, Town residents outside of the Village of Millerton would see an increase in their tax rate of 1.16%,” Chris Kennan said. “However, that does not take into account the amount by which all properties outside of the Village have had their underlying assessments increased, which in 2024 was by 3%.”

Other areas of increase

include the Fire District’s means, which have risen from \$756,222 in 2024 to a tentative budget of \$771,366, a 2% increase. The Water District also has a 2.7% increase, which only adds \$1,010 to its costs. On the other hand, the Highway Department budget was lowered by 15.2%, going from \$1,775,706 in 2024 to \$1,504,963 for the draft of 2025, saving the town about \$270,000.

“These numbers are different for residents of the Village, who pay taxes on a combination of the Town

Budget and the Village budget,” Kennan said.

The town is looking for ways to decrease these large price changes on its budget, especially with EMS provider NDP. Kennan has an upcoming meeting to discuss logistics, and the hope is to bring new information to a public hearing on Nov. 14.

“We will still see some further changes in the budget,” Kennan said. “After negotiations with NDP are complete, hopefully by the time of our next Town Board meeting on Nov. 14.”



PHOTO BY RHIANNON LEO-JAMESON

Volunteer Vivian Sukenik of Pine Plains goes through a recent donation of handmade children's sweaters.

NEML to host young writer workshops

By COLLEEN FLYNN
colleenf@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The NorthEast-Millerton Library is hosting a NaNoWriMo young writers’ group starting Friday, Nov. 1, at 4 p.m.

NaNoWriMo embraces National Novel Writing Month by challenging writers to draft an entire novel in one month. Its website says, “For 30 wild, exciting, surprising days, you get to lock away your inner editor, let your imagination take over,

and just create!”

Its young writers program aims to support children under 18 and educators as they participate in writing challenges throughout the year.

The library will host the young writers group each

Friday of the month at 4 p.m., where there will be weekly check-ins to help keep writers on track and provide feedback from Hotchkiss School Creative Writing Club volunteers. All writers, not just novelists, are welcome to join.

Annual NEML craft fair set for Nov. 9

By COLLEEN FLYNN
colleenf@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The NorthEast-Millerton Library is hosting its annual craft fair on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The craft fair is a staple for the library to raise money. Since 2012, NEML has raised over \$22,000 through donations from local businesses and the community.

There will be no vendors during the fair; all of the items being sold are donated to support and help fund the library.

The community can find one-of-a-kind items, participate in raffles and find new businesses to love.

The library is still looking for items to collect and sell at the craft fair, such as knitting, sewing, crochet, painting, jewelry, jelly, jams, baked goods, pickles, woodworking, glass work, artwork, photography, jewelry, dishware and figurines.

All proceeds will go to the NorthEast-Millerton Library. You can bring donations to the library; if you have any questions, call 518-789-3340.

Planning Board schedules Troutbeck public hearing and hears site plan change for Silo Ridge

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Following a report on the plans for Phase 8 of the adaptive reuse plan submitted by Troutbeck, the Planning Board at its meeting on Wednesday, Oct. 23, voted unanimously to schedule a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, Dec. 11.

Reviewing the Troutbeck plan, Engineer Rich Renna of Renna Engineering of Dover Plains explained that Phase 8 would see “a small rearrangement of components.” An indoor pool to be enclosed within a pole barn will be connected with the wellness area. A small bathroom containing rest rooms is also planned.

A net reduction in impact will result from the rearrangement, Renna said, including reduction in wastewater generation by 240 gallons and lowered water demands.

“There is no increase to the overall project,” Renna said, although minimal lighting will be added for pedestrian safety.

Planning Board engineer John Andrews indicated, although a health department approval is needed, he had reviewed the overall plans and found that the application is ready for public hearing. Planning Board attorney Paul Van Cott agreed, clearing the way for the board to schedule the December public hearing.

Silo Ridge

Citing a change in demographics since the existing Silo Ridge master plan was approved by the town in 2020, representatives of Silo Ridge reported to the Planning Board indicating an interest in changing two planned three-story town house structures into three-story condominium buildings to be designated on the plans as Condos D and E.

The existing approved master plan shows 245 units. No new units would result from the change.

Engineer Andrews indicated that the townhouses totaling ten units divided evenly between two buildings would have had fee-simple ownership. The change would bring condominium ownership structure.

Under fee-simple, the townhouse owner would own both the land and the building on the land. On the other hand, a condo owner owns



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

A public hearing has been scheduled for Dec. 11 for Phase 8 of Troutbeck's adaptive reuse plan.

only the condo, while the land belongs to a condo association in which the owner is considered a shareholder.

“Administratively, there are a lot of steps needed,” Andrews said, adding that although the project has changed, he felt the changes were insignificant. He noted that the Silo Ridge Design Review Committee will need to sign off on the proposed change from townhouse to condo.

To Planning Board member Ken Topolsky’s inquiry into progress on providing the board with a Silo Ridge organizational chart, O’Leary assured the board that the chart is being worked on, along with an updated progress report on the status of construction of the Silo Ridge development as a whole.

Keane Stud

Members of the Planning Board praised the Silo Ridge Masters Show Jumping Competition held in early October at Keane Stud on Depot Hill Road, noting that the world’s top riders were attracted to compete in the four-day event. The benefit to the town of Amenia was measurable.

Keane Stud owner Juan Torres told the Planning Board that he is working on design of a new site plan for the Depot Hill area acreage to be submitted for the board’s consideration before the end of this year.

“We believe that our goals are more aligned with the community,” Torres said, adding that the aim is to protect the woods, land, habitats and natural amenities, goals outlined in the town’s Comprehensive Plan of Development.

Architect Nicole Emmons, of Hart, Howerton Architects of New York City, asked the Planning Board to describe their concerns on behalf of the town when thinking of Keane Stud Farm’s future.

Reading directly from the town’s Comprehensive Plan of Development, planning board member Topolsky said that the document guides the board’s vision.

“This is the voice of Amenia,” Topolsky said, noting that the plan emphasizes repeatedly that Depot Hill is one of the town’s most scenic features. He stressed the importance of protecting the viewshed.

Planning Board chairman Robert Boyles, who also serves the Wassaic Fire Company as Captain, mentioned a need for fire protection ponds as water sources, as well as voicing concern about runoff drainage toward properties located downhill from Depot Hill.

Board member James Vitiello said it would be important for the planners to arrive at a proposal that would be visually appealing.

“We have to turn to you, as a designer, to design something

that doesn’t just maximize the dollar value but to find something the town can be comfortable with,” Vitiello advised.

“Our goal is to work together,” Torres said.

George Janes, the town’s visual resources consultant, said that he was in agreement with the concept of 10-acre agricultural parcels as initially described.

“What makes the Depot Hill viewshed special is its present agricultural landscape,” Janes said.

“You’re subdividing, not developing,” he pointed out to Torres.

Discussion included the role of deed restrictions in limiting the eventual development of each 10-acre piece by those who will purchase them.

Board member John Stefanopoulos indicated the possibility that parcels can be developed in ways that will blend with the scenery and add value, constrained by deed restrictions written correctly.

“The Planning Board is not going to design it for you,” Janes told Torres and Emmons, suggesting that they find guidance within the town’s comprehensive plan.

Before the Planning Board adjourned, Wassaic resident Sharon Kroeger provided notice of a petition gathering signatures intended to preserve and protect the Delavergne Hill viewshed that includes Depot Hill.

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Turkey supper to benefit Pine Plains Food Locker

PINE PLAINS — First United Presbyterian Church in Pine Plains is once again hosting its annual Turkey Supper Takeout Dinner Saturday, Nov. 2.

Pick up is available from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the church at 3309 Church St. in Pine Plains.

Dinners cost \$18 and in-

clude turkey, stuffing, mashed red potatoes, gravy, cranberry sauce, green beans, roll, and mini cheesecake.

A quarter of proceeds from dinners will support Willow Roots and the Pine Plains Food Locker.

Call 518-398-7117 to reserve a dinner.

REGIONAL

Prop One debate split on party lines

By NATHAN MILLER
nathanm@lakevillejournal.com

ALBANY — Dutchess County voters will have one statewide measure on the back of their ballots on Election Day: an amendment to the state constitution listed as “Prop. One” and commonly known as the equal rights amendment.

Prop One amends the anti-discrimination section of the state constitution, codifying protections for “ethnicity, national origin, age, disability ... or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy.”

New York Democrats have widely touted the measure as a key protection for abortion, while Republicans have slammed the measure, calling it a trojan horse that does little to specifically address abortion rights in the state.

Albany Law assistant professor Dale Cecka has spent her professional career in family law with an academic focus on the constitutional rights of parents. She said the

New York GOP’s claims that the amendment would allow non-citizens to vote in the state and strip parent’s rights are false and have no basis in the text of the amendment.

“It’s largely symbolic,” Cecka said. “It doesn’t create any new rights.” She explained that the text of this amendment creates some useful redundancy and clear direction for state courts, but doesn’t expand on existing anti-discriminatory statutes like the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964, which already federally prohibits discrimination based on ethnicity and national origin.

