\$3.00



WEBUTUCK LITTLE **LEAGUE** Time to sign up A2

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County and its Environs



REAL ESTATE Clinton sales in December A3



COMPASS Dan Howe's time machine; and more **B1-4**



A large crew from the Amenia volunteer fire department responded to a fire at 5319 Route 44 in downtown Amenia on Monday, March 10 just after 2:30 p.m. The fire burned 1.5 acres and was contained by 4 p.m.

Burn barrel fire spreads to brush in downtown Amenia

By NATHAN MILLER nathanm@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Amenia firefighters responded to a brush fire at 5319 Route 44 in downtown Amenia Monday at 2:34 p.m.

Trucks from the Amenia fire department and a full fire crew responded to the blaze with state troopers and rangers.

Amenia fire chief Chris How-

ard told the News the fire was caused by improper burning.

"There was a burn barrel, someone put a bunch of cardboard in it," Howard said.

The fire burned an acre and a half of brush in the woods behind the Horton House Scone company.

The fire was contained and firefighters were dousing hot

See FIRE, PAGE A8



The Stissing Center

'Selected Shorts' comes to Stissing Center

ALEC LINDEN alecl@lakevillejournal.com

PINE PLAINS — The Stissing Center was packed on Sunday for an afternoon performance of podcast and NPR series "Selected Shorts." The sold-out show, which

was recorded for national broadcast at a later date, brought a lineup of four accomplished actors and storytellers to the Pine Plains stage to recite a selection of short stories from award-winning authors.

See SHORTS, PAGE A8

County comptroller releases special report on federal funding

By KRISTA A. BRIGGS kristab@millertonnews.com

POUGHKEEPSIE - Dutchess comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair released a special report early last week on federal monies and how they move through the county level, including the disbursement process in the county; how federal funding benefits Dutchess residents and whether any fiscal distribution issues have surfaced locally as a result of actions taken on behalf of the Trump administration.

According to Aymar-Blair's report, federal programming represents roughly 10% of Dutchess expenditures, not including any COVID-19 assistance. As an illustration of federal- to county-

"Cuts to Dutchess County's federal funding could impact lifesaving programs, and reduced consumer spending would be a likely side effect of reduced federal assistance like Medicaid." Dutchess comptroller Dan Aymar-Blair

level distribution and spending, in 2023, under the Biden administration, the county received approximately \$65 million from the U.S. government with \$25 million going toward direct aid in support of such programs as home energy assistance and food stamps. Federal monies were also disbursed - and continue to be directed toward county-level agencies, programming and supports such as adoption, foster care and child care needs, emergency/disaster assistance, infrastructure development

and maintenance, and workforce

In addition to federal-to-county funding, Aymar-Blair noted an additional \$1.9 billion annually is directly distributed to Dutchess residents from the U.S. government via Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. These entities are clearly not immune to the impact from the Trump administration as the Social Security office in Poughkeepsie, for example, has

See REPORT, PAGE A8

CT Attorney General Tong reflects on impacts of immigration policy

By RUTH EPSTEIN Special to The Millerton News

LAKEVILLE, Conn. - Attorney General William Tong knows firsthand about the plight of immigrants.

He spoke to a standing-roomonly crowd at Trinity Lime Rock Church March 6, which together with those on Zoom totaled 225. The event was hosted by Vecinos Seguros 2, a grassroots organization that works to make sure those without legal status know their

Tong has been an outspoken critic of President Donald Trump's immigration policies and is part of a group of attorneys general around the country who are banding together to take legal action against

his actions. He stirred the audience with his personal story. Growing up in West Hartford, where he remembered kids showing up at his school from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam after he was the first Asian student enrolled, he thought "they were refugees and I was the son of immi-



Connecticut Attorney General William Tong visits with former State Rep. Roberta Willis of Salisbury before his talk on immigration at Trinity Lime Rock Church Thursday.

grants. I thought I was better than them. In fullness of time, I realized what we were all doing here. My parents and grandparents ran for their lives in China. I am nothing but the son of refugees. There was no daylight between those kids and the immigrants showing up today."

Tong related how his parents met while both were working in a restaurant in Hartford. One day, in the 1970s, a representative from

the Immigration and Naturalization Service showed up and because his father was undocumented, was threatened with deportation. After much thought, the senior Tong was resigned to the fact he would have to leave. But shortly before the deadline, while driving along the Berlin Turnpike, he decided to make a last-ditch effort. He went

See TONG, PAGE A8



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

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Local Matters

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OUR TOWNS

Amenia Board funds comprehensive plan update

By LEILA HAWKEN Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Updating the town's Comprehensive Plan will proceed following action by the Town Board at its regular meeting on Thursday, March 6, to provide funding for the services of professional town planning consultants.

The committee had suspended its work for several months feeling that its planning would benefit from expert planning advice.

By unanimous vote the Town Board agreed to allocate \$37,500 to hire the services of Nexus Creative Design of Mount Kisco, New York, the collaborative arm of Pace University's Land Use Law Center. Together, the planning experts will work with The bid was the second lowest the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee to facilitate local forums, gathering and interpreting residents' input regarding visions and aspirations for the town's future.

The result will be a revised Comprehensive Plan reflective of residents' views and modern planning principles which will serve as a tool for all future planning and zoning development decisions.

Electrical work and interior painting at the Town Hall will proceed following the Town Board's unanimous vote to approve the hiring of contractors. McDermott Electric of Wingdale was awarded the contract for needed electrical work, one of three who submitted bids.

at \$4,400, but the contractor was determined to have had experience with the configuration of the building's electrical systems and the bid was not appreciably higher than the lowest bid.

A contract for Town Hall interior painting was awarded to Jaybird Painting of Wassaic, the lowest of three bidders, at \$7.940.

A proposal to extend the term of service of the Town Supervisor from two years to four years, discussed at past Town Board meetings, will be included on the Nov. 4 election ballot, following unanimous decision by the Town Board. Discussion had determined that the change would enhance efficiency and continuity. The

vote by referendum is mandatory under the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Failing to advance to a public hearing was a proposal that would have limited the number of consecutive terms of service for elected town officials. The negative vote was unanimous at 3-0. Councilmember Brad Rebillard was absent from the meeting.

Commenting on her vote, councilmember Nicole Ahearn felt that the measure was not necessary, that it was difficult enough to attract people who are willing to step up and serve.

"I have faith in the voters," agreed Rosanna Hamm, feeling that elections provide opportunity for voters to effect



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Century Boulevard's redevelopment will be partially funded through the Hudson River Green Community Planning Grants Program and the Northeast Dutchess Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

Second session for Century Blvd. plan set for March 15

By KRISTA A. BRIGGS kristab@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON - On Saturday, March 15, a second public information session on the proposed transformation of Century Boulevard will be held at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex at 1 p.m.

The meeting is a followup to last month's public session on the "complete street" plan for the boulevard. Design concepts which emphasize public safety will be unveiled at the meeting. The revision, which will be partially funded through the Hudson River Green Community Planning Grants Program and the Northeast Dutchess Fund of the Berkshire-Taconic Community Foundation, is expected to provide a much-needed facelift for the very well-traveled thoroughfare.

The session is expected to last approximately 90 minutes. Light refreshments will be served.

Sign-ups still open for 2025 Webutuck Little League

By JOHN COSTON

johnc@millertonnews.com

AMENIA - The 2025 Webutuck Little League season is around the corner and the League said players are still needed to fill out teams for games to be played in Millerton and Amenia.

Registration remains open for T-ball, majors, minors, seniors and girls' softball teams. Some scholarships are available to cover costs.

League President Matt Deister said the League is planning tryouts will be at Webutuck high school and middle school gyms. Tryout times will be on Saturday, March 15, from 10 to noon, and on Thursday, March 20, at 6 p.m.

Volunteers and parent

coaches are also welcomed for teams that range from 4-6 years of age to seniors at 13-16 years.

The start of the season is targeted for mid-April, though an exact date has not yet been

Teams play in Millerton at the Eddie Collins Memorial Park field and at Beekman Park in Amenia.

The Webutuck Little League season is bookended with an Opening Day celebration that amounts to a party for players and parents and a celebration at the end of the season when play is wrapped up and players receive trophies and more hot dogs and hamburgers.

At an organizational meeting on Tuesday, March 4, at the Webutuck Elementary School gym, where pitching practice was underway for players already signed up, the Webutuck Little League Board discussed plans for sponsorships, tryouts, safety training for coaches and other events planned for the spring.

Besides Deister, other officers include Eric Eschbach, vice president; Judy Moran, treasurer; and Jessica Deister, secretary.

The next Board meeting is March 18 at 6:30 p.m. at the Webutuck Elementary School

For more information about registration or volunteering, email webutucklittleleague@gmail.com.

The League's Facebook page is WebutuckLittleLeague.



Ben Coon, 10, on the "mound," practiced his pitching on Tuesday, March 4, in the Webutuck Elementary School gym, with Coach Colby Dunlop, left, giving pointers.

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OUR TOWNS

Bombers take home sectional title

By NATHAN MILLER nathanm@lakevillejournal.com

NEWBURGH, N.Y. -The Pine Plains girls varsity Bombers won the Section IX Class C girls tournament Wednesday, March 5, at Mount Saint Mary College.

The Bombers took an early lead against S.S. Seward's Spartans and didn't let off the throttle for the rest of the night, wining the game 55-42.

'We were here last year and we lost a tough one at the end," girls varsity coach Les Funk said after the game. "These kids never gave up. They had this in mind from last year. This was the goal."

The Bombers hit the ground running in the finals matchup, winning the first possession and quickly racking up a 10 point lead before the end of the first quarter.

The squad was led in scoring by Neveah Rennie, no. 34, who scored 20 points, and Emma Brenner, no. 23, who scored 17 points.

Most of the Bombers' points came from field goals in the first half. Pine Plains entered halftime with a 30-12 lead over Seward.

Seward caught on in the second half and fought hard



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

Michelle Blackburn, no. 12 of Pine Plains, helped lead the Bombers to victory over S.S. Seward Institute as point guard for most of the Section IX Class C tournament finals at Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, N.Y., on Wednesday, March 5. The Bombers took home the title after winning the hard-fought game 55-42.

to keep Rennie and Brenner from scoring, but only succeeded in sending the two shooters to the free-throw line where they both saw

Rennie made 75% of her

free-throw attempts at the finals game. Brenner went to the line less often but came away with a higher make percentage of 83% — she made five out of six attempted free

The Bombers returned to Newburgh to compete in the regionals championship Tuesday, March 11. Results and photographs from that game can be found online at millertonnews.com.

PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER Participants of Dine Out for History can feast on Golden Wok fare at home on March 19.

Dine Out for History as spring kicks in

By KRISTA A. BRIGGS kristab@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Dine Out for History will be taking place at the following venues on the evening of the dates below.

