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MILLBROOK Animal hospital A2

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County and its Environs



STANFORD Home decor **B5**

The Millerton News will not publish Jan. 1, and will publish again Jan. 8, 2026.



Small Business Spotlight, A3



Cannabis farmer Douglas Broughton, left, and Glenn Hilliard of Newtown, Connecticut, label plastic containers filled with cannabis at Broughton's home in Wassaic on Friday, Dec. 19.

Cannabis dispensary coming to Millerton's Main Street

By NATHAN MILLER nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON - Wassaicbased cannabis grower Douglas Broughton plans to open a dispensary this spring in the former Demitasse storefront on Main

Broughton signed a lease for the 32 Main St. storefront on Dec. 1 and plans to reopen the space as the Black Rabbit Farms cannabis dispensary following modest renovations. The work, he said, his new dispensary.

will include cosmetic updates and the installation of freestanding, custom-made display cabinets.

"We hope to be open in March," Broughton said.

Broughton has been growing cannabis since 1995 and has worked in the legal medical and recreational cannabis industries since their inception, when states across the U.S. began easing prohibitions on the drug. He said quality is paramount to him, and he plans to maintain that commitment in

"There's going to be probably 10 to 20 different products for sale at any one time," Broughton said, emphasizing a desire to exclusively stock locally-produced cannabis from micro-growers. "I'm trying to get the small farm, the micro which is the small license people up and running and trying to help them out how to grow so I can feature their cannabis."

Broughton's own Black Rabbit Farms cannabis will be among

See CANNABIS, A10

Pine Plains Planning Board approves cannabis dispensary and lumber mill

By NATHAN MILLER nathanm@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Planning Board members granted final approval for the proposed Upstate Pines cannabis dispensary and a large lumber mill and showroom.

Members approved the site plan for the cannabis dispensary in a 6-0

The proposed cannabis dispensary will be the second location of Red Hook-based dispensary

business Upstate Pines, founded by Brian Seiler, Kevin Pollard and Ben Abrahams in 2024. Planning board members approved site plans that propose to utilize the former historic weigh station building at 7723 S. Main St. across from the Pine Plains Post Office.

The proposal, designed by architect Kristina Dousharm, was the subject of a lengthy approval process, including public comment earlier in the fall urging mindfulness of the building's historic character as the community's former agricultural weighing station and critique of the plans' proximity to the Pine Plains Firehouse, located on an adjacent parcel, and the Post

Under Pine Plains' local retail cannabis regulations, dispensaries are not allowed within 300 feet of the firehouse or the Post Office. But a New York state law nullified those restrictions. Planning Board

See UPSTATE PINES, A10

North East's commercial rezoning puts focus on housing

By JOHN COSTON Special to the Millerton News

MILLERTON — The zoning code changes that will be the focus of a public hearing on Thursday, Jan. 8, represent a major overhaul of the code since it was adopted in the 1970s, placing a strong focus on promoting housing options in the town's commercial district.

The hearing is scheduled for Jan. 8 at 7 p.m. at Town Hall and the draft of the amendments can be

found online at townofnortheastny. gov/zoning-review-committee/ or in person at Town Hall or at the NorthEast-Millerton Library.

Zoning regulations, which date to the early 20th century, govern how residents and businesses can use their homes and buildings, and their land. Town officials say their goal in modernizing the code aims to support local business and create new housing options.

See REZONING, A10



Alex That purchased Millerton's former Presbyterian Church on Main Street in April with plans for an education center.

Church reuse at a crossroads as Millerton awaits approval of new parking requirements

By NATHAN MILLER

nathanm@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Millerton resident Alex That presented plans for the former Presbyterian church on Main Street to the Millerton Planning Board at a rescheduled meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 16.

That is proposing to convert the church into a private education center offering classes in music, video production and DJing for people of all abilities.

The Millerton location would be the second site for Caffeine Academy, which opened its first location in West Babylon, New York, in 2013.

The meeting was marked by confusion over the village's application approval process. That and his architect repeatedly asked board members to clarify what steps were required and in what order they would occur.

During public comment, Zon-

See CAFFEINE ACADEMY, A10



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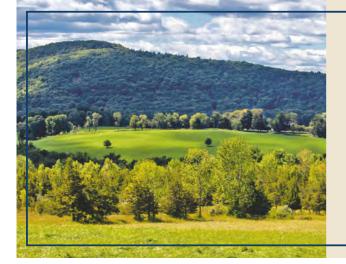
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OPINION To our readers, Letters, Column A5



Local Matters

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Max Amsterdam reaches out to pet a red panda at the Trevor-Lovejoy Zoo on Millbrook School's campus on Wednesday, Dec. 17. Amsterdam is a senior at Millbrook School and serves as the zoo's head student curator.