She also said that, in New York, existing abortion protections and protections against sex- and gender-based discrimination already secure the right to an abortion in the state. This amendment to the state constitution simply adds one more layer of legal protection to prevent the government from future action that may infringe on those rights.

Prop. One will appear on the back of Dutchess County ballots. Voters can read the full text of the proposition online at elections.ny.gov/2024-statewide-ballot-proposal.

State gives \$750,000 for Stissing Center ADA compliance

PINE PLAINS — State funding in the amount of \$750,000 will fund ADA compliance updates at the Stissing Center in Pine Plains.

The offices of State Assemblymember Didi Barrette and State Senator Michelle Hinchey announced Monday, Oct. 28, the funding was a joint effort.

“The funds will directly support improvements to the building’s accessibility, from entranceways to an elevator, ensuring that everyone in our community, all our artists and our patrons all know they are welcome and empowered to participate,” Stissing Center Executive Director Brett Bernardino said.

Forum speaker critiques 2024 campaign coverage

By PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
patrick@lakevillejournal.com

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — David D. Kirkpatrick, a staff writer for The New Yorker and a former investigative reporter for the New York Times, was critical of how the media have covered the 2024 presidential election at a Salisbury Forum talk Friday, Oct. 25 at Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

He said the press has produced “voluminous explorations” of what a second presidency of Republican Donald J. Trump would be like.

But this coverage “turned out to be a distraction.”

“What was the biggest surprise in this campaign?” he asked the audience.

Answer: The June 27 debate between then-candidate and incumbent President Joe Biden (D) and Trump.

The debate was a disaster for Biden, who appeared confused. After an outcry from his own party, on July 21 Biden announced he was withdrawing from the race. Vice-President Kamala Harris was subsequently chosen to replace Biden at the top of the Democratic ticket.

“There is no way to argue this was not an enormous lapse” on the part of the media, Kirkpatrick said.

He said the New York Times’ Peter Baker was writing about Biden’s decline as early as July 2022.

“He took a lot of static” for

his reporting.

In February 2024, Special Counsel Robert Hur, who was investigating the case of Biden’s handling of classified documents, closed his investigation and declined to prosecute the President, saying “Biden would likely present himself to a jury ... as a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory.”

Kirkpatrick said at this point the story “was out in public” and could not be ignored.

But he questioned why The Times then ran a piece labeled “analysis” that examined why the age question was hurting Biden more than Trump.

“They made it a sociological story.”

If Trump wins a second term, the press will be blamed for not reporting on Biden’s decline earlier, Kirkpatrick predicted.

“Wouldn’t Harris be better off if she’d had more time? Was Harris the best candidate?”

LAKEVILLE — Virginia A. Darden, née Appleton, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and Lakeville resident, passed peacefully in her sleep on Oct. 25, 2024. She was 104.

During a blizzard, with the doctor arriving by sleigh, Virginia was born in Bloomfield, New Jersey, on Feb. 10, 1920, to Chester F. Appleton, a contractor for the Austin company, and Ann Appleton, née Powers, a businesswoman and fur buyer. Virginia grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, and attended University of Michigan.

At University of Michigan, Virginia was active in many honors’ societies, and joined the Pi Phi sorority, of which she remained an active alumna throughout her life. She graduated in 1942 with a B.A. in Liberal Arts, with an emphasis on childhood education. With WWII raging, Virginia moved to Niagara Falls, New York, where her parents resided and began a career in teaching. She founded and managed three different child care centers, supervising dozens of assistants who oversaw children ranging in age from 19 months to 14 years, whose mothers were working in aircraft and armament productions while their fathers were overseas in the war. Once the war ended, she married her college sweetheart, Robert H. Darden (Bob) whom she met in her freshman year on a geology field trip, and dated sporadically until their engagement. The two were married Nov. 10, 1945, in Niagara Falls, and were married

for 75 years until 2021, when he predeceased her.

Throughout their early years, as Bob’s career grew from a private attorney and attorney for the Federal Small Business Administration, and eventually, to its Regional Counsel for the West Coast and Pacific Islands, the Dardens moved from Fort Collins and Denver, Colorado, to Washington D.C., to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and to San Francisco, California.

Their family also grew; they added four children Dave, Tom, Anne and Margaret, and in each location, Virginia played an active role in their schools, and was part of the choir at Our Lady of Fatima in Albuquerque, in addition to founding two sorority houses at Colorado State University and at the University of New Mexico, and volunteering at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Albuquerque, where she edited, and wrote a column for the hospital newsletter. She was an avid reader and played piano throughout her life, well into her nineties.

In 1994 she and Bob moved for the last time, following Bob’s retirement, to Lakeville to be near to their daughter, Anne Richardson and their grandson Barrie Richardson. In Lakeville they found a welcoming community, enrolled in music appreciation classes at Taconic Learning Center, exercised at Hotchkiss indoor track, and were active at St. Mary’s Church in the

choir, with Virginia volunteering for the food pantry at Owl’s Kitchen. They continued to travel abroad and continentally, even driving from Lakeville to San Diego at the age of 90.

In addition to her husband and parents, she is predeceased by her beloved son David, her brother Jack Appleton, his wife Dorothy, and her nephew Robert Appleton. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law Thomas and Rebecca Darden, her daughter Anne Richardson and Howard Chico Aller,

her daughter, and son-in-law, Margaret and Steven Garber, three grandchildren, Madeleine Garber and her husband Randy Thurber, Barrie Richardson, and Kristina Darden, two great-grandchildren, Ruth and Hendricks Thurber, her nephew and his wife, Bruce and Julie Appleton, and a grandniece and several grand nephews.

A funeral mass will be held at St. Mary’s Church in Lakeville on Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Newkirk Palmer Funeral Home, Canaan. In lieu of flowers, charitable contributions can be sent to American Red Cross.



OBITUARIES

Virginia A. Darden

Send obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

Worship Services

Week of November 3, 2024

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

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon 9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M. <i>Transitioning through prayer</i> All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 www.christchurchsharon.org</p> | <p>The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT Whoever you are, wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 a.m., in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God’s shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442</p> |
| <p>St. John’s Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) <i>In-Person and on You-Tube</i> www.stjohnssalisbury.org 860-435-9290</p> | <p>Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville <i>Offering companionship along the Way</i> Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627</p> |
| <p>North Canaan Congregational Church, UCC <i>Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God’s people</i> 172 Lower Rd./Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.facebook.com/northcanaancongregational 860-824-7232</p> | <p>Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT <i>Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons</i> Sunday, November 10 at 10:30 a.m. Marion Williams will present: HOW WE LIVE TOGETHER For information, contact Jo Loi at jokialoui@gmail.com All are Welcome</p> |
| <p>FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org</p> | <p>Chabad of Northwest CT <i>On the Green</i> 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759 chabadNW.org 860.567.3377 office@chabadNW.org Rabbi Joseph & Mina Eisenbach <i>A home away from home, a gathering place where unity is paramount.</i> <i>We are here for you, welcome to the family!</i></p> |
| <p>Congregation Beth David <i>A reform Jewish Synagogue</i> 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Jon Haddon 845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org</p> | <p>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 <i>Children’s Camp Jewish Newspaper Smiles on Seniors CTeen YJP</i></p> |
| <p>The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School <i>“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”</i> The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net</p> | <p>ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH <i>Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville</i> MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078</p> |
| <p>The Sharon United Methodist Church 112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green <i>Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits</i> 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net</p> | <p>UCC in CORNWALL <i>Cornwall Village Meeting House</i> 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 <i>Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community</i></p> |
| <p>Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour <i>A Friendly Church with a warm welcome to all!</i> 860-824-0194</p> | <p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!</p> |
| <p>The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thsmithfieldchurch.org <i>21st Century Theology in an Historic Building</i></p> | <p>The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome! www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gates!</p> |
| <p>Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service <i>“Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors”</i> Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com <i>We hope you will join us!</i></p> | <p>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</p> |
| <p>Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT <i>Where you will find: A Warm Welcome! Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow!</i> Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting - 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org</p> | <p>All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 allsaintsofamerica.us</p> |

Stephen Jesson Getz

NORFOLK — Stephen Jesson Getz passed away from

multiple causes on Oct. 7 at Noble Horizons in Salisbury. He was 74, and lived in Norfolk with partner and husband of 46 years, Peter Coffeen. Stephen was born May 4, 1950, the son of the late Roger and Genevieve (Jesson) Getz. He spent his early life in Oklahoma and Kansas, graduating as a valedictorian in 1970 from Bacon College in Muskogee where his father was president, and a BA from Ottawa University in Kansas.

In Oklahoma he lived among native tribesmen and later traveled with his parents and younger sister to the Philippines and southeast Asia where his father served as an agricultural minister for the American Baptist Church World Service.

His fathers work gave him a sense of compassion and service. Later, Steve would use his family contacts while traveling around the world on a single ticket from Pan Am. After college he took an administrative post at Chicago’s Roosevelt University. There he was known for his

administrative skills and diplomacy.