Golden Wok at 2 Main St., Suite 5165, on Wednesday, March 19. Takeout only.

Taro's at 18 Main St. on Thursday, March 27. Reservations recommended.

Get on the map for the **Millbrook Community** Spring Sale in April

By LEILA HAWKEN Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — The third annual — and quite popular Community Spring Sale is accepting sign-ups to participate in the event scheduled for Saturday, April 28. Suggested hours are 9 a.m. to 3

Residents who have items they wish to sell are invited to set up on their lawns on that day for a village-wide community tag sale. There are no rules for this self-organizing event. If they wish,

Sold for \$360,000, the

1,064 square foot house on

12 Schoolhouse Road was

built in 1880. It sits west

of the Taconic Parkway

A sure sign of spring is the

participants can even begin earlier on that day or stay open later. There are no fees to par-

ticipate. One advantage to the event is that goods are reused, recycled and sent on their way to new homes. The further advantage rests in joining in a spirit of community, visiting with your shoppers and just having neighborly fun doing it.

Residents desiring to participate can get their yard sale listed on the Google map that will be distributed widely to let visitors and shoppers know the locations. Residents should send an email to millbrookspringsale@gmail.com, providing name and location to be listed.

Anyone wishing to provide a donation to help with printing costs or willing to post flyers to get the word out should email the organizers at the same email address.

Wastewater Committee considers status of groundwater testing

By LEILA HAWKEN Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — The status of work to test for groundwater contaminants was discussed at the regular meeting of the Wastewater Committee on Thursday, March 6.

The committee agreed

to continue the contract for sampling being done by the Housatonic Valley Association, seeking to establish an "impaired" status to qualify for grant funding. Grant funding would be needed to support a wastewater project to provide septic service in the town's wastewater dis-

"Twelve sites have been done five times," committee chairman Charlie Miller reported, updating progress on meeting the requirement of eight testing sessions over two years. Three more testing sessions are needed.

Previous sampling sessions occurred between August and November in 2023, and April and May in 2024. Looking ahead, the committee projected possible testing in May to June of this year.

Committee member Shannon Roback has been assisting the committee with information about meeting the conditions of the detailed testing requirements.

Clinton real estate sales top \$5.5M in December

By CHRISTINE BATES Special to the Millerton News

CLINTON — Located west of Stanford, properties in the Town of Clinton may be listed on internet real estate sites as located in Rhinebeck, Staatsburg, Hyde Park, Clinton Corners or Salt Point. In December the titles to six properties were recorded by Dutchess County, including two large pieces of vacant farm land and four single family homes ranging from \$231,500 to \$2.05 million. On March 6 there were five single family homes and seven pieces of land under ten acres for sale.

December transfers

160-166 Old Bulls Head Road — 23 acres of vacant farm land classified for poultry sold for \$815,000 or \$35,435 per acre.

Clinton Corners Road (#609287) - 70 acres of vacant farm land near the Taconic Parkway sold for \$2.05 million or \$29,286 an acre.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

276 Hollow Road — 3 bedroom/3 bath Cape Cod home on 5.5 acres sold for \$829,000.

132 Rymph Road - 3 bedroom/3 bath home built in 1747 on 3.13 acres sold for \$1,215,000.

12 Schoolhouse Road − 2 bedroom/1 bath house on 3.3 acres sold for \$360,000.

921 Centre Road - 5 bedroom/3 bath home on 5.9 acres

sourced from Dutchess Coun-

ty Real Property Tax Service Agency. Information on active listings taken from First Key MLS which may understate available properties. #Parcel numbers for properties without a specific address refer to parcel designation by Dutchess County and may be accessed on Dutchess Parcel Access. Only transfers with consideration are included. Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

and is located in the Hyde Park School District. Realtor® at Large

opening of the vernal pools here in the NW Corner. Vernal pools are temporary sanctuaries for amphibians to breed that are safe from predators like fish. They last only for a short time in the spring and usually dry up in the summer months. The first in are the Eastern Newts, Jefferson salamanders and Wood frogs. The Wood frogs are of particular interest as their strategy to survive the winter is to simply freeze solid. So they actually resurrect each spring, a true miracle in nature. Vernal pools are protected Inland Waters here in Connecticut and for more information please visit: www. vernalpools.me



IOHN 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

ADVERTISEMENT

Celtic music concert comes to Amenia on March 16

By LEILA HAWKEN Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA - A Celtic Celebration at Amenia Town Hall is scheduled for St. Patrick's Day Eve on Sunday, March 16, from 2 to 4 p.m. Music will be provided by the Upstate Celtic Allstars.

The Celtic music ensemble is led by Dave Paton, Lakeville, Connecticut, on concertina; Amenia favorite Joseph Sobol on the cittern — related to the modern-day guitar; Lou Quinn on fiddle; and vocal/ instrumentalists Deidre and Sean Murtha, of Norwalk, Connecticut.

"Joseph Sobol and I are very excited and honored to bring this special St. Patrick's Day concert to the Amenia Town Hall," said Paton on Saturday, March 8, commenting on the upcoming event.

'This will be our third concert for the town and we are hoping for the usual great turnout," Paton added.

"Deidre and I have an album of Irish music, "All Hands Around," on the Smithsonian Folkways record label, Paton said, proof positive of the ensemble's authenticity and grounding in Celtic music.

The concert is jointly sponsored by the Amenia Town Hall and the town's Recreation Department.

sold for \$231,500. *Town of Clinton real estate sales recorded between Dec. 1, 2024, and Dec. 31, 2024,

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OBITUARIES

Grace Golden

SHARON — Grace Golden, 78, of Sharon, passed away

peacefully March 5, 2025, surrounded by her loving fam-

Born Aug. 29, 1946, in Brooklyn, New York, she was the daughter of the late Ethel Jennings, adoptive daughter of the late Floyd Jennings. She at-

tended Webutuck Central School and received her GED later in life

She spent years working in the health care industry and many manufacturing jobs in the area. Grace ultimately dedicated her life to being a loving and devoted mother and grandmother, tirelessly nurturing and caring for her family with selflessness and unconditional love.

She is predeceased by her mother, a son, George Golden, adoptive father, brothers Richie and Jimmy Jennings, her first granddaughter, Karlene, and her first and only love, Karl B. Golden Sr.

Grace is survived by her beautiful children; Karl Golden Jr. and wife Marla of Torrington, Alton E. Golden of Sharon, Patricia Zinke and husband, Kevin, of Canaan,

> Evelyn Tatro and husband Paul of Canaan, and Eric L. Golden and wife Melissa of Sharon; her brothers and sisters, Tony Wellentine, Jeffrey Jennings, Tracey Jennings and Carol Miller; and her grandchildren, Vic-

toria, Lauren, Parker, Alyssa, Alanna, Eric (Little Man), Marissa, and Emma and great grandson Colton, and a large, loving extended family and many friends.

Calling hours were held from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, March 9, at the Kenny Funeral Home, 41 Main St., Sharon, CT 06069. The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Monday, March 10, at Saint Mary's Catholic Church, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville, CT 06039. A private burial will be held at the Salisbury Cemetery.

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

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Send obituaries to editor@lakevillejournal.com

Robert L. Harpp Jr.

L. Harpp Jr., 57, passed away

unexpectedly on March 1, 2025 in Great Barrington. He was born on Feb. 10, 1968, in Sharon, Connecticut, the son of the late Robert L. Harpp Sr. and Judy (Shook) Harpp.

Bobby graduated from Pine Plains

Central School in 1986, where he excelled at baseball. After graduation he went to Columbia Greene Community College, where he studied criminal justice.

He loved all sports, but his passion was baseball. He was instrumental in sharing his love for the sport by coaching baseball in Pine Plains since he was a teenager. He was also an avid New York Yankees fan.

In 1992, he joined the **Dutchess County Sheriff's** Department where he would become a detective, arson investigator, and hostage negotiator. After his time in law enforcement, he served as Pine Plains Court Clerk. Most recently he worked as the Director of Security for Calyx in Great Barrington, a job that he enjoyed and made many friends and connections throughout the community.

He was truly a people person with a unique ability to build friendships wherever he

PINE PLAINS — Robert went, often leaving a lasting impression by giving everyone a special nick-

> name Above all else, Bobby was most proud of his children and their accomplishments. He played an essential role in their success, instilling in them the same de-

termination, creativity, and dedication that defined his own life.

Bobby is survived by his devoted children; Abigail J. Harpp and Nolan Thomas Harpp; and his loving mother Judy Harpp. He is also survived by his sister Lenora Carr, her husband Jeff, and nephew Austin. He was predeceased by his father Robert L. Harpp Sr. and his brother Thomas J. Harpp.

A celebration of Bobby's life will be held on March 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Pine Plains Lions Club Pavilion.

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

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made in Bobby's memory. Please make donations payable to Judy Harpp, PO Box 149, Pine Plains, NY 12567, with the understanding that the funds will be directed to the Pine Plains Recreation Department.

Barbara Benedict Bartram

SHARON — Barbara Benedict Bartram, 95, of Sha-

ron, died March 3, 2025, at home.

She was born in Sharon on April 30, 1929, the daughter of Maynard and Nina (Juckett) Bartram, and was a lifelong resident.

She was employed by Southern New England

Telephone Company for 34 years, in Sharon until dial service began in 1953, then in Canaan and Torrington.

Barbara was a former historian, deacon, and clerk of Sharon Congregational Church, and a member since 1939. She was a Past Master of Taghhannuck Grange; Past Matron of Rose Chapter #14, Order of the Eastern Star, and a former O.E.S. grand officer and grand representative; member of Sharon Historical Society, Telephone Pioneers,

and Backyard Beekeepers. She is survived by her

> nieces; Carey Meltzer (Harland) and Amy Bartram; nephew Peter Bartram; Jon Noyes, husband of her late niece Sarah; many great- and greatgreat nephews and nieces; cousins John Bartram

(Anne), Laura Bartram, and Carolyn Bushey, and extended family. She was predeceased by her brother Maynard Bartram, his wife Jeannette, and niece Sarah Noyes.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 3, at 11:00 a.m. at Sharon Congregational Church. Private interment.

Memorial donations may be made to Sharon Congregational Church, PO Box 6, Sharon, CT 06069.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

YOUR

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Worship Services

Week of March 16, 2025

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon

9 South Main, Sharon CT Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M Transitioning through prayer All welcome to join us 860-364-5260

Trinity Episcopal Church

484 Lime Rock Rd. LakevilleOffering companionship along the Way Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9 a.m. Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org
The Rev. Heidi Truax trinity@trinitylimerock.org

(860) 435-2627 **North Canaan** Congregational Church, UCC

and doors to all God's neonle 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com northcanaancongregational

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The Lakeville United Methodist Church

9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 'Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lakevillemethodist@snet.net

Falls Village

Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with 860-824-0194

The Sharon United Methodist Church

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

The Smithfield **Presbyterian Church** 656 Smithfield Valley Rd Route 83, Amenia, NY

Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology in an Historic Buildir

Sharon Congregational 25 Main Street, Sharon, CT

Sunday Service 10:30 a.m. Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services

Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

Canaan United Methodist Church 2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 8:00AM - Worship Service 2nd & 4th Sunday

"Open Hearts – Open Minds – Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com

canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!