Trevor-Lovejoy Zoo receives \$5M for new animal hospital

By ALY MORRISSEY alym@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK - The Trevor-Lovejoy Zoo announced this month that it has received a \$5 million donation — the largest in the organization's history and made anonymously — that will primarily fund a state-of-the-art animal hospital, a key feature of the zoo's current master plan for expansion. The zoo, which is located at the Millbrook School, currently houses 180 exotic animals from all over the world.

"It's very exciting," said Nancy Stahl, who oversees fundraising for the zoo. "This gift is going to enhance everything we already do and enable us to increase opportunities for science, our community and support the wellbeing of our animals."

Stahl said the zoo has been engaged in a long-range master planning process for several years as part of preparing for its next Association of Zoos and Aquariums accreditation review in 2027. "We knew we had to make a plan and look toward the future," Stahl said. "We had to think about what more we could be doing for the animals, for students and for the community."

Construction is nearing completion on a new animal holding barn, the first step toward housing off-exhibit animals. Funded by philanthropist Barbara Tober whom Stahl described as the project's "catalyst" — the facility is required under AZA accreditation standards. The holding barn will serve as a first stop for new animals required to quarantine before entering an exhibit. It will also safely house animals when enclosures are being repaired or when they need rehabilitation.

The new animal hospital, which zoo staff are referring to as an animal wellness center, is poised to be four times larger than the existing space. Stahl said the team is looking forward to dramatically expanding the zoo's ability to treat animals on campus, eliminating the need to transport them off-site for procedures like X-rays or ul-

trasounds.

Stahl said a primary goal of the master plan and the animal wellness center is to "bring the outside in." The public will be allowed to watch certain procedures and operations to learn more about the veterinary work that goes on behind the scenes.

In addition to the zoo's around-the-clock staff, rotating veterinarians visit the zoo each week to check on the animals and perform routine procedures. The current space is limited, and zoo staff are eager to have an expanded footprint.

"Right now we're very limited space-wise," Stahl said. "This new facility will let us have more space, more vets and more learning happen-

Max Amsterdam has lived at the Millbrook School as a boarding student for four years and has held a working role at the zoo throughout that time. Today, in his senior year, he serves as the zoo's head student curator a coveted leadership role that requires a formal application and selection process.

When Amsterdam first applied to Millbrook School, the zoo was not front-ofmind. Although he wanted to become a veterinarian as a young child, the desire dissipated until he set foot in the Trevor-Lovejoy Zoo as a freshman.

"I watched a senior perform a biopsy on a red wolf that had passed away from a uterine tumor," Amsterdam said. "I didn't even know that students could do that. I realized right then how incredible this place was and the zoo became my thing."

Over his four years at Millbrook, Amsterdam has assisted veterinarians, shadowed medical procedures, conducted necropsies and even traveled with staff to national AZA conferences. "As you grow, you gain a relationship with the staff and vets, and when they know you can handle it, they let you do more," he said.

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With graduation on the horizon and plans to study biology at Bucknell, Amsterdam admits he's a little jealous of the future students that will benefit from the new zoo facilities.

At the end of the day, he is grateful for the hands-on experience he has received in his leadership roles at the zoo. Millbrook School is the only high school in the country with an AZA-accredited zoo on its campus.

"I'm jealous, but I'm also so grateful that the zoo got that donation because it's needed," Amsterdam smiled. "We deserve it, too. It's a lot of hard work by the staff and students — it's 200% effort seven days a week, and not many people see that."

New program offers home pickup for textile recycling

By LEILA HAWKEN leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Residents can now take advantage of a local recycling program that offers convenient home pickup for textiles and other household items. The program, approved by Dutchess County, was outlined by Town Board member and Town Supervisor-elect Rosanna Hamm.

The service, operated by Helpsy, accepts unwanted clothing, footwear, textiles, accessories and linens, along with items such as luggage and stuffed animals. According to the **Environmental Protection** Agency, only about 17% of recyclable textiles are currently reclaimed, with the rest ending up in landfills or municipal incinerators.

By providing free home pickup, the program is expected to reduce disposal tonnage and tipping fees, saving the town money while also conserving resources and saving residents time.

Items should be placed in plastic bags on front steps for pickup on collection day. All items must be clean, dry and odor-free. Accepted items include all types of footwear from slippers and sneakers to dress shoes, boots and cleats — as well as clothing such as outerwear, tops, dresses, pajamas, underwear and baby clothes. Accessories include hats, purses, bathrobes and jewelry. Linens include bed linens, curtains, drapes, table linens, quilts, blankets and comforters. Miscellaneous items such as luggage, sports jerseys and stuffed animals are also accepted.