His New York work history began with Joe Papp at the Public Theater, several talent agencies, a casting agent, Goldman Sachs which he left for a post in the business office at Little Red School and finally 25 years in financial administration at Columbia University.

As a Norfolk Resident he volunteered his services as treasurer of the Land Trust, the Norfolk Library, and as bookkeeper at the Historical Society. He worked the polls at every election and was an active member of the Lions Club.

Besides his husband, Peter, Stephen is survived by a younger sister Ellen, two brothers, Bob and Jack, and assorted nieces and nephews. Besides his parents, Steven was predeceased by a brother, Will.

A memorial service was celebrated on Saturday Oct. 26, at the United Church of Christ at 11:00 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to the Norfolk Lions Club Ambulance, PO Box 399, Norfolk CT. 06058.



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PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039



EDITORIAL

Library on the ballot

Libraries have become the heart of many communities, serve to promote the health of the community through a growing number of varied programs and by offering communal space where people come together to work and play. On Nov. 5, three libraries in our region are asking for an increase in funding from voters to enable them to continue with a reliable source of funding — and remain cornerstones of social and intellectual life.

In Millbrook, it has been nine years since the Millbrook Library, which serves the Village of Millbrook and the Town of Washington, sought an increase. The Amenia Free Library is seeking an annual increase from the town to meet a continued demand for more services from those who use the library, not to mention pressure from operating expenses common to all institutions — utilities, salaries and supplies — to name a few. The NorthEast-Millerton Library is seeking a budget increase from taxpayers to secure additional funding that the Town of North East has been providing since 2007.

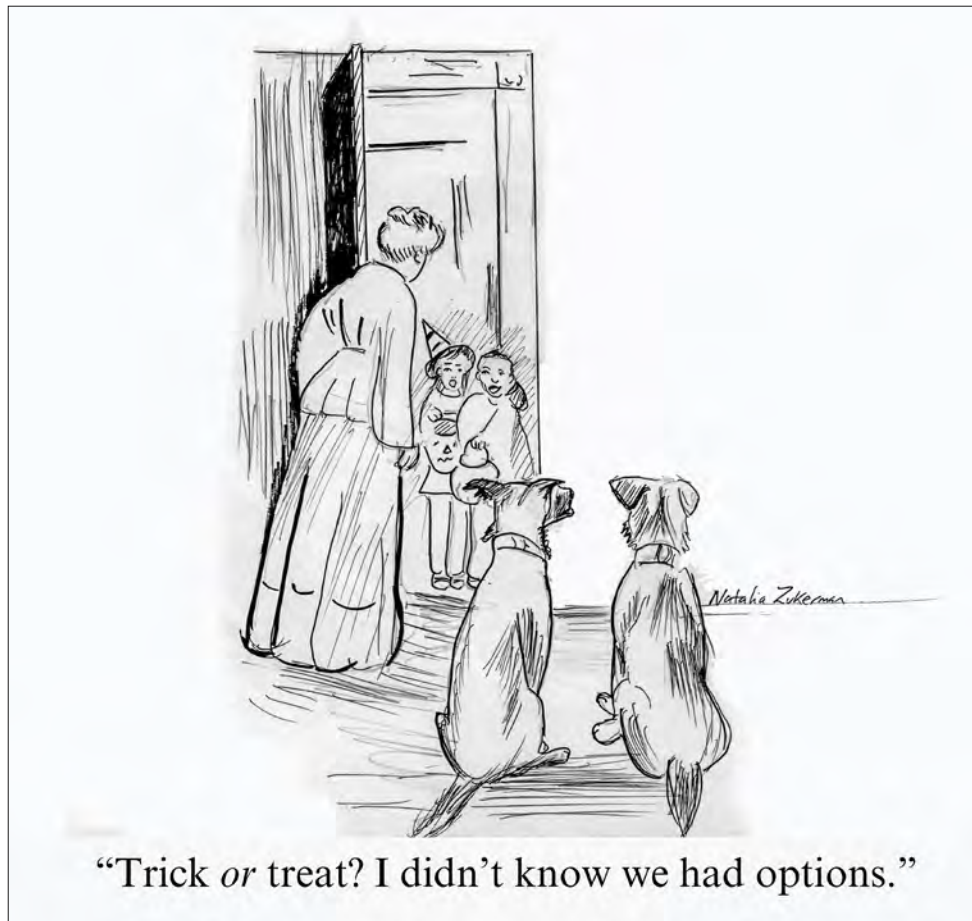
Chapter 414 refers to a chapter of the laws of 1995 in New York State that was amended to enable citizens of a municipality to decide how much to tax themselves for library services.

In November 2023, voters in Pine Plains approved a funding increase for the Pine Plains Free Library, which at the time was only one of two libraries out of 26 in Dutchess County that didn't receive voter-directed funding. The ballot measure was approved.

In Millbrook, in what is only the third time in the library's history that it has sought an increase, voters will be asked to increase funding by \$165,000 to \$349,000. In Amenia, voters are asked to increase funding by \$20,000 to \$245,000 annually. The NorthEast-Millerton Library's request will not cost taxpayers any more money, but will ensure a consistent source of revenue of \$175,000 annually.

Libraries perform a critical role in our communities, and they have evolved along with our needs far beyond the role they played in the past century. Often they are the new town meeting place where important issues are discussed in a forum venue. They support digital literacy, civic health, the education of young and old and much, much more.

They are not just places to read books. Every town should have a library. Just as municipal services are funded, libraries deserve community support for what they give to us in return. In Amenia, the average increase on a property assessed at \$300,000 would amount to about 40 cents per month. A bargain.



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

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

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

Suffragette's unlikely tale; Millerton auto shop break-in; year 2000 calendars show 'way it was'

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.

October 26, 1933

'Aldrich Once a Suffragette'; Raymond E. Aldrich, of Dutchess County, Republican nominee for Supreme Court Justice in the Ninth Judicial District, once took the role of a suffragette. Back in 1909, when young Aldrich had just finished his course at the Albany Law School and was too young to be admitted to the Bar, he was leaning nonchalantly against a telephone pole in Albany one day when a woman approached him.

"Young Man, do you want to earn two dollars?" Aldrich jumped at the chance.

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Millerton News

"Come with me," the woman said, "we want you to carry a banner."

So up toward the State Capitol marched Aldrich carrying a heavy banner "Votes for Women" and flanked on either side by suffragettes.

He told this story at a political meeting not long ago and his hearers challenged his statement.

"How could he prove it?" they asked.

That had the former district attorney of Dutchess County stumped, but not for long.

The story was printed in the Poughkeepsie newspapers and next day the corner drug-gist hailed him.

"You want proof that you carried a suffrage banner. Well, here is the proof; I saw you trudging up the hill in Albany."

'Grange Plans Hallowe'en Masquerade'; The annual Millerton Grange Hallowe'en masquerade party will be held in the Grange hall next Monday evening. The lecturer is making arrangements to provide a most interesting and enjoyable entertainment, to be followed by the serving of delicious refreshments of which there will be an abundant supply.

'About Millerton'; An Automobile driven by Harry Moore and a truck owned by John Mercer collided Tuesday morning on the new Boston Corners road. Although both cars were damaged considerably, neither driver was injured.

Tom Flood reports that the first day's pheasant hunting in Connecticut brought surprising results.

October 24, 1974

'Dutchess Auto Burglarized'; Dutchess Auto Company, on the corner of Main Street and Route 22 in Millerton, was burglarized sometime between Sunday night, Oct.20 and Monday morning, Oct. 21.

About \$1500 [sic] in an assortment of auto body shop equipment was stolen, according to New York State Police Investigator Hugh McNallen.

The Burglary was discovered a little after 6 a.m. by employees [sic] arriving at work. At present, the police said Tuesday afternoon that they had no suspects in the case.

Investigator McNallen said that entry was gained to the shop through a side window where a pane was broken. He added that he imagined that more than one person was involved in the burglary. It is still under investigation.

October 28,1999

'Year 2000 Calendars Show 'Way It Was'; MILLERTON: The North East Historical Society is offering for sale a Year 2000 Calendar of North East-Millerton, "The Way It Was." Each month features a turn-of-the-previous-century postcard taken from the society's archives and private collections. Some of the scenes depicted include the Methodist Church of Millerton before the bell tower was removed; the bank and dry goods store (now Saperstein's) on Main Street; a view of Indian Lake from the Pinnacle; and the ruins of an old iron furnace, to name a few.

Phil Thompson, vice president of the historical society, scanned the postcards while Elsie Albig looked over his shoulder to make sure he captured the beauty and detail in the scenes.

The calendars sell for \$8 each and can be purchased at Terni's, Oblong Books and Music, The Millerton News, Weinstein's Rexall Drugs and the Millerton Antique Center. Only 200 calendars were printed making it a limited edition collector's item, as well as an ideal holiday gift.

'Hooked Rugs on Display at

NE Library'; MILLERTON - A collection of American traditional hooked rugs is currently on exhibit at the North East-Millerton Library. All the rugs have been crafted by Marilyn Ashfield, who has been hooking rugs for 18 years.