Millerton United Methodist Church

6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138

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Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT

Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, April 13 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Io Loi at jokiauloi@gmail.com All are Welcome

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Sunday 11 a.m. Immaculate Conception Church
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am

Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME! For information please call 860-824-7078

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www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gatesl

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Rev. John Kreta 860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us



Skip Barber receiving his plaque at the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America in Daytona Beach, Florida.

Convinced that racing was a teachable craft, he founded the Skip Barber Racing School in 1975 at Lime Rock and Thompson Speedway, funded by a loan supposedly for a bathroom remodel.

The early days were lean the school's first instructors.

"He bartered for trucks, airplane rides, haircuts — you name it."

Since 1975, the school has produced champions across nearly every professional racing series, from Formula 1 to the Indy 500, the Daytona 500, the 24 Hours of Le Mans, the Rolex 24, and the 12 Hours of Sebring. Celebrities like Paul Newman, Jerry Seinfeld and Tom Cruise also honed their driving skills under Barber's tutelage.

Through its defensive driving programs, the school has saved countless lives on public roads and profoundly impacted the sport by training an entire generation of mechanics, engineers, administrators and marketing specialists.

Barber sold the school in 1999 but continued working there until 2001.

In 1983, Barber spearheaded a group of investors to purchase Lime Rock Park, eventually becoming sole owner. In 2021, he sold the track to a like-minded group of investors committed to preserving Lime Rock's legacy, and remains a significant shareholder and an active member of the management team.

PHOTOS BY NATHAN MILLER The Millbrook boys varsity basketball team traveled to Mount Saint Mary College in Newburgh, N.Y., Wednesday, March 5, to play in the Section IX finals. Mount Academy beat the team 65-32.

REGIONAL

Skip Barber inducted into **Motorsports Hall of Fame**

By COLIN CHAMBERS Special to The Millerton News

LAKEVILLE, Conn. — Skip Barber reached motorsport's highest echelon this week when he was inducted into the Motorsports Hall of

At the official celebration in Daytona Beach, Florida, on March 10 to 11, Barber's legacy as a visionary who reshaped American motorsports was

As a driver, Barber won national championships in the 1960s and 1970s, racing everything from sports cars to high-powered formula cars.

But when he transitioned from the cockpit to the classroom with the opening of the Skip Barber Racing School, his influence accelerated.

"There is no driving school as recognizable as Skip Barber," said Mario Andretti, who sent his sons, Michael and Jeff, and grandson Marco through Barber's programs.

Longtime Barber instructor Terry Earwood puts it another way: "I put Skip up there with Wally Parks, Bill France, and P.T. Barnum. They had a vision of what they wanted to do, and they did it."

— the first class had just four students and two borrowed cars. "We used to joke they'd call it Skip Barter Racing," said Carl Lane-Lopez, one of

THE MILLERTON NEWS

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

The Republican budget problem

or the past several **◀** weeks, House Republicans had been studying and debating proposals for the upcoming federal budget which is being taken up by both houses of Congress this month. The House Budget committee created a fifty page document showing potential cuts to the budget with estimated savings and costs for possible new additions.

The major cost items were for interest on the national debt, defense, Social Security. Medicare and Medicaid. Oh, and also the permanent extension of the giant 2017 tax cut. The budget committee's hope was that the hundreds of smaller cuts minus the additions like not taxing tips or overtime pay would reach a target number that would not increase the National Debt more than a number to be agreed on by a majority of the members of the House and subsequently the Senate, currently two trillion dollars.

But strangely, none of the Republican leaders seemed ready to speak about the other major element in the budget that, by silent acceptance was to be left alone: the massive tax cuts that were set to expire at the end of the year and President Trump and all the rest of the leadership insisted be renewed

The tax reductions were in two sections. The corporate tax had been reduced in 2017 as a permanent reduction from 35% to 21%. But Trump demanded that it be further reduced this year to 15% at a major additional cost. The proposal by the Finance Committee to extend the personal income tax and other miscellaneous additional tax cuts was estimated by the Budget Committee at \$4.2 trillion! Where would they possibly find items in the budget to offset these enormous expenditures?

Proceeding on a totally different track but in certain respects toward the same goal was Elon Musk's "Department of Government Efficiency", a not really legal entity created by Trump and run by Musk, to fire a large number of employees at most federal agencies. There is no record yet of how many civil servants have been dismissed and no record of plans for future terminations. While many cases are now in the courts challenging these dismissals, all of which were done with Trump's blessing (but without legal justification), still no one seems to know where it will all end and when. Trump and his supporters have been trying to sell these acts as a necessary trimming of the federal budget. But as various observers have pointed out, government salaries make up less than 6% of the Federal budget and even if Trump and Musk were to fire half the federal workforce it would be nowhere near enough of a cost reduction to balance the federal budget. And the ruthless and thoughtless way the Musk team has been proceed-

YOUR

OCCASIONAL OBSERVER Mac Gordon

ing may well bring the whole federal government to a halt before the "Department of Government Efficiency" gets much further.

The most obvious place to find places to cut the budget would be in Social Security or health care. Yet recently Musk's 'DOGE" operation has reduced the already understaffed Social Security Administration workforce by 12% and Trump insists it be further cut to 50%.

Both Medicare and Medicaid are extremely popular; Medicaid exists primarily for the elderly and poorer part of the population serving over 70 million people. But now the House bill is calling for massive cuts in Medicaid. Almost everyone receiving Social Security feels they are already getting less than they deserve; any further cuts will make untold millions of people very angry.

Foolishly, the DOGE committee cut the budget for the long underfunded IRS where a significant increase in additional inspectors to audit high income taxpayers would yield several times the expense of hiring and training in previously uncollected taxes. But apprehending tax cheats has not been a high priority for

Republican members of congress and with a government now more dominated

than ever by billionaires this is unlikely to change anytime soon. But despite Musk's and Trump's claims to the contrary, most Democrats see this cost cutting charade mostly as a strategy to cripple democracy and bring on totalitarian government.

The Republicans have arranged it so that the Senate vote on the budget bill will be a Special Reconciliation bill requiring only a majority to pass with no opportunity for a filibuster which would require a sixty vote majority to become law. Indications are that Senate Democrats will all vote against the bill if the tax cut section stays as planned. With a current 53 to 47 vote majority, the Republicans can still win the vote if no more than 3 of their party defect.

The income tax reduction that the Republicans insist on extending is heavily weighted in favor of the highest earners, with more than 40% of the entire amount going to the top 01%, a modest benefit for the simply "well to do" and very little for everyone else. As U.S. Senator Chris Murphy (D-Conn.) said recently: "If you're in the top 1%, your average tax cut is about \$70,000. Why do people making \$600,000 a year need \$70,000 while only a hundred bucks goes to everybody else?"

Architect and landscape designer Mac Gordon lives in Lakeville.

More Opinion on A7





"It's hard to tell just by looking which one of us is crazy and which one has the anger management problem ... "

My View: Common sense optimism

nring has slowly and gratefully crept back into our lives as Punxsutawney Phil predicted. Goodbye 2024.

Daylight saving time is upon us which always messes with my mind. In retrospect I'm grateful for the opportunities, good times and support afforded me by close-knit family and close friends and for the opportunity to address military, veteran, Constitutional, national and local issues and outdoor sports and conservation to you interested readers.

You and I can disagree on occasion and that's okay. The majority of this country sent a loud and clear message during the 2024 general election. They were not happy with the **VETERAN'S CORNER** Larry Conklin

'status-quo' and demanded change. Common sense and

survival overcame political

prejudice, power grabs and

personal greed. Onward. I predict 2025 will culminate in a gradually improving economy, personal and national safety and security and a scaled down federal government designed to work for the people as intended. Political agenda institutions will be cleaned up or eliminated. Government waste and useless jobs

will eventually be gone. Most

mainstream and social media, which has proven to be deceiving and lying to us for several years will reform or disappear leaving us with truthful and factual reporting.

Our Southern and Northern borders will be secured quickly, open to legal immigrants we approve of and will embrace. Our military and first responders will be compensated well and morale and recruiting become an all time high. The Pentagon will experience a long overdue housecleaning.

Most of us will become more tolerant and understanding. I know I'm being very optimistic. But I know it can happen by using common sense. Be pragmatic: lis-

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ten carefully to differences of opinion, walk the streets, take public transportation, talk to police officers, veterans and fire fighters then go to the grocery store to face reality. Just one message I'd like to extend to President Trump: 'Mr. President-just do the job

this nation elected you to do.' Gotta prepare my seasonal transition 'things-to-do' list. More on that next time. God bless you patriotic readers and your families. Wishing you a happy and healthful 2025.

Town of North East resident Larry Conklin is a Vietnam veteran and a member of both the Millerton American Legion Post 178 and the VFW Post 6851 in North Canaan, Connecticut.

Wassaic flood; Shopping center plan; poetry in Millerton Elementary; antique tractor pull

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

March 8, 1934

Wassaic Digging Its way From Under Avalanche of Ice After Disastrous Flood Which Inundated Village Sunday Night';

Huge Ice Jam Collapses At High Bridge, Superstructure Of Dam Swept Away Inhabitants Driven From Homes

RAILROAD TRACKS, HIGHWAY BURIED

Thirty Mile An Hour Torrent Roars Through Business Section: Workers Surprised. Barely Escape Wall Of Water

The village of Wassaic was slowly digging its way out from under thousands of tons of ice today after a flood and veritable avalanche Sunday night had smashed its way through the business section creating untold havoc and driving inhabitants of the lower lands from their homes and places of business.

Monday morning residents of nearby towns awoke to find Wassaic in the headlines of all leading newspapers. Motorists from all sections of the county poured into the little village to view the wreckage left in the wake of the flood. They found three newsreel photographers and three cameramen from metropolitan papers already on the job.

March 13, 1975

'Many Citizens Support

Shopping Center Plan'; Citizens voiced heavy support of the shopping center, proposed for the south side of Route 44, just east of the Village of Millerton at the Connecticut State line, at last week's North East Planning

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Millerton News

Board meeting.

Village merchants and others questioned the proposal's assets and directly criticized the intentions of the shopping center developers.