Founded in 2017, Helpsy now operates in 10 states, managing more than 1,200 collection points and providing home pickup for millions of residents. The organization has diverted more than 75,000 tons of textiles from the waste stream, saving municipalities millions of dollars in disposal costs while generating funding for charitable organizations and thrift stores.

For residents who would prefer to deliver items to a drop-off bin, the closest bin is in Wingdale at Drop and Lock, 1371 Route 22. For more information, go to www. helpsy.com/ameniany or phone (800) 244-6350.



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PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Celtic Holiday

The Upstate Celtic Allstars brought holiday cheer at their third annual concert at the Amenia Town Hall on Saturday, Dec. 20. The five-member ensemble included, left to right, Ambrose Verdibello, fiddle; Isa Simon, fiddle and vocals; Claudine Langille, vocals and banjo; Joseph Sobol, citern; and Dave Paton, concertina and dulcimer.

Sharon Hospital drops NDP as ambulance provider

By RUTH EPSTEINSpecial to the Millerton News

SHARON — Northern Dutchess Paramedics will cease operating in northwest Connecticut at the start of the new year, a move that emergency responders and first selectmen say would replace decades of advanced ambulance coverage with a more limited service arrangement.

Emergency officials say the change would shift the region from a staffed, on-call advanced life support service to a plan centered on a single paramedic covering multiple rural towns, raising concerns about delayed response times and gaps in care during simultaneous emergencies.

The decision became known on Dec. 11 when communities were informed that NDP's service would end as of Jan. 1, according to Andrea Downs, president of the Falls Village Volunteer Fire Department and an employee of the organization.

Founded in 1994 and based in Rhinebeck, New York, NDP has provided advanced and basic life support ambulance services to communities in Dutchess and Columbia counties in New York, as well as parts of Litchfield County, for nearly three decades.

How the change came about was outlined by Al Tortorella of Sharon, also an employee of NDP.

Tortorella said every Connecticut municipality is required to have an advanced life support provider. For the past 28 years, Sharon Hospital has fulfilled that requirement by signing an annual hospital-sponsored agreement with NDP. In recent years, the agreement was signed by Dr. Ronald Santos, head of the hospital's emergency department, under whose medical license NDP operates.

When NDP recently approached Santos to renew the agreement, he said he could not sign it, a decision that took the organization by surprise, Tortorella said.

Area towns operate volunteer ambulance squads that provide basic life support. NDP supplements those crews by delivering advanced medical care, administering medications and conducting inter-facility transports.

Sharon Hospital, which is part of Nuvance Health, merged earlier this year with Northwell Health.

Downs and Tortorella said they understand that the hospital system plans to replace NDP with its own paramedic service. Under the proposed arrangement, a single paramedic would cover the Sharon Hospital catchment area, starting each shift in New Milford before traveling to Sharon. If needed, the paramedic would be assisted by a paid EMT provided by Nu-

Tortorella sharply criticized the model. "It's a system designed to fail," he said. "This is a huge issue."

Downs echoed those concerns, noting that the paramedic's 12-hour shift would include significant travel time between locations. "I'm very concerned about the health and well-being of residents in the Northwest Corner," she said. "We don't want any reduction in services for patients in the region. I can't understand the rationale of taking services away. Northwell wants to maintain a model of corporate health care, but they can't put a face to the people and culture we've established here. We're talking life and death.

Downs emphasized that the decision does not involve layoffs at NDP, which was recently acquired by Empress. She said there is ample demand for paramedic services in New York state and that employees' jobs are secure. The concern, she said, is for the safety of families, friends and neighbors in Northwest Connecticut.

In an interview, Sharon Hospital President and CEO Christina McCulloch and Andrea Rynn, assistant vice president for community, government and public relations at Northwell Health, addressed the decision to discontinue the hospital-sponsored agreement with NDP.

"Recently, concerns were brought to our attention about compliance and [a lack of] communications," they said. "This information left us unsettled and unable to be a sponsoring hospital at this

They acknowledged that the timing of the transition was far from ideal. "Despite the tight timing, we are actively developing a coverage plan in concert with local first responders and area leaders. This is a process that is just beginning and we are confident it will strengthen over time."

McCulloch and Rynn said the hospital and health system remain committed to maintaining service continuity and working with community partners to enhance emergency medical services across the region.