Two of the hooked rugs on display are specific to this area: one is of a train with the legend "Harlem Valley R.R., Boston Corners, NY," the second is labeled "Hell's Acres" and depicts homes and buildings in Boston Corners.

Also on display is the hooked rug Marilyn Ashfield has donated to the Millerton Library. The drawing for this rug, which will be the first prize in a raffle to benefit the library, will be held at the Dec. 8 meeting of the library's board of trustees.

Second prize is a handmade drop-handle shaker basket, signed and dated by Bob Albig, which is on display at the library. Third prize is a 3-by-5-foot wool braided rug, also handmade by Ms. Ashfield. Chances are available from the library for \$1 each or six for \$5.

Rug hooking is considered by many authorities to be the one indigenous folk art in America, and dates back to when worn-out woolen garments (including flannel underwear) were too precious to be thrown away. They were transformed into rugs to be used on beds for warmth (not on the floor). If you are interested in this uniquely American craft, stop by the library for more information and to see these rugs in person.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vote 'yes' on library proposition

On November 5, a ballot proposition seeks to increase taxpayer support for operating expenses for the NorthEast-Millerton Library from \$125,000 to \$175,000.

I urge you to vote YES. Seventeen years ago, in 2007, voters first decided to direct the Town Board to raise \$125,000 each year to support the operating expenses of the Library. The proposition carried by a 2 to 1 margin.

This year's request represents an annual increase of 2% per year since 2007. During

the years 2007 and 2024, the average annual rate of inflation is estimated to have been 2.8% which makes the Library's request both prudent and reasonable.

For the last five years, the Town Board has voluntarily given \$50,000 more each year to support the library's operating budget and so this will not represent an increase from recent funding. It will, however, secure that funding going forward.

It's also important to realize these funds support operating expenses. To undertake capital improvements, the Li-

brary must find funds from other sources.

In a small rural community, a library is a vital center for the education of all its residents. Our first library was established in the late 19th century as the Millerton Reading Association. With the benefit of committed volunteer board members and talented directors and staff, the library has evolved to the vibrant institution it is today.

A YES vote will enable it to continue to effectively serve our community.

Edward Downey Millerton

A Vote for Kamala Harris

You can help chart a course for a better, safer, more just, inclusive and tolerant world by voting for Kamala Harris. If you've noticed the increasingly grave signs from nature in more forest fires, floods, droughts, increasingly intense hurricanes, and in declining biodiversity, then vote for the person who acknowledges these threats and agrees that we must do more to stabilize our climate and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. You can say yes to protection of our environment and progress toward averting a looming climate disaster. Vote for Kamala Harris. If you acknowledge the right of women to make their own health and reproductive choices, vote for

the candidate who will restore and safeguard reproductive rights to all women, in all states. Stop the disgrace and horror of women suffering and dying because of the loss of essential medical reproductive care. Vote for Kamala Harris. If you want to see a brighter economic future which is built on the strengths and promise of the middle and working classes and gives a helping hand to those in need, vote for the candidate who will directly support the most people in our society. Vote for Kamala Harris. If you want to be proud of a country that upholds, strengthens, and cherishes its democratic government and traditions based on fair and non-violent elec-

tions, then vote for the candidate who understands and values the centrality of justice, the rule of law, and our established constitutional processes. Vote for Kamala Harris. Finally, vote for the person who wants to work effectively with other nations to maintain international security and promote peace. Vote for the candidate who understands that we must be part of and help lead a sustaining global community. Do you want a better and more secure future for your children, grandchildren and for those in your local, national and worldwide communities? Vote for Kamala Harris.

Jane H. Meigs Millerton

Letters continue on A7

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

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

A meeting of the plot owners of the Amenia Island Cemetery Association will be held on Tuesday, November 19th at 5:00 p.m. at the Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22 Amenia, NY for the purpose of electing trustees and for such other matters that may properly come before the meeting.

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

10-31-24
11-07-24
11-14-24

Legal Notice

Notice of formation of 2nd Quest CPG, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on August 8, 2024. Office location: 42 Maple St, Beacon, NY, 12508, Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 42 Maple St, Beacon, NY 12508. Purpose: training and support for incubating CPG companies.

09-26-24
10-03-24
10-10-24
10-17-24
10-24-24
10-31-24

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Camp Melody LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY on 7/28/2024. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 50 Natures Way Clinton Corners, NY 12514. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

10-03-24
10-10-24
10-17-24
10-24-24
10-31-24
11-07-24

Legal Notice

Notice of Submission of Question to Voters of the Town of Amenia at the next General Election Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to NYS Education Law §259(1)(13), and in accordance with the provision of the N.Y.S. Election Law, the following question will be submitted to the qualified voters of the Town of Amenia at the General Election to be held on the 5th day of November, 2024:

the annual contribution of the Town of Amenia for the operating budget of the Amenia Free Library be increased by Twenty Thousand (\$20,000) Dollars to the sum of Two Hundred Forty-Five Thousand (\$245,000) Dollars annually?"

Dawn Marie Klingner
Town Clerk
Town of Amenia
10-31-24

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, at a meeting held on the 17th day of October, 2024, duly adopted a resolution, which is published herewith subject to a permissive referendum.

Dated: Amenia, New York, October 17, 2024.
Dawn Marie Klingner

Town Clerk
BOND RESOLUTION DATED OCTOBER 17, 2024.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HIGHWAY GARAGE AND SALT STORAGE SHED, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$6,333,449, IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF AMENIA, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$6,333,449 BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY THE COST THEREOF.

WHEREAS, the capital project herein after described has been determined to be an Unlisted Action pursuant to the regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation promulgated pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, the implementation of which as proposed, the Town Board has determined will not result in any significant adverse environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to authorize the financing of such capital project; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total voting strength of the Town Board of the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. The construction of a New Highway Garage and Salt Storage Shed on a Town-owned parcel of land on the east side of Route 22 between South Sinpatch Road and Tower Hill Road, in and for the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, including original furnishings, machinery, equipment, apparatus, appurtenances, site improvements, site water supply, septic system and storm water drainage improvements, and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, is hereby authorized at a maximum estimated cost of \$6,333,449.

Section 2. The plan for the financing of the aforesaid maximum estimated cost is by the issuance of \$6,333,449 bonds of said Town, hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is fifteen years, pursuant to subdivision 11(a) of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law. It is hereby further determined that the maximum maturity of the bonds herein authorized will exceed five years.

Section 4. The faith and credit of said Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said Town, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due and payable.

Section 5. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the Supervisor, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said Supervisor, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 6. All other matters, except as provided herein relating to such bonds, including determining whether to issue such bonds having substantially level or declining annual debt service and all matters related thereto, prescribing whether manual or facsimile signatures shall appear on said bonds, prescribing the method for the recording of ownership of said bonds, appointing the fiscal agent or agents for said bonds, providing for the printing and delivery of said bonds (and if said bonds are to be executed in the name of the Town by the facsimile signature of the Supervisor, providing for the manual countersignature of a fiscal agent or of a designated official of the Town), the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, place or places of payment, and also including the consolidation with other issues, shall be determined by the Supervisor. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals in addition to those required by section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the Supervisor shall determine.

Section 7. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

Section 8. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

- 1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said Town is not authorized to expend money, or
- 2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
- 3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 9. Upon this resolution taking effect, the same shall be published in summary form in the official newspaper of said Town for such purpose, together with a notice of the Town Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 10. THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Preliminary Budget of the Town of North East for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Ave., Millerton, NY, where it is available for inspection by any interested person Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM and Friday from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board will meet and review said budget and hold a Public Hearing thereon at the North East Town Hall at 19 No. Maple Ave., Millerton, NY, at 7:30 PM, on the 14th day of November 2024, and at that hearing any person may be heard in favor of or against the preliminary budget, or for or against any item or items therein contained.

The proposed salaries of the following town officers are hereby specified:

Supervisor: \$26,920
Councilmen (4): \$ 6,030
Justices (2): \$18,605
Town Clerk: \$36,755
Assessor: \$37,450
Dated: October 11, 2024
By Order of the Town Board
Elizabeth Strauss
Town Clerk
10-31-24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF AMENIA

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Town Board of the Town of Amenia on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at the Town Hall, shall have a Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget of said Town for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and any interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard at said Public Hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the proposed Preliminary Budget is available for review Monday through Thursday between the hours of 9:00am and 3:00pm at the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Amenia located at 4988 Route 22, Amenia New York. It can also be downloaded from the Town's website at www.ameniany.gov or available by email upon request to the Town Clerk, Dawn Marie Klingner, dmklingner@ameniany.gov PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the proposed salaries of each member of the Town Board, Town Supervisor, Town Clerk, Town Superintendent of Highways and Town Justices are as follows:

Supervisor \$28,029.00

Councilmember (4) Each \$ 6,656.00
Town Justice (2) Each \$19,723.00
Town Clerk \$43,100.00

Superintendent of Highways \$72,053.00

Dated: October 17, 2024, Amenia, New York

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
DAWN MARIE KLINGNER
TOWN CLERK
10-31-24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF AMENIA

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Amenia on November 7, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia New York, regarding the proposed Local Law known as Local Law x of 2024 entitled "a Local Law of the Town of Amenia to Override the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2025 Established in General Municipal Law § 3-c."