Harold Miller of General **Development of Connecticut** (GDC) and Architect Vincent Lombardi explained that the proposed 66,000 square foot shopping center would rest on the front 8.7 acres of land and the latter 5.7 acres would be put to a recreational use. Miller informed the public that his firm has already confirmed two tenants, if the rezoning is granted, for the supermarket and the department store. He said be could not divulge the names of the two businesses without their permission. He did admit that one tenant was now located in the area. He said later in the meeting that the department store was not a typical discount store.

Miller said that if all goes smoothly the shopping center could be complete in a year, allowing 7 to 8 months for construction. He said, "there is no question that the shopping center is the meat of the proposal" but that the rest of the land could not be developed for stores because a shopping center that large was not marketable in this area.

March 9, 2000

'NE Gets New Truck'; NORTH EAST - The Town of North East Highway Department and Supervisor David Sherman were eager this week to show off the latest addition to the town's mechanical ar-

Now sitting at the town highway garage on South Center Street is a spankingnew truck — a 64,000-pound International model 2500 combination sander, plow and dump truck.

'Poet Coaches Wouldbe Bards'; WEBUTUCK -There's a little bit of poet in all of us, or so says writer Jacqueline Sweeney, Webutuck's sometimes poet-in-residence.

For the third year in a row, Ms. Sweeney spent five days at Millerton Elementary School earlier this month conducting poetry workshops in all the grades.

'Moss Earns Navy Med-

al'; MILLERTON - Senior Airman Malcolm G. Moss received the Air Force Achievement Medal from the Department of the Air Force recently.

'Ag Program Will Try 2nd Tractor Pull'; WEBUTUCK -Hot on the heels of a successful show last fall, organizers plan to put on another antique tractor pull to benefit Webutuck's agricultural program.

At Monday's School Board meeting, agriculture teacher Bruce Pecorella and transportation director Bob McGhee outlined plans for another tractor pull modeled after last November's successful affair. which attracted 97 tractors and some 250 to 300 people.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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

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REGIONAL

Students exemplify 'Youth in Democracy' with year-long community projects

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS Special to The Millerton News

SALISBURY, Conn. — This spring, the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station will host a bright, blue collection bin where residents can dispose of their empty, non-recyclable prescription pill bottles destined for developing nations where methods for distributing medications to those in need are primitive.

Meanwhile, in North Canaan, members of that town's volunteer fire department have been trained on how to utilize a newly donated high-tech drone that will aid firefighters not only during search and rescue missions but also when responding to structure fires.

The community projects were conceptualized and initiated by two Housatonic Valley Regional High School students and made possible through a region-wide initiative known as the Youth in Democracy Fellowship program, administered through the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation to promote youth involvement in local government.

Participants are selected based on their passion and commitment to active participation in community building to support their project.

Last fall the foundation partnered with the 21st Century Fund at Housatonic Valley Regional High School and Bard College in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. As a result, two HVRHS students, sophomore Daniel Moran and junior Alex Wilbur, have been working with a mentor from Bard and town officials on their respective year-long projects.

Moran developed and initiated the drone assistance program and training sessions for the North Canaan Fire Company and Wilbur is spearheading the pill bottle collection project at the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station.

Firefighters' new drone

Moran, who has been intrigued by drones from a very young age, initially contacted Brian Ohler, North Canaan's first selectman, and pitched the idea to supply the North Canaan Fire Company with a new drone and training to go along with it.

Moran and Ohler, who is also a long-time drone enthusiast, then presented the idea to Patrick McGuire, the fire department's assistant chief, and the rest, as they say, is history.

"It's rare for a young man to do what he did," said McGuire of the student's success in obtaining a \$2,500 grant for the drone and then training members of his department on the technology.

"We haven't used it yet," due to fire department training, noted the assistant fire chief, "but we are hoping to get out there in the spring" and give it some airtime, said the assistant fire chief.

McGuire said the remotecontrolled drone will help firefighters identify potential nearby water sources when battling structure fires in remote areas and also assist with search and rescue operations for people and animals.

"It could also fly above buildings and provide an aerial view of a burning structure," enhancing safety for the volunteer firefighters arriving on scene, he said, noting that his department is extremely thankful for the gift.

Moran, 15, recalled that his infatuation with drones started at an early age and continued into high school, where he started a small drone program



Daniel Moran, second from right, with the drone the HVRHS sophomore donated to the North Canaan Fire Company as part of his Youth in Democracy project. Moran is shown here with the town's first selectman, Brian Ohler, right, Assistant Fire Chief Patrick McGuire, center, and David Moran, Agricultural Education Department Chair at the high school, left.

through the school's agricultural education program and has assisted with training his

"I've always been into drones," the teen said during a recent Sunday morning meeting at the firehouse with Ohler. McGuire and his dad, David Moran, chair of the Agricultural Education Department at HVRHS.

Ohler praised Moran for identifying the community need and navigating the complex process.

"Daniel is very methodical. There were multiple steps, going back to the foundation, presenting all the data. I was very impressed. It's really making, in a way, such a technological advancement to the capabilities of the fire department.

Another bonus to the volunteer fire department's new drone equipment, said Ohler, is that it may help lure young recruits.

"It shows them that there is more to firefighting than just putting out fires."

Pilot program targets discarded pill bottles

Sixteen-year-old Alex Wil-

bur is passionate about her Youth in Democracy project, and over the past several months has been laying the groundwork for a pilot program to collect prescription pill bottles at the transfer station and have them distributed to developing nations.

The teenager met up with Brian Bartram, manager of the Salisbury-Sharon Transfer Station, last Saturday morning to discuss progress, which includes creating labels for the blue bin and distributing newsletters throughout the community.

"I am happy to be the facilitator, but the program is being administered by Alex," noted Bartram, who plans to place a bright, blue plastic collection bin outside the transfer station's office door. It will occupy space next to the Boy Scouts' red, white and blue wooden collection box filled to the brim with torn and tattered American flags.

"They will be the leaders in a few years," Bartram said, praising the youth initiatives.

Currently, most people dispose of prescription pill bottles with recyclables, but the problem with that, said the transfer station manager. is that due to their small size, pill bottles often end up mixing with recycled glass.

Removing them from the process, he said, helps the environment and the recycling

Wilbur is currently awaiting receipt of a \$1,500 stipend for needed supplies, and once the collection bin is in place, the next step is to educate the public.

Most people take for granted that their medications come in resealable, clean containers, Wilbur said. However, in some parts of the world, medications are distributed in whatever health care providers or clinics have available, which could be something as basic as a folded scrap of pa-

"I am compiling a final budget and will start printing out labels and newsletters which I plan to hang up around the community," explained the HVRHS senior, who also plans to be at the transfer station during the project launch to spread word to residents about the new initiative.

Once the bin is full, the pill bottles will be collected by Wilbur and her mom, Mary, and delivered to Ed O'Toole, leader of Berkshire Amistad in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, whose organization supplies Honduras with medical equipment and supplies.

"He goes to South America once every few months and has agreed to work with me and bring the pill bottles from here with him," Wilbur explained.

A significant senior population

Jean Saliter, gate-keeper at the transfer station on Fridays and Saturdays, praised the teenager's initiative, which is something she had tried to pitch years ago after hearing about a similar program started by a parish in the Chicago area where people were collecting, cleaning and shipping pill bottles "so that they could do good work in third world countries."

The idea, however, was short lived, Saliter recalled, because the labels needed to be removed entirely from the plastic bottles, a task that turned out to be extremely labor intensive.

Under Wilbur's proposal, only names need to be blacked out on the label.

"I'm thrilled," about Wilbur's project, Saliter said, noting that both Salsibury and Sharon have a significant senior population that generates countless empty pill containers.

A resident of the Noble Horizons, Saliter suggested it would make sense to start a collection among residents there and throughout the towns' senior living communities, which can be delivered in bulk by volunteers to the transfer station.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of EMERY'S MINI MARKET LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 1/23/2025. Office: **Dutchess County. SSNY** designated as agent for process & shall mail copy to: 9 David Rd, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: Any lawful.

> 02-06-25 02-23-25 02-20-25 02-27-25 03-06-25 03-13-25

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of 166 Albany Avenue LLC, Arts. of Org filed with SSNY on 12/12/24. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 21 Steamboat Dock Road, Barrytown, NY 12507. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

02-06-25 02-13-25 02-20-25 02-27-25 03-06-25 03-13-25

Legal Notice

Notice of formation of Faithwell Farms And Wellbeing Center, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/26/24. Office in Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, PO Box 86, LaGrangeville, NY 12540. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

02-20-25 02-27-25 03-06-25

03-13-25 03-20-25 03-27-25

Legal Notice

Self Destruct Sequence Tattoo LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 1/14/2025. Off. Loc. : Dutchess Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to 21 Merry Hill Rd, Poughkeepsie NY 12603. Primary business location is 21 West Main Street, Pawling NY, 12564. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

> 02-13-25 02-20-25 02-27-25 03-06-25

03-13-25

03-20-25 **NOTICE CONCERNING** THE EXAMINATION **OF ASSESSMENT INVENTORY AND**

VALUATION DATA Pursuant to Section 501 of the Real Property Tax Law, notice is hereby given that the assessment inventory and valuation data is available for examination

and review. This data is the information which will be used to establish the address. Although, the

assessments of each parcel that will appear on the tentative assessment roll of the Town of Amenia. The Tentative Assessment Roll will be filed on or before May 1, 2025.

The information may be reviewed online at gis.dutchessny.gov/ parcelaccess/ on May 1, 2025. Alternativley, data can be viewed at the Assessor's office, Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY. Monday and Tuesday between the hours of 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Appointments will be necessary. For an appointment, please contact the office at 845-373-8860 x 104. Donna DiPippo

Assessor Town of Amenia 03-13-25 03-20-25

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY **GLOBAL SELF**

STORAGE Notice is hereby given that the undersigned self storage unit(s) will be sold at a public sale by competitive bidding, in their entirety to the highest bidder, on or after March 25th, 2025, to satisfy the lien of Global Self Storage for rental and other charges due from the undersigned. The said property has been stored and generally described below is located at the respective auction will be held via www. StorageTreasures.com, the sale is made in person at the facility: 3814 Route 44, Millbrook, NY 12545.

Tuesday, March 25, 2025 #235 Jordan Stoner

The terms of the sale will be cash only & must be paid for at the time of sale. All goods are sold as is. Global Self Storage reserves the right to withdraw any or all units from the sale at any time. All contents must be removed within 72 hours or sooner.

03-06-25 03-13-25

PINE PLAINS **TOWN BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Pine Plains Town Board will hold a public hearing Accepting Proposed Local Law A of 2025 Titled "Exemption for the creation of Accessory Dwelling Units Pursuant to \$421-p of the New York State Real Property Tax Law" for purposes of commencing the Local Law adoption process on March 20, 2025, at 7:05 p.m. at the Pine Plains Town Hall, located at 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York. A copy of the proposed Local Law is available for inspection on the Town's official website and at the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours. Any person desiring to be heard on the adoption of said

Resolution shall be given an

opportunity to do so. Dated: March 6, 2025

BY ORDER OF THE **PINE PLAINS THE TOWN** BOARD.