McEnroe's Organic Farm enters new era, teases plans to reopen market

By ALY MORRISSEY alym@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Farming has been in Erich McEnroe's family for generations, dating back to a time when his greatgrandfather could buy and sell land at the local tavern. Though Erich never met him, he and his four brothers grew up on stories of his grit, like how he got his start hauling iron ore with horses and carts and later bought farmland for

his three sons.

The McEnroe family began dairy farming in 1953 — a chapter Erich still looks back on fondly - which lasted four decades until they transitioned to cattle and organic farming. Today, McEnroe's is certified with the Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) in the state of New York, which requires the farm to comply with stringent federal standards related to soil quality and the humane treatment of animals, to name a few. With more than 1,200 acres of fields, pastures and greenhouses, McEnroe's is one of the state's oldest and most diverse certified organic farms and, today, produces premium soil and compost blends, as well as produce and livestock.

Despite a difficult period marked by the passing of Erich's father, Ray, and the closing of the farm market on Route 44 near Coleman Station Road, McEnroe's is poised to enter a new era, bolstered by a renewed sense of optimism and a recent \$335,000 grant awarded by the New York Business Food Waste Mitigation Program. The grant will fund a new screener, a sifting machine that separates plastic, metals or other objects from organic matter. Erich said the machine will enhance composting operations and allow the farm to take in more food waste from across the region.

"It was definitely a year of change," Erich said. "But I'm optimistic. Sometimes when you think something is bad at the moment, you take a step back and realize it might be the best thing."

A childhood shaped by dairy farming

Erich grew up as a dairy farmer. His earliest responsibilities were feeding calves, hauling milk pails up the hill after school and traveling to fairs to show Holsteins with his father.

"Dairy farming is the most addictive thing when you're in it," Erich said. "You have to milk the cows twice a day and you're always trying to progress on your genetics and production and facility. It's really intense work — seven days a week."

When his father decided to sell the cows in 1994, it was heartbreaking for the boys, but ultimately transformative. "We were in tears, but my dad said, 'Someday you'll thank me.' And I do," Erich reflected.

Pioneers in composting

Today, McEnroe's Organic Farm has a DEC permit allowing it to recycle up to 55,000 cubic yards of organic material each year, including 15,000 yards of food waste. But getting there wasn't easy.

"In the '90s, we were often in the Millerton News headlines," Erich said with a laugh. "There was a group of neighbors who didn't want to see the compost put in." He said concerns ranged from fears of a smell to truck traffic.

Over time, as the environmental and agricultural benefits became clear, attitudes toward composting shifted. "This is now a highly important regional site from an environmental aspect," Erich said.

The farm accepts food scraps from transfer stations in Queens and Brooklyn, along with leaves from Westchester County, horse bedding, and manure from its own livestock. Local residents can also donate their personal food waste. The farm receives an estimated 50 to 70 tons of food waste each week.

Those scraps are composted and blended into potting and field mixes using "recipes that haven't changed much in 40 years," Erich said. The technology, however, has.

In 2015, McEnroe's switched to a covered windrow system that allowed the farm to go "more vertical" with compost piles. Sheets cover the long rows of composting matter, providing structure to the piles that allow for taller stacking.

The latest upgrade, funded partly by the state grant, is a German-built screener Erich calls "a game changer." It uses vacuums to remove plastic such as produce stickers and features magnets to pull out metal.

The farm currently produces around 8,000 yards of compost annually but is permitted for nearly double that. "The more product we can screen, the more we can bring in, which is good for everyone," Erich said.

A working classroom for organic practices

McEnroe's also functions as a working classroom. An educational arm of the business was created in 2007 to inspire the next generation of organic farmers and inform the public. It includes an apprenticeship program, offering annual placements in vegetables, livestock and compost.

Olivia Skeen, who oversees the farm's educational programs, said apprentices are exposed to all areas of farm operations. "All of our practices are integral and related — manure from the livestock comes up to compost and becomes soil. Any waste from vegetables goes into the soil. And the soil goes back into vegetables and into the livestock crops."

Over the years, the program has drawn close to 100 apprentices from across the country and beyond. The farm also hosts frequent tours, from elementary school

groups to Cornell University's waste management program, which is partnering with McEnroe's on several studies, including peat moss alternatives and greenhouse production.

Looking ahead

Despite the closure of the farm market, both Erich and Skeen emphasized that McEnroe's remains very much in operation. "We're looking to get the market open again," Erich said. "Compost and cattle and our land base are our big driving forces."

For Erich, there's no real separation between work and life.

"I don't know what life is without the farm, really," he said. "It's seven days a week and it's just ... it's not even work. It's life."