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that this Local Law would authorize the Town Board to adopt a budget for fiscal year 2025 that requires a real property tax levy, and to levy real property taxes, in excess of the tax levy limit pursuant to General Municipal Law § 3-c, if necessary.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that any resident of the Town of Amenia shall be entitled to be heard upon said proposed Local Law at such Public Hearing.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a copy of the proposed Local Law No. x of the Year 2024 is available for review and inspection at the Office of the Town Clerk during regular office hours, at Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, New York, and on the Town's website at www.ameniany.gov.

Dated: Amenia, New York October 17, 2024

BY ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD
DAWN MARIE KLINGNER
TOWN CLERK
10-31-24

NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF QUESTION TO VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF NORTHEAST AT NEXT GENERAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to NYS. Education Law §259(1)(b), and in accordance with the provisions of the N.Y.S. Election Law, the following question will be submitted to the qualified voters of the Town of NorthEast at the General Election to be held on the fifth day of November, 2024:

SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF NORTHEAST FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE NORTHEAST MILLERTON LIBRARY BE INCREASED BY FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS TO THE SUM ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS ANNUALLY?

Further notice is hereby given that said election shall be held at the 28 Century Boulevard in the Millerton, on the fifth day of November 2024, and that the polls will be open on that day between the hours of 6:00 AM - 9:00 PM in addition to Early Voting location and options.

Elizabeth Strauss
Town Clerk
Town Of NorthEast
10-24-24
10-31-24

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF QUESTION TO VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON AT NEXT GENERAL ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to N.Y.S. Education Law #259 (1) (B) and in accordance with the provisions of the N.Y.S. Election Law, the following question will be submitted to the qualified voters of the Town of Washington at the General Election to be held on the 5th day of November, 2024.

SHALL THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF THE TOWN OF WASHINGTON FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE MILLBROOK LIBRARY BE INCREASED FROM ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FOUR THOUSAND (\$184,000) DOLLARS ANNUALLY TO THREE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE THOUSAND (\$349,000) DOLLARS ANNUALLY? Further notice is hereby given that said Election shall be held at the Millbrook Fire House in the Village of Millbrook on the 5th day of November 2024 and that the polls will be open on that day between the hours of 6:00AM and 9:00PM.

10-24-24
10-31-24

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.
Notices can be emailed to legals@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to
The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039

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

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Millbrook Library deserves a 'yes' vote on Tuesday

Millbrook Library is the heartbeat of the Town of Washington. It is more than a house of books, it is where the town's people, young and old, come to read, to study and do research, attend classes, art exhibits, concerts, movies, and play.

Millbrook Library is an essential institution in our community. As a member of the Mid Hudson Library System, it enables everyone in our com-

munity to have access locally to free books, periodicals, videos, audiobooks and reference materials.

Its programs are designed to serve toddlers and kids, teens and adults of all ages. Among these are story time for babies, playtime for preschoolers, all ages game night and movie nights, creative workshops for teens, chair yoga and movement classes, tech assistance

and Defensive Driving classes for elders.

In addition, Millbrook Library offers copying, faxing and laminating services, notary services, digital resources, hot spots, local history archives and access to NYS Talking Books and Braille Library. The Library also hosts various events in association with Millbrook Arts group and Millbrook Historical Society.

This vital institution is funded by private donations, the interest from a trust established in 1929, various grants and tax dollars. It has been nine years since the Board of the Library has sought additional public support. In this time operating and utility costs have increased exponentially due to inflation and the increases in minimum wages.

As co-chair of Friends of

Millbrook Library, I urge voters to vote yes on November 5 to Proposition 414 to increase annual funding from the current \$184,000 to \$349,000. To determine how this increase will affect your annual payment, multiply the assessed value of your property by the multiplier 0.00029596. If, for example, your home is valued at \$250,000, this would result in \$73.99 of funding over a 12

month period.

Without additional municipal funding, our Millbrook Library will be compelled to reduce staffing, hours, programming and the purchase of new library materials. Facility maintenance and other projects will be deferred. Please vote yes to Proposition 414.

Cathy Morrell

Millbrook

Considering irony of Netflix crime drama on eve of national election

Last night, I watched the new Netflix film "Woman of the Hour" a stranger-than-fiction true-crime thriller about a 70s serial killer who, in the midst of a murder spree that tallied a suspected body count of 100+ women, enjoyed 15 minutes of fame as a bachelor contender on "The Dating Game." I was struck by the irony and appropriateness that this film has shot to the number one spot in the final lead-up to a national election which has a female vice president in a dead heat with

a convicted sexual predator who rose to fame on the back of his uber-macho pose on a popular reality TV show.

Just to be clear, Donald Trump may be many things but he could not be called a mass murderer even by his biggest detractors, even though one would be hard pressed to think of a former president who has done more to kill the soul of our democracy and our regard for the institutional structures that support it. If the tight poll results of the coming election and the ratings of this Netflix

ode to sexism, American-style have any bearing on one another, it is because they both point up a yawning gender gap and latent misogyny in the national character that was operative 50 years ago and will probably determine who is the next resident of the White House.

Nearly a half century post-"Dating Game," hosted in the Netflix movie by a game-show emcee whose ludicrous head of hair competes for attention with his flamboyant vulgarity, we witnessed the

breathtaking spectacle of the ex-"Apprentice" star renewing his virility credentials at a Pennsylvania campaign rally by extolling the genitalia of a fellow celebrity golfer. Trump's leering wisecrack about Arnold Palmer was sadly par-for-the-course, targeted to a base that leans into a disconcertingly expanding cadre of young men who would appear blithely unconcerned that their sisters and girlfriends have had their bodily autonomy eviscerated by their hero's Supreme Court

appointees, as if they somehow had no personal stake in women's reproductive rights.

To be fair to these young men, they are not the only voting bloc who suffer from selective myopia. Given the polling numbers, they can't be the only ones who cheered Trump on as he flipped the bird at his sexual assault conviction and his accuser, E. Jean Carroll, and who embraced his spin that the survivor was just another one of those gold-digging vixens looking to profit off of his fame.

Among the campaign posters that line the entry to my village is a small placard that reads "Women for Trump," a sign whose modest proportions belie the full measure of defiant self-loathing implicit in its message. As with the ill-fated women whose bodies pile up in Netflix crime dramas, there will always be people who don't recognize the monster in their midst until it's too late to do anything about it.

Jan Stuart

Millbrook

Focusing on some Medicare enrollment questions

Fall is the time-constrained window offered by Medicare to lock-in or to change your choice of Medicare coverage for yourself or your partner. Alternatively, enrollment in the insurance industry's "Medicare Advantage" is year-round and appears as an option during the Medicare choice period coming up.

Americans know little about how doctors, pharmacies, and hospitals rely upon and block low-end (the sickest) customers to cut the costs of their care. And certainly very little about health insurance. One thing

that remains true and reliable is that Medicare pays 80% of the cost of any provider and any hospital services you use. Medicare is a reliable and true government-based health care for those eligible. It is a good system and honored since 1965 by most health care providers. Importantly, it is guaranteed by federal law and benefits apply to equally to everyone eligible.

On November 1, besides Medicare, you will have the choice of Medicare Advantage (MA) which is not a part of Medicare. It is a portal to for-profit insurance and appears

each year to compete with Medicare customers during the regular Medicare enrollment period. With Medicare Advantage, insurers (UHC, Humana, CVS, etc.) negotiate the payments with the providers so that everyone (doctors, clinics, hospitals) essentially takes a margin for profit.

If you decide to choose MA and before you decide to enroll, ask an agent explicitly if your current doctor is in "network" and if your hospital is in "network." If the answer is "yes," ask the person what your co-pay will be and what those

costs would be with Medicare.

Medicare Advantage continues to be advertised under the Medicare umbrella (It looks like an offer from the government but it's not.) And it offers ever more large promises over government-based plans (eyeglasses, dental care, cash back) while having multiple hidden and systematic barriers to services and care. This year, MA has actually received numerous prominent condemnations from watch dogs like the Commonwealth Fund, the US Government Accounting Office, as well as from the US Depart-

ment of Justice. And there is rising general acknowledgment that our health care system is increasingly predatory on the most vulnerable: "Less Care at Higher Cost --(see) The Medicare Advantage Paradox" JAMA June,10,2024. According to the government run Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC, March 2024), up-coding and favorable selection (agreements between providers and insurers) paid MA plans \$83 billion (22 percent) more (!!!) than what Medicare would

have paid if MA enrollees were in Medicare.

Even with these public reports from their own federal watchdogs, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has yet to pull the plug on the Medicare Advantage misplacement on the government site. But, it's coming soon.

Nancy F. McKenzie, PhD

Retired Professor, CUNY School of Public Health

Amenia

Letters also appear on A5

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SPANISH *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Spanish lessons are planned for faculty and staff at Webutuck elementary and secondary schools.

sure that we get to both our secondary and elementary staff.”