> MADELIN DAFOE Town Clerk 03-13-25

Public Notice

Pursuant to Section 501 of the Real Property Tax Law, Assessment Inventory and Valuation Data for the Town of Pine Plains is now available for examination and review. This data is the information that will be used to establish the assessment of each parcel which will appear in the tentative assessment roll on May 1, 2025.

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

Sara Foglia Assessor 03-06-25 03-13-25

TOWN OF NORTHEAST ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Pursuant to Section 501 of the Real Property Tax Law, notice is hereby given that assessment inventory and valuation data is available for examination and review. This data will be used to establish the assessment of each parcel for the tentative assessment roll of the Town of North East which will be filed on May 1, 2025.

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

> Assessor 03-13-25 03-20-25

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

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Zoning Board of Appeals on the 25th day of March 2025 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against the area variance application submitted by Weizitong Kong for property located at 656 Bean River Road, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, Tax Map ID #134200-7072-00-307440-

All interested parties will be given the opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed action requesting a proposed structure to have a front yard setback of 190 feet in lieu of the maximum of 50 feet, as well as a having an accessory building placed in the front yard. The application is available for review at the Pine Plains Town Hall during regular business hours.

> By order of: Scott Chase, Chairman of the Zoning **Board of Appeals** 03-13-25

OPINION

What do environmentalists think about former ally RFK Jr.

Dear EarthTalk: How do environmentalists feel about RFK Jr.'s oversight of health in the next Trump administration, given his background as an environmental activist lawyer?

hen Time named Robert F. Kennedy Jr. one of its early 2000s "Heroes for the Planet," the outspoken lawyer was a clear choice for the honor, having gained fame during his fight to protect New York City's water supply. He advocated for "the environment [as] the most important, the most fundamental, civil-rights issue," according to a 2004 interview. Many of Kennedy's views can be summarized in the June 18, 2007, issue of Rolling Stone in which he demanded investment into renewable energy sources, blamed America for its "reckless consumption of oil and coal," and emphasized the need to slow global warm-

Almost twenty years later, as RFK Jr. takes the reins as America's top health official, the same magazine has quoted former friends, colleagues, and family members calling the former 'hero' a "conspiracist" with "dangerous views." The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), a leading environmental non-profit, used the term "one-man misinformation superspreader" to describe its former Senior Attorney, a statement corroborated by former allies who have stated that Kennedy is not an environmentalist, but a "science denier" and a "conspiracy theorist."

Even before his endorsement of President Trump, who has famously called climate change a 'hoax', environmentalists had begun to turn against Kennedy. Liz Barratt-Brown, a senior adviser for NRDC and Kennedy's former coworker, told the New drifting away from the envi- in recent years.

EARTHTALK Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss

ronmental movement in the early 2000s when he started spreading unproven theories regarding vaccinations, such as linking vaccines to autism without evidence.

Around the same time that RFK Jr. became invested in the anti-vaccine movement, he opposed the construction of the Cape Wind Project, an offshore wind farm in Nantucket Sound that would have provided roughly 75 percent of the electricity used by Cape Cod, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard. Kennedy's position began as an instance of NIMBYism, or the "not in my backyard" mentality, as he owned a home nearby and had cited unsightly aesthetics as a partial reason for his dissent, and has grown in recent years to staunchly oppose all offshore wind.

While offshore wind farms have several disadvantages, they are also a promising source of clean energy; thus, Kennedy's opposition sparked disdain from climate activists like Bill McKibben who claim "he could have used his name and platform" to pro-

mote renewable energy. Furthermore, many of Kennedy's reasons for opposition have been proven repeatedly to be rumors. For example, in January 2023, Kennedy adamantly promoted the idea that offshore wind is killing whales despite the claim having been proven unfounded by a variety of organizations including by the Federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Once a "hero for the planet," many environmentalists now echo Dan Reicher, a former peer and colleague of RFK Jr. and a Stanford University senior energy researcher: "Stay very far away from today's RFK Jr. if you're interested in environmental protection." RFK Jr. has told the Washington Post that he believes he can help sway President Trump's environmental policies. Environmentalists are "deeply skeptical," as less than one month into office Trump has withdrawn the U.S. from the Paris Climate Accords and dismantled a series of environmental policies and funding. It remains to be seen whether the Secretary of Health is successful in turning the tides of the environmental movement back in his favor.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk.



CREDIT: GAGE SKIDMORE, FLICKRCO

Most environmentalists view RFK Jr. as a former ally York Times that he had begun and current foe given his flop on environmental issues



THE SALISBURY FORUM

Where Ideas Have Mattered For 20 Years 2005-2025

RURAL HEALTH CRISIS In the Northwest Corner









The Northwest Corner of Connecticut can be described as a "healthcare desert." There are not enough primary care providers to meet the demand, and the lack of adequate access to health care can make these towns less attractive for residents. A panel of local experts will address what can be done to make the Northwest Corner a better and healthier place to live.

Panelists

Nancy Heaton (moderator), CEO of Foundation for Community Health Joanne Borduas, CEO of Community Health and Wellness Center Meghan Kenny, Director of SVNA Home Assistance and Litchfield County Home Assistance Maria Horn, Connecticut State Representative

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025 · 7:30 P.M. Housatonic Valley Regional High School Falls Village, CT

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OUR TOWNS



Build your own fun

Bins of Legos awaited kids visiting the Amenia Free Library on Wednesday, March 5 for Legos Night. Kids had a chance to assemble pieces into whatever their imaginations might suggest. Two Amenia youngsters joined in the fun. Peyton Lawlor, 7, at right, was just getting underway when she was joined by her sister, Paige, soon to be 5.

Sharon Audubon plans pesticide talk March 20

SHARON, Conn. — Sharon Audubon Center, located at 325 Cornwall Bridge Road (Route 4) in Sharon will be hosting a discussion on the science behind the pesticide neonicotinoids – what they are and how they affect our pollinators, including their effect on birds on Thursday, March 20 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Special guests include Louise Washer, President of the Norwalk River Watershed Association and Joan Seguin of the Connecticut

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.

Coalition for Pesticide Reform. Audubon Connecticut's Director of Policy, Robert LaFrance, will discuss the current state of legislation and action individuals can take to reduce the presence of these chemicals in our backyard and beyond.

Attendees are encouraged to bring a dish to pass, although refreshments will be provided. Small bites are preferred.

For more information, contact the Audubon Center at (860) 364-0520 x115, visit www.sharon.audubon.org.

Kids invited to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at the Amenia Town Hall

By LEILA HAWKEN Special to the Millerton News

AMENIA — Crafts and a hunt for "gold coins" will be included in the fun of celebrating St. Patrick's Day, an event scheduled for Saturday, March 15, at the Amenia Town Hall, from 10 a.m. until noon. The free event will be held in the recreation room on the second floor.

Lucky the Leprechaun will be on hand to guide the activities and add to the fun. Children will search for hidden gold coins and be welcome to take home a craft kit.



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REPORT Continued from Page A1

been poised for a reduction in office services. Whether Social Security benefits to individuals are reduced or cut entirely remains to be seen.

While data pertaining to Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid recipients particular to Northeastern Dutchess was not readily available, data from the Social Security Administration provides some clues as to the number of individuals in Dutchess County who could potentially be impacted by benefit cuts. According to 2023 figures from the SSA, 4,730 Dutchess residents received Social Security benefits, 4,232 persons were categorized as blind/ disabled and 2,904 persons were listed between the ages of 18 through 64. For adults 65 and over, 1,261 received Social Security benefits. The number of persons under the age of 18 receiving SSA benefits was listed at 565.

While cuts to Medicare and Medicaid have not been announced, it is possible under the circumstances. According to a Feb. 27 statement from Alan Morgan, chief executive officer of the National Rural Health Association, any disruption to these benefits, particularly Medicaid, would worsen an already challenging situation." The Medicaid program is a lifeline for rural hospitals, providers and patients," Morgan said. "Any cuts to the Medicaid program will disproportionately affect rural communities. Rural Americans rely on Medicaid coverage more so than their urban counterparts with about 20% of adults and 40% of children living in rural areas enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP," the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Aymar-Blair agreed with the impact assessment as well as its potential outlier results, saying, "Dutchess County relies heavily upon this ... Cuts to Dutchess County's federal funding could impact life-saving programs, and reduced consumer spending would be a likely side effect of reduced federal assistance like Medicaid."

Aymar-Blair's report does not include information on federal awards to businesses or municipalities, nor does it address the controversies attached to impacted incounty federal entities such as the Castle Point Veterans Hospital in Wappingers Falls, New York, which — as with the Poughkeepsie Social Se-

curity office — is also reducing its services with the closing of its E2 Acute Inpatient Care Unit, which eliminated 20 inpatient beds. While calls have gone out from local officials and residents to sustain the offerings provided by the Poughkeepsie Social Security office and the Castle Point VA hospital, no action has been taken just yet on the part of the federal government.

While Aymar-Blair concedes there has been no disruption from the federal level at this time to Dutchess funding, he has received a sufficient number of phone calls and emails from constituents to spur him to continuously monitor the situation. He is also working in collaboration with county departments to determine any impacts future actions from the Trump administration could have on funding for Dutchess County agencies, services and programs with the situation remaining very fluid.

For more information or to read the comptroller's report in its entirety, visit: www.dutchessny.gov, navigate to "Government," click "County Comptroller", and click on "News and Announcements".

FIRE Continued from Page A1



Amenia fire chief Chris Howard said the fire at 5319 Route 44 was caused by "improper burning." Dutchess County is part of a regional burn ban which includes much of Southeast New York and New York City.

spots by 3:30 p.m.

New York Governor Kathy Hochul instituted a regional burn ban across much of the Hudson Valley

 including all of Dutchess county — that is in effect until March 16.

While the burn ban is in effect burning brush and

uncontained campfires are prohibited.

The annual statewide burn ban will begin March 16 and continue until May 14.

TONG Continued from Page A1

home and wrote a six-page handwritten letter to then-President Richard Nixon explaining his case. The INS agent returned later and said the president had read the letter and sent the message that the country welcomed him and urged him to stay.

Tong said he's often asked what brings him hope during

these times. "In one generation, I went from that Chinese restaurant to attorney general of this state. There are kids out there now; families living with that dream. We need to help them keep it."

The attorney general said that when Trump talks about denaturalizing citizens and then about anchor babies, he is talking about him. "Banning birthright citizens is utterly and brazenly unconstitutional." Audience members, as they did several times during the presentation, applauded loudly.

Speaking on the importance of immigration for moral and economic structural reasons, Tong noted, "America runs on Dunkin' and immigrant workers. There would be no economy without immigrants." Half of all farm workers are undocumented, as are half of those working in the meat packing industry

Touching on Connecticut's Trust Act that was passed in 2013, Tong explained that it limits how local law enforcement can cooperate with federal immigration officials to protect the rights of undocumented immigrants. He called efforts to repeal the act "ridiculous," saying "the federal government does its job and we here do ours." He said if anyone tries to get rid of the act, he will fight it and believes he'll win, emphasizing several times that Connecticut is a sovereign state. The federal government has a lot of power, but can't come to Connecticut to tell its citizens what to do.

When asked what people can do to help those without

legal status, Tong advised not to put anyone at risk and make sure they have a plan if ICE shows up. Agents must have a judicial warrant to come on private property. He also recommended they seek people who will provide pro-bono legal advice. He said those holding green cards have legal status and should be respected by ICE. He also recommended not using the word "sanctuary" since it has no legal meaning and can be inflammatory. He was also forthright in saying not everyone can be protected from deportation.

He added there is no evidence to support the claims that immigrants create crime more than American citizens and stressed the Trust Act does not protect violent criminals.

At the outset, Tong said he and his colleagues had sued the federal government when Trump and the Office of Policy and Management tried to freeze all federal funding for a variety of grants, especially those dealing with medical research. "We now have an injunction to stop him from breaking the law. Remembering we have checks and balances, we're serving as the only check since there is so much disinformation out there."

Coming to the end of his message, Tong's tone was foreboding. "We're not on the precipice of a constitutional crisis, we're in one. Trump is already not in compliance with federal court orders. If he doesn't follow Supreme Court rulings, we're in a dark place. We all have the responsibility to take to the streets and speak out."

SHORTS Continued from Page A1

"Selected Shorts," a product of Manhattan-based performing arts powerhouse Symphony Space, features prominent actors who recite works of short fiction. The full program usually revolves around a theme; Sunday afternoon's focus was "transformations.

Comedian, writer and actress Ophira Eisenberg — or "renaissance woman of storytelling," as Stissing Center **Executive Director Patrick** Trettenero introduced her assumed hosting duties, warming up the crowd with jokes about Brooklyn egg prices and doctors with self-esteem issues — "I want a megalomaniac with a god complex and no hobbies.'

Every seat in the large coffeehouse-style auditorium was filled, and the crowd was engaged. "For a 3 p.m. audience, you guys are amazing!" exclaimed Eisenberg.

Actor David Straithairn took the stage first, reading a short story by Pulitzer Prize winning author Steven Millhauser titled "Green." Straithairn's classic, almost antique delivery suited the small-town American ethos of the story well. A somewhat detached but observant narrator recounts the story of a sort of anti-plant mania that started "innocently enough" in his town, stripping public and private property alike of all greenery. Eventually, a few intrepid neighbors add shrubbery back to their yards, prompting a swing back in the other direction: "After a brief diversion, a playful experiment, things had returned to normal in our quiet town — or had they?'

Straithharn's reading was followed by an animated performance from actor Lauren Ambrose, whose long resumé is most recently punctuated by her role in the popular television series "Yellowjackets." Ambrose read "Quantum Voicemail" by novelist and short-story writer Kristen Iskandrian, a woozy tale from a particular and slightly neurotic narrator who describes voicemail in probably the most poetic language ever put to page about the messaging format. Voicemail is "a stirring three minute soliloquy," and "like a photograph, it capture[s] a moment of atten-



The Stissing Center was bustling just before the show on Sunday, March 9.

tion," says the rapt narrator.

A brief intermission enabled patrons to refuel with drinks or popcorn from the bar, or head outside to enjoy the early spring weather. For those who remained in the theater, the sunken loungelike space in the center of the room facilitated easy conservation between neighbors as they reflected on the performances.

Eisenberg herself recited the third story, "Squirrels" by Israeli writer Etgar Kenet. The action opens with a description of a family myth or was it? - about a grandfather being reincarnated as a giant squirrel after a battle with cancer, and which subsequently halts his widow's next wedding by biting the groomto-be's thumb. The story does get sentimental, which Eisenberg's mostly comic oration

accented well.

The final performance was of New York City-raised writer Jamel Brinkley's "Blessed Deliverance," a coming-of-age story about a group of college-bound teenagers growing up and growing apart in gentrifying Brooklyn. New York stage and screen actor Teagle F. Bougere handled the tension and confusion of late childhood/young adulthood well in his recitation. The plot

reaches a high point when an unhoused man releases a pack of rabbits from an animal rescue shelter into the street while the group of teens looks on, cheering but not entirely sure what for.

After a few closing remarks from Eisenberg, the show was complete. Satisfied attendees made their way back to their cars and released the streets of Pine Plains into Sunday quietude once again.

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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts, Entertainment & Lifestyle

ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Dan Howe's time machine

very picture degins with tion of good shapes," said painter and illustrator Dan Howe, standing amid his paintings and drawings at the Kearcher-Monsell Gallery at Housatonic Valley Regional High School. The exhibit, which opened on Friday, March 7, and runs through April 10, spans decades and influences, from magazine illustration to portrait commissions to imagined worlds pulled from childhood nostalgia. The works - some luminous and grand, others intimate and quiet — show an artist whose technique is steeped in history, but whose sensibility is wholly his own.

Born in Madison, Wisconsin, and trained at the American Academy of Art in Chicago, Howe's artistic foundation was built on rigorous, oldschool principles. "Back then, art school was like boot camp," he recalled. "You took figure drawing five days a week, three hours a day. They tried to weed people out, but it was good training." That discipline led him to study under Tom Lovell, a renowned illustrator from the golden age of magazine art. "Lovell always said, 'No amount of detail can save a picture that's commonplace in design."

Training led to work. Early on, while still a graduate assistant at Syracuse University, Howe began painting portraits chancellors, deans, and, later, an endless roster of chairmen and medical executives. It paid well, but Howe found that the job of a portraitist, even a highly skilled one, is ultimately limited. "They're just the same thing, you know, just a guy in a suit. Later, maybe it was a girl in a suit," said Howe.

Between commissions, he painted for



Dan Howe at the Kearcher-Monsell Gallery at Housatonic Valley Regional **High School.**

himself. This show is a gathering of those moments — studies of his wife and daughters, mythic scenes painted for libraries, and Star Wars covers from his time living near Dark Horse Comics in Oregon. A large painting, originally commissioned for a library, shows a girl in an attic opening a trunk, imagination spilling into the room. The library remodeled and sent the painting back. Now it anchors a wall in the show.

Dan Howe's work reflects the Brandywine School's devotion to craftsmanship, narrative depth, and a luminous, almost nostalgic realism. Like Howard Pyle and N.C. Wyeth before him, Howe builds scenes using light and composition to evoke mood and meaning. His meticulous brushwork

and layering techniques nod to the tradition of classical illustration, yet his work diverges in its contemporary stillness. Of Norman Rockwell, Howe said, "He's of my era, and our styles are similar. Of course Rockwell is Rockwell. I've got a little more painterly, Sargent-esque stuff running through mine." The influence is there, not as mimicry, but as a quiet echo, refined through his own aesthetic language. "I'm an anachronism," he said, without regret. His influences form a lineage of illustrators whose work once filled the

pages of The Saturday Evening Post and Collier's. They understood, as Howe does, that a painting must be more than accurate. "Mood is everything," said Howe, drawing a comparison between two paintings in the show — a couple by a fire — to an old Star Wars concept painting. "Same color scheme. Different world. Mood is everything."

Teaching remains a passion for Howe. When he and his family moved to the east coast from Chicago, Howe taught

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Jon Kopita reading between the lines at the David M. Hunt Library.

ART: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Reading between the lines with Jon Kopita

on Kopita's work, with its repetitive, meticulous hand-lettering, is an exercise in obsession. Through repetition, words become something else entirely — more texture than text. Meaning at once fades and expands as lines, written over and over, become a meditation, a form of control that somehow liberates.

"I'm a rule follower, so I like rules, but I also like breaking them," said Kopita, as we walked through his current exhibit, on view at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village until March

In 2007, Kopita and his husband, Olaf, an architect, took a trip to The Vitra Design Museum outside of Basel, Switzerland. Kopita found himself infuriated by the pomp surrounding the collection of what were once utilitarian objects, now absurdly canonized. "The irony is that a lot of that furni-

ture was designed to be mass produced, taking really good design and making it accessible to middle class people," Kopita explained. "It wasn't supposed to be something so special." Upon returning home, Kopita began repeatedly writing, "I hate Vitra" on lined paper. Channeling his frustration, he wrote the simple statement 100 times and through the act, found a cathartic release. "It harkened back to when you're in school and you have to write out, 'I will not speak in class' or something 100 times on the black board." Except for Kopita, what was meant to be disciplinary was not only a contemplative practice, but a healing act. For me, the experience of repetitive writing became meditative and cathartic, more of an exorcism of thoughts rather than something either punitive or tedious."

Continued on next page



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COMEDY: MIKE COBB

Patton Oswalt brings comic relief to The Mahaiwe Theater Saturday, March 22

omedian and actor Patton Oswalt is well known for his standup routine as well as his roles in film and television. Oswalt made his acting debut in the Seinfeld episode, "The Couch" and has appeared in "Parks and Rec," "Reno 911," "Modern Family," and "A.P. Bio." He has done voice-over work for movies including "Ratatouille," and had his own Netflix special. "Patton Oswalt: Talking for Clapping."

Oswalt will present his unique brand of humor in a show titled "Effervescent" at the Mahaiwe Theater in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, on Saturday, March 22. With sardonic style, he makes keen observations about American culture and gives biting critiques of the current administration.

In a recent interview with the Lakeville Journal, Oswalt said, "Things are so dark. It feels like they're depending on craziness to bulldoze their stuff in. So, I'm using absurdity and almost surrealism to battle it. I also realize that when you're coming into a show like this, you want some escape. It's certainly not the whole set."

"Politics used to be about getting stuff off of your plate so that you can live. Now it wants to dominate the news cycle and everyone's emotions. So, in a weird way, comedy is an act of defiance," he added.

Comedians like
Richard Pryor and, more
recently, Dave Chappelle
pushed boundaries of
taste and limits. George
Carlin was quoted as
saying, "I think it's the
duty of the comedian to
find out where the line is
drawn and cross it deliberately." So, how far is too
far and who decides?

"When you became a comedian, you signed

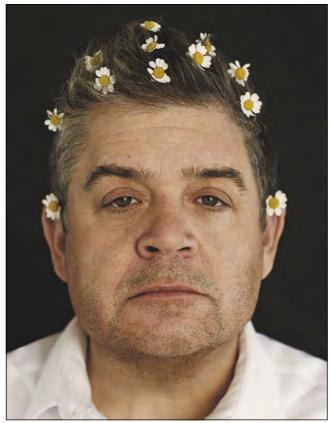


PHOTO BY SAM JONES

Patton Oswalt

up for having the ground continually cut from underneath you. That's the deal you made. Comedy is an ephemeral art that doesn't age very well, and you have to embrace

that," Oswalt said.