After the second quarter, starting in January, the lessons will begin for faculty and staff to learn Spanish after school. Lessons are planned for throughout the week, in order to reach as many faculty members as possible.

“We have our Spanish teacher, at least one right now, going to be teaching introductory Spanish to our staff and faculty, so that the communication is a little bit better,” Wladarczyk said. “So we are excited about that.”

A member of the board, and parent to a Webutuck student, shared her concerns about how her son in Webutuck’s elementary school has struggled to create deep connections with other children who do not speak the same language.

“I remember Brody in pre-k, just like, ‘Mom, can I learn Spanish? Like I want to talk to my friends?’” said Lauren Marquis, “So teaching them at a young age helps them, and then there’s so many friends he could speak to, and it’s still a constant barrier for him ...

They get by when they get on the playground, but I’d think it’d be amazing.”

Webutuck has previously tried to implement foreign languages for younger school students, with Mandarin Chinese. This program did not reach its fullest potential and ended after only a few years, Wladarczyk said.

“One of the biggest problems we have is finding a foreign language teacher, but that shouldn’t exclude us from trying to instill it again,” said Wladarczyk. “If we wanted to build a program, which is really something we should be looking at, I would want to look at another Spanish teacher, build it into a special down at the elementary level.”

The Board of Education has taken their district’s culture into consideration, and is looking into the possibility of creating more programs for Spanish language, especially for younger children.

“It is so important for us, again, with our population, that’s a great idea to do, not only to communicate with each other, but the future,” Wladarczyk said, “So let’s put that on the agenda.”

DLC *Continued from Page A1*

endangered Indiana bat.

“We’re really excited. It’s really a big effort,” said Erin Hoagland, DLC’s director of conservation.

She referred to the Rattlesnake Ridge easement as “crucial for connectivity and habitat, and some farmland protection is at play as well.”

DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar announced more than \$1.26 million in grants for four land trusts, including to DLC, to support five projects aimed at safeguarding local forests.

The grants, administered by the Land Trust Alliance in partnership with DEC, were made available through the Forest Conservation Easements for Land Trusts (FCELT) Grant Program.

“New York’s natural landscapes are vital to our quality of life and our economy,” Mahar said in making the announcement on Thursday, Oct. 24.

“This \$1.26 million in funding for land trusts will empower communities to protect cherished open spaces and contribute to the State’s 30 by 30 initiative — conserving 30% of our lands and waters by 2030.”

State officials said the land trusts will use the funding to create new conservation easements aimed at protecting water quality, building wildlife corridors, preserving old growth forest, increasing climate resilience, strengthening biodiversity and expanding recreation opportunities for New York.

High-priority conservation easements

Kelly Turturro, regional director for the DEC’s Hudson Valley office, which covers Northern Dutchess County, said the state works closely with New York land trusts, private landowners and stakeholders in the community “to preserve and grow our forest resources for the benefit of future generations”

The Forest Conservation

Easement Program, she said, “is just one example of our ongoing support for New York’s land trusts. Through our partnership with the Land Trust Alliance, the program provides grant funding to land trusts around the state to purchase high-priority conservation easements.”

At last week’s grants announcement in Amenia, with Rattlesnake Ridge as a backdrop, Katie Petronis, DEC’s deputy commissioner for natural resources, explained that since the program was formed three years ago, “we have now protected 2,800 acres of land, like we’re here standing on today, using under \$4 million.”

This year, she said, response to the project more than doubled the amount of award funding available.

“That really tells us there is a need statewide, and not just here, but elsewhere.”

The grants are funded through the state’s Environmental Protection Fund.

In addition to the Dutchess Land Conservancy’s \$350,000 grant for Amenia’s Rattlesnake Ridge, other grants included: \$199,950 to the Genesee Valley Conservancy in Livingston County; \$350,000 to the Cazenovia Preservation Foundation, Inc. in Madison County; and two separate grants totaling \$361,800 to the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust for conservation easements in Oswego County and Herkimer County.

“Our forest lands play critical roles in terms of providing jobs, wildlife habitat, and helping to mitigate climate change,” said Jamie Brown, New York senior program manager for the Land Trust Alliance.

“New York’s nearly 95 land trusts are working to protect these important lands, as well as other open state that is important to all New Yorkers. We are grateful to the state’s support and leadership in protecting our natural resources and important places.”

DONATIONS *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTO PROVIDED

The proposed Dot and Ira Burdick Park plan with funding donated by Gayle Bontecou in memory of her late husband Jesse, features among other things a berry patch, beehives, crab apple walk, benches, walkways, a pollinator meadow, split rail fence, a pavilion for field trips and historical society exhibits, a pond with a boardwalk over it, and parking.

many needs.

In discussing the donations, she explained that in the past, the “must have” ambulance service had been provided by volunteers such as those currently at the fire department whom she says are “the best ever.” However, when the volunteers needed to be replaced by a professional service, it came with an eye-popping \$62,000 cost per month — 92% of which will now be covered for the next three years by the donation.

The other contribution, the new park, will adapt wetlands for nature trails, a pond, his-

toric and nature kiosks, bird houses and a pollinator field. When the donated land was accepted five years ago, it was with the provision that tax money would not be used on it.

When Bontecou, whom Burton describes as “an incredibly generous woman” asked what the town could use, Burton showed her the park plans. She reported Bontecou “said, ‘I’ll write a check for \$150,000’ and one of us started crying.”

Burton feels that citizens stepping up is typical of Stanford and believes it may

have begun with the privately funded library which is now the “center of the town,” with the “best programming in the world.”

Similarly, the recreation park was built by some 200 citizens sharing their talents in everything from carpentry to hole digging to child care with the efforts under the direction of the organizing company.

Burton also pointed with pride to the way in which the community came together to support the Kemmerer family after a horrendous fire destroyed the heart of their

100 year old farm, raising \$100,000 through Go Fund Me with local goods and services donated to a \$25,000 auction.

Burton, a 17 year resident of Stanford, who has been supervisor for the past five years says that some days are filled with people complaining that “a garbage truck dropped garbage in front of their house or they don’t like the way a tree was trimmed or there’s a pothole and you’re just going, ‘I’m not the Master of the Universe here.’ And then you have a day like this and you go, ‘Wow! I love my job!’”



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE GREENOUGH

Trunk or Treat in Stanfordville

Children broke out in smiles at a Trunk or Treat event at the Stanfordville playground on Friday, Oct. 25.

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

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Realtor® at Large

For the outdoor enthusiast, it is good to know that hunting season for deer is currently active for archery and soon for shotgun and rifle on both public and private lands. Sundays are usually exempted except for archery on private lands with the landowner’s permission. So it is wise to be aware of this and to wear orange while hiking, which includes your dogs, to alert hunters of your presence. A good source of information on hunting in CT can be found in the CTDEEP’s 2024 Hunting and Trapping Guide at: portal.ct.gov/deep/hunting/ct-hunting-and-trapping



JOHN HARNEY
Associate Broker with William Pitt Sotheby’s International Realty
Office: 19 Main Street, Salisbury, CT 06068
Email: jharney@wpsir.com
Cell: 860-921-7910
Instagram: @johnharneyjr

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

ART: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

The Creators:

Sam Guindon's artistic palette

Painter Sam Guindon is an earnest young man who paints light with the skill of John Singer Sargent. Guindon's attention to technique harks back to an earlier time when artists studied under a master, learned anatomy, perspective, how to make their own pigment, and closely observed the work of great artists. Guindon has studied oil painting since he was nineteen. In a recent show of his paintings in his hometown of Norfolk, Connecticut, Guindon sold 40 of the 42 paintings he exhibited.

Guindon's sketchbooks are windows into his creative mind and a well-traveled life, packed with vignettes, ink drawings, observations and thoughts written in the margins. His subjects range from sketches done in gouache at the National Gallery, to ink drawings of vine-covered trees in Costa Rica, to the interior of an airplane drawn with the perspective of a fisheye lens, to colorful bottles of hot sauce. Currently Guindon is teaching art at the Compass Atelier in Maryland.

The Creators Interview:
Jennifer Almquist: What are your plans after you come home to Norfolk this winter?

Sam Guindon: Picasso said, "There's no great art without great solitude." I plan to spend a year solo creating one thousand paintings on paper in Santa Fe, Norway, Costa Rica, and Ireland.

We went to Costa Rica, where my dad is from, for a year when I was in 3rd grade. I will be there for three months doing some work on our house this winter. I'm going to do some plein air (in the open air) painting in the jungle.

JA: Tell me your earliest memory of wanting to draw or paint. How old were you?

SG: My first memories are very illustrative, light-filled - as if they are paintings. The first drawings I did, when I was two, were very imaginative. I drew a lot of monsters as my earliest subjects. I liked drawing monsters because the anatomy is never incorrect. You have the freedom to just draw whatever you imagine.

JA: How have your



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Above, Norfolk painter Sam Guindon. At right, a selection of artwork created by Guindon.



paintings evolved?