In recent years, political correctness has restrained the growth of comedy and free speech. Today, the pendulum seems to have swung in the opposite direction to the far right.

So, are there funny right-wing comedians?

"There have been comedians who are more conservative in their outlook, but they don't make it their identity. I know some comedians who are right wing but are still good at doing comedy. It's not that right wing comedians aren't funny, it's that there's a lot of right wing people who think that they deserve to be funny. The failed comedian to right wing grifter pipeline is pretty short," Oswalt said.

And how about politicians who think they're funny and use their pulpit to bully?

"You have to know how to be funny. Fast forward to people who just want to break boundaries and are just cruel. They don't understand what comedy is. The nightmare that Elon is putting us through is all because he wants to be cool, and he's not. So, he's gonna blow up the world. That's an oversimplification, but it's also accurate. He's like the kid whose dad owns the rec-center and thinks that all the kids should like him, but he's obnoxious and mean so no one wants to hang out with him," Oswalt said.

Like many comedians, Oswalt tests out new material in small clubs and open mics. When asked if he receives any pushback on his politically pointed jokes, Oswalt said, "When you go out in the world, people are just kind of the same. I'm never saying anything that's unreasonable, even when I'm making fun of stuff like religion, conservatism and especially, fascism. It's not in a way that people can say, 'No, wait a minute, fascism's good!' unless they're just trolling."

At this point in his career, Oswalt has developed his own fans who come to see him. He wins crowds over by staying welcoming of everyone.

"I'm a big believer that if you treat audiences with respect, they'll come and meet you. I'm always excited to be in front of people," he added.

With surprise as a key element to any new show, Oswalt won't divulge the nature of his new act, but he guarantees it will feature new material.

"Look at how accelerated the news has gotten. Who knows what I'll be talking about by the time I get to Great Barrington!" he said.

For tickets to Patton Oswalt's show, go to: mahaiwe.org

...Jon Kopita Continued from previous page

His current show at the library includes work spanning a decade, with many of the pieces created during the COVID-19 pandemic. An educator for over 30 years, Kopita found he had time and space during the pandemic to really investigate his process and to create work in volume. "I did 40 works during the first 150 days," he said. The early pieces were instructional in nature with words like "wash hands," "social distancing," and "zoom" but soon began morphing into existential inquiry —with questions like "is this all there is?" repeating like a dark mantra. Some are reminders of the stark political divisions that emerged during those days. There is a tribute to the Black Lives Matter movement with names repeated in grief: George Floyd and Breonna Taylor. The whole display, Kopita delights, demands something that feels almost radical in today's digital age: slowness. "This is a difficult show because you really have to stop and process. It asks people to read."

In many ways, Kopita has spent a lifetime questioning the boundaries imposed on him, both literal and figurative. "90% of going to school is a hazing system where you're just learning how to write between the lines — these are the rules." He felt the pressure of conformity from an early age. His own father had expectations for him: a stable corpo-

rate job, health insurance, a 401k. Kopita tried it for a year and a half. "It was like my boss was saying, 'if you work really hard, you can have what I have." Kopita took one look at "what he had"— a suburban house, a company car —and thought, "Yeah, I don't want this at all." He moved to New York, got a job in a Soho gallery, and never looked back. "I know really well firsthand what it means to step across the line and try to do things differently and do things on your own terms."

In his piece, "Transition," Kopita grapples with the fluidity of identity, a structured yet random exercise where "he" gradually transforms into "she."

"There's so much going on right now with ideas of gender and what gender means, a kind of war on how people identify," he said. "There are days where I'm 100% he, and then maybe there

are days where I'm more she." The work, much like his larger practice, is about change, about pushing against the expected, about honoring the beauty in what falls outside the lines.

Kopita is fascinated by the tension between order and deviation, by the way small shifts whether in handwriting, identity, or thought - can carve out new landscapes. But for all its rigor, Kopita's work is not about control. It's about surrender. The act of writing, for him, is like a river cutting through rock, shaping itself as it moves. "I think of it as how the words carve up the paper. So, it actually becomes a three-dimensional exercise in my head at times." It is discipline as liberation, structure as rebellion, a practice that turns the most mundane act writing the same word over and over - into something sacred.

...Dan Howe

Continued from previous page

a series at the Norman Rockwell Museum called "Painting Like Rockwell," something he hopes to revive. "I like beginners," he said. "They don't have bad habits yet."

Howe also runs a summer figure drawing workshop at HVRHS with an old-school approach. "You've just walked into a time machine — this is art school, 1965. Three hours of drawing in the morning, three in the after-

noon. No cell phones."
His methods may be antiquated but the results are living proof that some things are worth preserving. "Maybe this stuff is so old it's new again," he mused.

As he hung his pieces for this show, Howe said teachers stopped by, connecting his images to their own memories. "That's a success," he said. "If a picture makes someone feel something, then it's done its job."

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MUSIC: KRISTA A. BRIGGS

Jesse Ofgang and Kevin Elam bring Celtic thunder to the Library Annex on a stormy evening

cclaimed Irish flutist Desi Wilkinson advises musicians to "Play only tunes and songs you're mad about ... Emulate what you like and then do your thing." It's advice Jesse Ofgang and Kevin Elam have seemingly taken to heart as part of their "Prelude to St. Patrick's Day" tour which landed at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex on March 5, where the Celtic-flavored duo found themselves playing to a nearly full house on a wet and windy Wednesday.

While neither Ofgang nor Elam is originally from Ireland, their musical souls are firmly connected to both the Emerald Isle and the Highlands. While Ofgang claims partial Irish heritage through his mother and believes his musical partner is not of Irish descent, Elam's resumé is filled with accomplishments in Irish music. He took top prize in 2019 in men's English singing at the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann competition in Drogheda, Ireland and



PHOTO BY KRISTA A. BRIGGS

has medaled at both the All-Ireland Fleadh and CCE Mid-Atlantic Fleadh competitions. Despite his Irish roots, Ofgang's musical focus is actually across the Irish Sea, where he earned a master's degree in Scottish music and bagpipes. As a student, he performed with the 16-time world champion Shotts and Dykehead Caledonia Pipe Band.

Both musicians are

multi-instrumentalists. Elam, the duo's vocalist, is skilled in tin whistle, bouzouki, banjo, mandolin and guitar while Ofgang, a bagpiper, has mastered uilleann pipes and border pipes as well as the Irish flute and whistles, organ, guitar and piano. In addition to touring - together and separately — Ofgang and Elam both provide instruction to students in musical instrumentation.

"Prelude to St. Patrick's Day," which wrapped up on March 9 in Middletown, Connecticut, featured an array of Celtic tunes and songs. According to Ofgang, there's a difference between the two. By definition, songs include lyrics and tunes consist strictly of music. Ofgang and Elam included both in their hour-long set at the Library Annex, which began with "The Foggy

Kevin Elam, left, and Jesse Ofgang, right, entertained guests at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex on March 5 with an array of Irish and Scottish musical fare.

Dew," a song lamenting Ireland's political divide and the resulting violence of the Easter uprising, which was followed by a jig, "The Road to Lisdoonvarna."

"Rocky Road to Dublin" drew an enthusiastic response from the crowd as did the folk song, "The Lakes of Pontchartrain," which Elam and Ofgang introduced as a song about alligators. The ballad is actually of unknown origin and its subject matter centers on a Creole woman and the unrequited love a drifter holds for her in the Deep South. The duo believes the song may very well have been penned by an Irish immigrant to the United States.

Elam and Ofgang

invited the crowd to join them in "The King's Shilling," another song exploring the realities of war with its introspective chorus "Come ladies, come. Hear the cannons roar. Take the King's shilling and we're off to war."

The duo then segued over to Scottish fare with the audience joining in once more for "Auld Lang Syne," traditionally sung on New Year's Eve, but the song is also used to close out occasions – ver as the evening slowly wound down. Ofgang, assisted by Elam, then wrapped up the night with traditional Scottish bagpipes, a worthy overture to St. Patrick's Day 2025.

The concert was sponsored by the Ann and Abe Effron Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley. Library director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson said the library is looking into additional grants to fund further programming for community enjoyment. For more information, visit nemillertonlibrary. org.

Stir-crazy angler takes first trip of new year

ve got a bad case of the Shack Nasties. With a slight change in the weather I ventured out Wednesday and Thursday, March 5 and 6.

First I scouted a couple of little blue lines. No good. Still too much ice and snow for solid footing.

Since I am nursing a rotator cuff injury and my right pinky toe still aches from when I cleverly slammed it into the furniture two months ago, I am not in the mood for adventurous wading.

That left the Blackberry.



TANGLED LINES PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

At one spot the shelf ice was still in effect. It was theoretically fishable but I kept going to Beckley Furnace, where the big pool beneath the dam was clear.

I pounded it hard, starting with junk flies such as squirmy worms and brightly-colored

Then I got cute with a double-nymph rig: a little black stone on a dropper and a Bread and Butter nymph with a

tungsten head on point to drag the whole thing down into the depths.

I managed two bumps. One could have been a hangup but I'm counting it as a bump.

Downstream below the second, smaller dam the shelf ice presented serious challenges.

There's really only one way to get rid of shelf ice besides waiting for it to

That is to stand on it and break it.

This is an excellent way to break up shelf ice.

It is also an excellent way to sprain or break an ankle.

Maybe it's old age

creeping up on me, but somehow I am not inclined to take the chance.

Imagine really banging yourself up mere weeks before fishing starts in earnest, and then sitting sullenly in a dark room watching old Filipino horror movies as the broken or sprained element heals while outside trout are merrily gobbling up bugs after the long winter.

Thursday I went further afield. Furnace Brook in Cornwall, always an early season favorite, was roaring after the inch-plus of rain we got Wednesday night.

That left Macedonia Brook in Kent, which was actually fishable above the waterfall.

I probed that for a couple hours with a Tenkara rod and a series of darkish nymphs that could be mistaken for an early black stonefly.

Or just something to eat. I doubt any holdover trout in there are all that picky about the menu.

I managed to tick-

le precisely one small brown trout.

In fact I messed with that little guy for about an hour.

It went like this:

Cast. Drift into strike zone. Lift out before fly gets stuck in brush buildup. Watch bemusedly as little brown trout pecks at nymph on the way up.

Cast three or four more times with no result. Sit on rock. Ponder the infinite. Consider

Continued on next page



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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. Submit calendar items to editor@lakevillejournal.com

MARCH 13

Native Hawaiian Forest Birds and Cutting-Edge Conservation Efforts with George Wallace

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

Take a break from winter on Thursday, March 13, 5 to 6:30 p.m, and visit the vibrant tropical world of Hawai'i's native birds with bird preservationist George Wallace. Learn about innovation efforts to restore habitats, protect native species from invasive predators, and preserve these beautiful birds.

Registration is required. Visit: scovillelibrary.libcal. com/event/13880853

MARCH 14

Poetry Workshop with Sally Van Doren

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

Join Sally Van Doren on Friday, March 14, 2 to 4 p.m., for an immersive workshop experience of writing, reading, and listening. An inspiring poem and well-chosen prompts will unlock your imagination to generate new, unexpected work. No poetry-writing experience is required. Registration is required. Visit: scovillelibrary.libcal. com/event/13737163

Lunch & Learn: Protect Yourself from Scams

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

Friday, March 14, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Learn how to recognize and avoid scams in phone calls, emails, and texts. Includes lunch from JAM. Preference given to Sharon residents. Registration required:hotchkisslibrary. libcal.com. Info:

hotchkisslibraryofsharon. org, (860) 364-5041.

RECEPTION: Housatonic Camera Club Photo Exhibition

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

Join us on Friday, March 14, 5 to 6:30 p.m., to celebrate the Scoville Library's first Housatonic Camera Club Exhibition. See the show, meet the photographers, enjoy refreshments, and learn about this local club that has been going strong for nearly 75 years. To learn more, please use this link: scovillelibrary.libcal.com/ event/14029372

MARCH 15

Saturday Morning Family Series at The CENTER for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck

The CENTER for Performing Arts, 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. www centerforperformingarts.org

Saturdays at 11 a.m. Tickets: \$10

Celtic Heels Irish Dance Date: Saturday, March 15, 2025, Shows at 11 a.m. & 2 p.m. Celebrate 40 years of Irish dance with the Celtic Heels Performance

Corned Beef Dinner

Troupe.

Pine Plains Presbyterian Church, Pine Plains, N.Y.

The Pine Plains Presbyterian Church is holding their annual Corned Beef Dinner on Saturday, March 15 with pickup from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. We donate 25% of our net profit to our two local food banks, Willow Roots and The Food Locker.

Dinners are \$18 each and include corned beef, red potatoes, cabbage, glazed baby carrots, Irish soda bread and dessert. Dinner is Take-Away only and a limited number of walk-in dinners may be available. We accept cash, check or Venmo @ FUPCPP.

To reserve dinners, please phone 518.398.7117 and leave a message on the church's voicemail and include your phone number, or send an email to dyanwapnick@ optimum.net and please include your phone number.

Soapmaking

Bes, 50 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.shop-bes.com

Sat, March 15, 1 to 3 p.m.

Learn how to make cold process soap. (Saponification using lye + oil/fats) Class fee covers instruction and materials. We'll go over lye safety and the basics of soap making. Attendees will leave the workshop with 16oz of soap (equivalent to four 4oz bars) that will be cured and ready to use after a month's time.

Erica Recto (owner of Bes) will be leading the workshop. Little known fact: she used to have a small apothecary business that was carried in shops in the US and Japan. She also taught soap making classes in NYC and was voted one of the top instructors on coursehorse.com in 2016.

Word of the Week

Hints relate to adjacent five-letter words. Solve to reveal correct letters.

Green tiles indicate correctly placed letters in the Word of the Week.

Yellow tiles indicate a correct letter in the wrong place.

Uncolored tiles indicate letters that do not appear in the WotW.

MapleFest

Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon,

Sharon Audubon Center's MapleFest is Saturday, March 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. See sap turned into syrup, learn the process, and explore conservation efforts. \$10/adults, \$5/ kids (2 and under free). Dress warmly; trails may be muddy or snowy. Call (860) 364-0520 x105, visit www.sharon.audubon.org, or like us on Facebook for more info.

MARCH 16

Copake Grange Family Event

Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, Copake, N.Y.

Copake Grange #935, 628 Empire Road, hosts a Family Play and Meet event Sunday, March 16, 10 a.m. to noon.

Parents and caregivers and their young children are invited to meet friends and neighbors with young children for an afternoon of play and social time.

The event is a fun way to meet young families in the area and build lasting friendships. The event is free, donations are appreciated.

The Copake Grange **Program Committee** organized this event.

No reservation needed.

For more information email ameliafaith@gmail. com.

Publishing: An Inside View of Industry Changes & **Strategies for Authors** with Stephanie Koven

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

On Sunday, March 16, 4 to 5 p.m., Stephanie Koven, an editor, literary agent, rights director, and writer for over 30 years, will share her uniquely varied experience and knowledge of the book publishing industry. Whether you're a writer hoping to publish, or a reader wondering how publishing world is changing, this is a chance to learn and ask questions of an expert. Registration is required.

Visit the Events Calendar at www.scovillelibrary.org. Event page: scovillelibrary.libcal.com/ event/14024158

Last week's WotW

S	С	0	N	E
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This Word of the Week was contributed by WotW player Zaryah Gordon

MARCH 17

Queer Council (free event)

THRIVE, 96 Main Street, North Canaan, Conn.

Queer Council is a gathering for the LGBTQ community - a time and space for meaningful connection. We will offer a short meditation, prompted conversation, and an opportunity to share needs and wants. Facilitator: Julie Kunz

Pre-registration is not required. Participants may arrive as early as 6:30 pm for snacks and refreshments. The event is from 7 to 8 p.m.

Learn more about this event and other THRIVE offerings at aspacetothrive.org.

MARCH 19

Dine Out for History Adds a Night

Millerton, N.Y.

Millerton's Dine Out for History adds an extra night at Taro's Pizzeria (18 Main St. on Thurs, March 27, 5 to 9 p.m., after bad weather affected its original date. Participating restaurants donate 10% of proceeds to the North East Historical Society.

Upcoming Dates: March 19 - Golden Wok (2 Main St.) Takeout only

March 27 - Taro's Pizzeria

Mention "Dine Out for History" when dining!

...tangled

Continued from previous page



PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Shelf ice on the Blackberry River last week. Do not stand on shelf ice. It's a great way to get hurt.

changing fly. Conclude it makes no difference. Watch passenger car slither around on muddy dirt road.

After 10 minutes of this, drift nymph into strike zone and miss fish again. Sit back down on boulder...

Standard operating procedure in these cases is to say, "Oh well. At least it was nice to get out."

This is baloney. It was cold and windy and nobody with any sense would go out and stand in cold water just for the sake of getting out of the house.

But...

I didn't injure myself. My waders didn't leak. I was wondering if I could get an orthotic insert into the wader boot without problems. I could.

I didn't break or lose any equipment other than a black conehead Wooly Bugger, size 8, which was claimed by the tree that is sticking into the Beckley pool.

And I didn't get stuck in the mud on the seriously gooey Macedonia State Park road.

So this initial salvo of the 2025 campaign goes in the win column.

Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

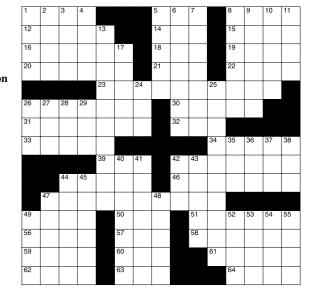
- 1. Unsheared sheep
- 5. Rock TV channel 8. Streetcar
- 12. Concerning
- 14. Expression of recognition 15. Greek goddess of youth
- 16. An iPad is one 18. Adult beverage
- 19. Manning and Wallach are two 20. Makes a petty verbal
- attack 21. Tyrion Lannister's
- nickname 22. Pointed ends of pens
- 23. Wristwatches
- 26. Body part
- 30. Made a mistake 31. Adjusted
- 32. Turkish honorific title 33. Yell
- 34. Historic Alabama city
- 39. Cub 42. Type of sea bass dish
- 44. To call (archaic)
- 46. Unfortunate
- 47. Separate oneself from
- others
- 49. Hero sandwiches
- 50. Former OSS 51. Open spaces in a forest
- 56. Innermost brain membranes
- 57. Fortune 58. Hunting expedition
- 59. Doomed queen Boleyn 60. Peyton's little brother
- 61. Type of wrap
- 62. Scottish tax
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic 64. An increase in price or value

2. Abba ___, Israeli politician

- **CLUES DOWN** 1. Works of body art
- 3. A desert in Asia 4. Eat greedily
- 5. Doomed French queen 6. Beat
- 7. One who survives on blood
- 8. As a consequence 9. Counted on

10. Acquired Brain Injury

- **Behavior Science** 11. Unclean
- 13. One who does not drink 17. Wild ox of the Malay
- Archipelago



- 24. __ student, learns healing
- 25. Bacterial skin infection
- 26. Expresses surprise
- 27. What one says on a
- wedding day 28. Crony
- 29. Where you entered the world (abbr.)
- 35. Unit of length
- 36. Side that is sheltered from
- the wind 37. More (Spanish)
- 38. Autonomic nervous system 40. Violent troublemakers,
- originally in Paris 41. Statements that something
- is untrue 42. Greek alphabet letter
- 43. Suspends from above 44. Popular types of cigars

45. Girls

5

8

52. From a distance 53. Form of Persian 54. Amounts of time

March 6 Solution

49. Relaxing spaces

logician

47. U.S. philosopher and

48. Nocturnal hoofed animal

55. Trigonometric function

Sudoku 5 5 8 5



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3

9

8

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8 6

9



WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

1. Narrow lane between buildings

2. Linked metal loops

3. Chocolate-coffee combo

4. To walk in a miltary manner

5. Equal in quality or strength

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EMPLOYMENT OPPOR-TUNITIES: Wyantenuck Country Club is seeking staff for the 2025 season. Want to work in a beautiful setting with a great team? Full and Part-Time Employment available. Positions Available; Bartenders, Dishwashers, Line Cooks, Waitstaff. Bartender position starts end of March; Dishwasher, Line Cook and Waitstaff positions available the end of April. Please email: brandon @wyantenuck.org or call 413-528-0350.

EMPLOYMENT OPPOR-TUNITIES: Wyantenuck Country Club is a private club. Want to join our team? Full Time position available. Position Available; Head Waitstaff Position available the end of April. Please email:brandon@wyantenuck.org or call 413-528-0350.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON TO WORK ON A SMALL AN-GUS FARM: Duties include feeding, cleaning, fencing, or terrain. And telephone number would be 518-821-9804.

HELP WANTED

TOWN OF AMENIA: is seeking applications for Part-Time Town Life Guard. Candidates must possess basic lifeguard certification and CPR. Salary \$25/hour, up to 7 hours a week. Letter of Interest may be submitted via email to dmklingner@ ameniany.gov or by mail to Town Clerk, 4988 Route 22, Amenia NY 12501. Application deadline: March 24, 2025 at 2:00pm.

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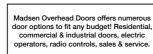
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