SG: Only more recently did my art come around to being representative of anything. I guess it was more just a desire to create things, as opposed to capturing things. Now the desire to create has been fused with the desire to record the world. In that sense, especially with plein air paintings, you can capture your experience. I think the sketchbook is similar in that it's a record of my journey throughout the year.

JA: Your sketchbooks are wonderful. Where did you draw these?

SG: Those are copies from the National Gallery of different artists. The sketchbook has turned into half sketchbook/ half journal which is fun to look back on. It feels more lived in.

JA: When did you realize that you wanted to go to school for this?

SG: I went to a liberal arts school, Hamilton College. I was not sold on

being an art major. My mom told me when I was a kid that I should do something that I loved as a career. That pushed me to have the courage to study art.

JA: Did you have a teacher that influenced you?

SG: My advanced painting teacher was the first to introduce a more traditional kind of education. She had us do master studies, taught us about different pigments, their history, how you use them.

JA: What was your plan after college?

SG: Taking classes online through Compass. My teacher has changed the way I paint. He taught me how to mix color in a scientific way.

JA: In your recent show in Norfolk of smaller paintings, you sold out! How do you explain that success?

SG: The new paintings have a different feeling, a little more raw, more accessible. Before I had

only shown my studio work. I learn more about painting from these smaller, direct observation pieces.

JA: Your paintings are of everyday things like tractors and bulldozers, workshops, hydrants, and your own sneakers. What draws you to your subject matter?

SG: Those are my dad's tractors - they're

from Belarus. They are Soviet era and have a lot of personality. I remember as a kid working with these immensely powerful things that could crush you so easily. They are rusty, they misfire in the winter, they've got hydraulic leaks. If you're a kid who looks closely at things, they have meaning that other people don't feel or see.

It is a shame that we lose our child's eye, through which everything has meaning and beauty. That is something that I think about, finding a sort of equanimity by just finding beauty in uncelebrated things, quiet things.

JA: Did you like reading books when you were

Continued on next page



NorthEast-Millerton Library

Annual Craft Fair

Saturday, November 9

10 am - 2 pm
Rain or Shine
28 Century Blvd., Millerton, NY

Items are handmade by local crafters, artisans and artists.

Find one of a kind items for you and your loved ones.

All proceeds go to the NorthEast-Millerton Library

Crafts, Baked Goods and Raffles with Donations from

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- Demitasse
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- Daisey Hill
- Gilded Moon Framing
- Hair Lounge
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- Millerton Agway and Co-Op
- Millerton Nursery
- Millerton Service Center
- The Moviehouse
- North East Ford
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- Oblong Books
- Paley's Farm Market
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PHOTO PROVIDED

Photographs from Thomas K. Levine will be on display at the Berkshire School.

PHOTOS: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Photography exhibit reaches back to 1800s

Three Centuries of Photography” from the collection of Thomas K. Levine will be on display at the Warren Family Gallery at the Berkshire School from Nov. 1 to Dec. 21. The exhibit features 75 original prints, spanning the history of photography from the 19th century to today. The opening reception is on Friday, Nov. 1, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Thomas Levine, a former Paramount Pictures executive and father of a Berkshire School junior, brings together works by renowned photographers like Carleton Watkins, Julia Margaret Cameron, Alfred Stieglitz, Diane Arbus, and Richard Misrach. The show includes landscapes, portraits, and a recent focus on vintage images of notable historical figures, including Winston Churchill, Mar-

tin Luther King Jr., and George Harrison. “I’ve always been interested in all kinds of visual media,” said Levine who also acts as a consultant to The Triplex in Great Barrington. “In my prior life I worked in the film business as an executive so photography seems like a natural extension of my interest in film,” Levine explained.

The exhibit will be curated by teacher and art department chair Paul Banevicius with Levine’s assistance and aims to offer “the community at large” a rare opportunity to experience this extensive and diverse collection. “It’s an opportunity to see a lot disparate work in one setting,” said Levine.

Opening is Nov. 1 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Gallery hours are Monday to Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., or by appointment.

MUSIC: ALEC LINDEN

Norfolk Library hosts traditional Japanese flautists

The Norfolk Library hosted a unique shakuhachi performance on Sunday, Oct. 27 from expert players Kod Araki VI and Ralph Samuelson.

The shakuhachi is a bamboo Japanese flute which originated in Buddhist temples as a meditation tool in the 17th century. Araki is one in a long line of shakuhachi masters — his given name is Hanzabur after his great-great-grandfather who is a legendary figure in the instrument’s history, and who made the instrument Araki played on Sunday.

The name he performs under — Kod — is a professional title that designates the head of the family’s shakuhachi guild, which is the oldest in Japan. Araki inherited the name at his father’s retirement in 2009.

Eileen Fitzgibbons, events coordinator at the Norfolk Library, emphasized to the crowd that this would be an unusual and rare performance while introducing the performers. “I feel so honored that this music will grace our walls,” she said.

The instrument itself is deceptively dynamic, at times bold and commanding while other times fluttering and delicate. The music was distinctly somber and



PHOTO BY ALEC LINDEN

Araki and Samuelson performed at Norfolk Library Sunday, Oct. 27.

contemplative, consisting of long, drawn out tones and lilting melodies, accented by occasional flutters and trills.

The duo played five pieces, consisting of traditional pieces composed by monks known as honkyoku and several of Araki’s own compositions. The titles of the works were uniformly naturalistic, evoking deer bleating in the forest and leaves fluttering down on a cold evening.

“All the best Japanese music seems to be composed about the

autumn,” Araki said.

Araki noted that the shakuhachi tradition is unique in that “it’s not musical in origin,” but rather is rooted in Buddhist meditation practices. The instrument became musically popular in the mid-18th century in large part due to Araki’s great-great grandfather Kod II, he said, who fought to

preserve the tradition when the instrument was outlawed during the Meiji Restoration.

Araki is based near Seattle, but has performed at the Norfolk Library several times before, and expressed his gratitude to the Library for hosting the performance. He said he’ll be back with Samuelson “whenever they’ll have us.”

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...Creators

little? **SG:** I loved reading books, especially fantasy. In Costa Rica life is slow, so we spent a lot of time just reading from the old library, and drawing. I love Percy Jackson and Tintin. I just learned Andy Warhol and Herge, the author of Tintin, were good friends!

JA: Do you like the paintings of John Singer Sargent?

SG: He was one of the painters that got me into this. He’s the gateway drug to more traditional painters. It is cool to see his sketches because you can see the artist’s hand. He was good at showing you what he wanted you to see in his paintings.

JA: Your favorite artists?

SG: Jeremy Mann, Mark Boedges, Richard Schmid, Antonio Lopez Garcia, Rackstraw Downes, Quang Ho, George Bellows, Camille Corot, Gustave Caillebotte, Peter Paul Rubens, and Franz Kline.

JA: Do you dream in paintings?

SG: If I am working on a painting intensely, or drawing, then I will



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Work from Sam Guindon’s sketchbook.

dream about it. **JA:** There is much creative shorthand in the world now, using artificial intelligence,

digital cameras, or 3D printing. Your ability to

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48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY

Continued from previous page

paint, using your mind and your hands, is going to be an increasingly rare skill. Will you resist the ease of modern forms of image creation?

SG: Different factors make it rare. The more art that I make, the more insulated I am against like that kind of influence. Because you really can’t be making something while distracted in a million ways by your phone.

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FILM: MIKE COBB

Covering Conflict: documentary film series at The Norfolk Library (part one)

In commemoration of Veterans Day, the Norfolk Library is hosting a short series of documentary films called "Covering Conflict - Journalists on the Ground". The first film, "Dateline Saigon," will be shown on Friday, Nov. 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. with an introduction and Q&A by Mark Erder.

Directed by Thomas D. Herman and narrated by Sam Waterston, the film tells the inspiring story of a small group of Pulitzer Prize-winning journalists including David Halberstam, Neil Sheehan, Malcolm Browne, Peter Arnett, and the photojournalist Horst Faas, who fought to report a truth that was vastly different from the rosy White House version during the early years of the Vietnam War.

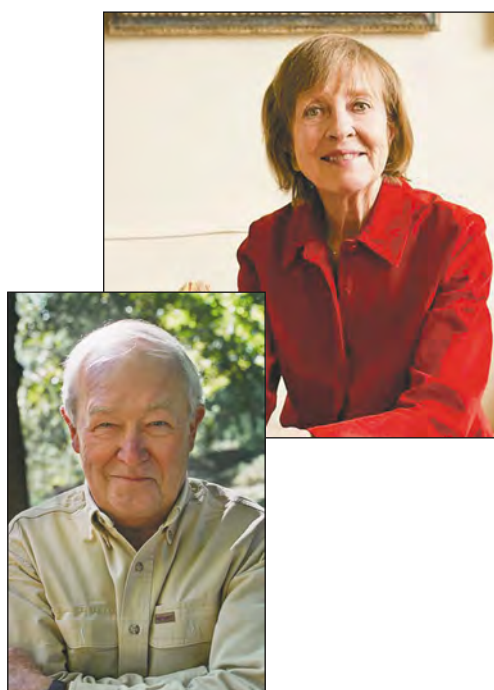
Dateline-Saigon is Herman's directorial debut. Previously, Herman was a co-producer of the Emmy-award winning feature film Live From Baghdad starring Michael Keaton and Helena Bonham-Carter. Before that, Herman was a freelance producer for CNN as well as a correspondent for National Public Radio.

Herman received a BA with honors from the University of Pennsylvania and continued his education at Harvard, Oxford, and Northeastern Universities.

When he's in between films, Herman practices law in Boston. "Being a lawyer helps me pay the bills while I pursue my passion, filmmaking," he says.

Co-producer of Dateline Saigon Bestor Cram, served as a Marine Lieutenant in Vietnam from 1968-69. What Cram witnessed stood in contrast to the official White House account.

"The White House lie that the war was going well was part of ever-increasing propaganda. Military officials believed I had become a traitor by joining the anti-war movement, both while I was in the mili-



PHOTOS PROVIDED

"Dateline Saigon" will be followed by a Q&A with Jim Sterba and Francis Fitzgerald at Norfolk Library Nov. 8

tary and after I had been honorably discharged, and for my work with VVAW (Vietnam Veterans Against The War). They expressed concerns that I was abetting the enemy. I represented a fundamental challenge to their belief structure," Cram says.

An established producer, director, and cinematographer of non-fiction films for television and museums, Cram helped Herman develop the story line for Dateline Saigon.

"Tom Herman and I worked together in shaping the narrative structure and editorial approach that shaped what the film is today. We worked on keeping the focus on the early reporting of the war as it became a foundational lens in which the press continued to reveal the 'ground truth'. The archival material reflects the ideas and stories the journalists offered in their interviews. Although they are recollections, the eloquent capacity of each of the journalists reveals their intimate experience of bearing witness," Cram says.

Dateline Saigon will be followed by a Q & A with Jim Sterba and Francis Fitzgerald, moderated by Mark Erder. Sterba has been a war and national correspondent for more than four decades, first for The New York Times and

then for The Wall Street Journal. As a 26 year old journalist covering the war in Vietnam in 1969, he realized he was witnessing a reality greatly from the official US military narrative.

"As the newest of four New York Times reporters, I attended daily briefings and wrote the daily war story. I attributed to US and South Vietnam briefers what they told us. I also reported what dissidents in the military and elsewhere told me," he says.

"Gradually, as I got to spend more time in the field, my skepticism grew. Nixon's 'Vietnamization' program was kicking in, turning the war over to South Vietnamese units, but hundreds of US troops were dying weekly, mostly draftees," he adds.

After two years covering the war on the ground, Sterba grew more skeptical of US foreign policy. He reflects on how press coverage affected public opinion and how that contrasts from the access journalists are granted today.

"Reporters had great freedom in Vietnam. We could go anywhere, unescorted, hitchhike on helicopters and airplanes, and were welcomed, especially by combat troops, to see for ourselves. No censorship whatsoever. The military would try to shape stories by putting

out their versions, often sanitized, but that didn't stop us. After Vietnam the Pentagon clamped down, restricting access, requiring escorts, delaying sending stories out of the war zone," Sterba says.

Francis Fitzgerald, who is married to Sterba, received the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, and the Bancroft Prize for her first

book "Fire in the Lake: the Vietnamese and the Americans in Vietnam" (1972).

At the age of 25, Fitzgerald went to Vietnam in 1966 and returned twice in the early 1970s. As a freelance writer, she did not have to adhere to official briefings, known as "the five o'clock follies" for their overly positive tone.

"Having read Bernard Fall, Jean Lacouture and other French writers, I began as a skeptic. Witnessing the destruction of the villages and the horrifying casualties at Vietnamese civilian hospitals, I ended up passionately anti-war," Fitzgerald says.

"Fire in the Lake" was the first major history of Vietnam and American involvement by an American author. It explores Vietnamese history and culture and argues that the lack of understanding by the U.S. military ultimately doomed American efforts.

"I never understood

why Johnson et al put such faith in the domino theory, except they seemed to know nothing about the different cultures and world-views in Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia," Fitzgerald says.

In her book, Fitzgerald argued that American values were incompatible with Vietnam's values, culture, agrarian economy, and long history of warfare with France and China.

Regarding the role of journalists and the resurgence of authoritarianism today, Fitzgerald says, "Journalists shape opinion as much now as in Vietnam, but the Middle East is much more difficult for them to cover. Many have died since the U.S.-Iraq war began, and some are dying now in the Gaza strip and in Lebanon. Demagogues and 'fake news' have always existed. The task for journalists has always been how to counter them."

To register, go to: norfolklibrary.org/events

Craft and vendor sale to benefit Amenia Fire Company

On Saturday, Oct. 26, the firehouse in Amenia hosted a fall craft and vendor sale to benefit the Amenia Fire Co Auxiliary. Local makers, bakers, crafters, knitters, painters, jewelry makers, and creators of all kinds gathered inside the firehouse on Mechanic Street for some early holiday shopping fun. The event was organized by Amenia resident Stacie Wilson and was in place of the regular December craft fair.



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Shoppers enjoy the crafts fair in Amenia.

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OUR TOWNS

'Hillsdale in the 1930's' film shows 'swinging' town, people

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

The town and its people are the stars of the latest production of The Roeliff Jansen Historical Society's 22 minute film "Hillsdale in the 1930's — a Swinging Town."

The rare footage from the day — mainly black and white with some color mixed in — was shot by an unknown amateur and given to then town historian Palmer Vincent, whose grandchildren Doug, Ron, and Sue Vincent DiClementine donated it to the society after having enjoyed it as children.

Hillsdale documentarians Julia Brandi and Marilyn Herrington and editor Elizabeth Wilder Elm then came together to create the film — their third collaboration for the Society. It was produced by Brandi, Harrington and Ron Vincent.

They highlighted images with music by the likes of Bing Crosby, the Dorsey Brothers and Irving Berlin to create not just a narrative of the town, but a sense of the moment during which, despite the economic challenges of the day, the "town flourished," according to Lesley Doyle, current Society president.

Registration is already full for the film's premier which will fittingly take place on Saturday, Nov. 2 at 6 p.m. at the Town Hall. The building is a major character in the town's history, having been built in

1926 as the town library and serving since 2011 as the Town Hall.

A second showing will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 7, at 6 p.m. at Roe-Jan Brewing Company, 32 Anthony Street, Hillsdale. That 1851 building was originally the site of the Hillsdale Mercantile Association and various stores and a shirt factory. Registration for that event at swinginghillsdale@gmail.com was still open as of press time.

Following the unveiling, a silent version of the film will be looped there in its entirety as the audience dines on Wednesday and Thursday,



IMAGE SUBMITTED

Clips from the Roeliff Jansen Historical film "Hillsdale in the 1930s - A Swinging Town" include: (left) the First United Methodist Church, Greek Revival with Romanesque detail, built in 1845 at the intersection of Route 22 & Route 23, Hillsdale; (center) a Methodist Church Picnic held at Prospect Lake in North Egremont, Mass.; and (right) the Roeliff Jansen Central School, a two-story Colonial Revival building that was constructed in 1931 by the Works Progress Administration.

Nov. 6 and 7, and may be seen at roeliffjansenh.org or the either at the Society's website town's site at hillsdaleny.com



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Ready to welcome customers to Amenia's newest shop, Le Jardin Flower Farm, is owner and floral designer Romane Récalde.

Le Jardin to open in Amenia on Oct. 31

By LEILA HAWKEN
Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — The talk of the town is Le Jardin Flower Farm, a new shop slated to open on Thursday, Oct. 31. It brings to Amenia the promise of a centrally-located flower shop and more.

The talents of renowned floral designer and owner Romane Récalde are evident, supporting a floral workshop and showroom featuring home décor and one-of-a-kind antiques, many from France. Récalde once lived in the Bordeaux region, wine country, and so she feels at home in the Hudson Valley.

"I'm terrified and super excited," Récalde said, pausing for an interview on Saturday, Oct. 26 as she prepared for

the big day.

Visitors to the grand opening will be able to participate in a raffle to win a large floral arrangement, Récalde said, and there will be free baked treats for everyone who stops in, adding to the festivities.

The new shop will specialize in floral arrangements for home or special occasions using blooms from Récalde's Amenia organic flower farm when the season is appropriate. During the other months the supply will come from area farms' greenhouses, ensuring a year-round selection.

Le Jardin Flower Farm will be open Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and on Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The new shop is located on Main Street (Route 343) a few steps downhill from the post office.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Rotarians hold annual Fall Mingle

The annual Fall Mingle sponsored by the Rotary Club of Millbrook drew Rotarians and supporters to the Millbrook Winery for a reception on Wednesday, Oct. 23. Gathering for a photo were Rotary officers, left to right, Michelle DelValle, Secretary; Kimberly Sweck, Director; Renee Richard, Director; and Lynn Grainger, President.

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