Erich McEnroe standing in front of McEnroe Farms' organic composting piles on the farm's grounds at 194



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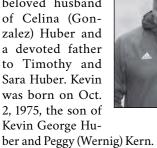
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OBITUARIES

Kevin John Huber

SALISBURY — Kevin John Huber, 50, of Salisbury, passed

away peacefully in his sleep on Dec. 9, 2025 He was the beloved husband of Celina (Gonzalez) Huber and a devoted father to Timothy and Sara Huber. Kevin was born on Oct. 2, 1975, the son of



He grew up in Blue Point, New York, where his love of sports started as soon as he could walk. He was a graduate of St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School in West Islip, New York. He attended the University of Bridgeport, where he was a four-year starter on the baseball team and forged friendships that would shape his future in the game. Following graduation, Kevin played professionally with the Zurich Lions of the Swiss Professional Baseball League before beginning a distinguished coaching ca-

Kevin's professional life was defined by his commitment to education, mentorship, and athletics. In 2001, Kevin founded the Connecticut Blue Jays, one of the state's original AAU Baseball programs. For more than two decades, Kevin, with his business partner and close friend Patrick Hall, operated a highly successful baseball program that impacted hundreds of young athletes, including several who went on to play in Major League Baseball organizations.

Kevin's coaching career spanned multiple levels, including positions as an Assistant Baseball Coach at the University of New Haven and Fairfield University. He ended his time in college coaching at Yale University, where he spent seven years on staff. Upon the birth of his children, he served for eight years as a Physical Education teacher at St. Theresa School in Trumbull, Connecticut, and at Our Lady of Fatima School in Wilton, Connecticut, where he inspired young students with his energy, humor, and emphasis on teamwork and personal growth.

In 2016, Kevin was named Head Baseball Coach at Salisbury School, where he proudly carried on a storied prep-school tradition. Under

his leadership, the Crimson Knights captured Western

New England Prep Baseball League Championships in 2018, 2022, 2023, and 2024, compiling an outstanding record of 113-33 over eight seasons. From 2023-2025, he spent the summers as Head

Coach of the South Shore Clippers in the Hamptons Collegiate Baseball League, further demonstrating his dedication to developing players and fostering a love of the game at the collegiate level.

In addition to baseball, Kevin was a dedicated member of Salisbury School's Athletic Department, serving as Assistant Athletic Director, Assistant Basketball Coach and Head Cross Country Coach. His influence extended well beyond the diamond, as he was known for demanding excellence, fostering discipline, and building character in student-athletes across multiple sports. Kevin will be remembered for his exceptional baseball mind, his passion for mentoring young people, his humor, and the genuine relationships he built with players, colleagues, and friends throughout the New England athletic community.

Survivors, in addition to his wife and parents, include his son, Timothy Huber, and his daughter, Sara Huber of Salisbury; his brother, Brian Huber and his wife, Stacy, of Monroe; his sister, Nancy Tommasino and her husband, Matt, of Bayport, New York; nieces and nephews, Derek and Evan Huber and Grace and Lucas Tommasino; as well as many other family members, close friends, former players, and fellow coaches whose lives he profoundly touched.

A Celebration of Life memorial gathering will be held on Jan. 11, 2026, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Flood Athletic Center at Salisbury School, 251 Canaan Road, Salisbury, Connecticut.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to the American Heart Association heart. org/donate in Kevin's name (heart.org/donate).

To offer an online condolence, please visit ryanfhct.

Robert Allen Weber

ber, age 84, passed away

suddenly and unexpectedly on Dec. 14, 2025, in his favorite chair in the home he built and loved in Salisbury. He was married to Jeanette Weber for 57 years.

Robert Allen Weber was born March 1, 1941, in New York City, the son of the late Harold and Theresa Zeitler Weber.

Bob graduated from De-Witt Clinton High School and City College where he majored in Industrial Engineering.

An outstanding athlete, he played lacrosse and ran track, primarily on a record-setting mile relay team. For many years, going on long runs after work was his stress-reducer.

Bob served in the U.S. Marine Corps and attended the Harvard Business School Management Program. He was employed by Bulova Watch Company for 43 years as an Industrial Engineer and rose to Vice President. Since his retirement in 2007, he served as a consultant to Bulova on environmental sites until his death.

Bob and Jeanette were married on May 4, 1968. Their son, Eric, was born in 1970 and twin daughters, Laura and Christine, followed in 1972. Having three babies in two years was indeed a "fun but challenging experience" for two parents who were only children. Bob and Jeanette moved from New York City to Glen Rock, New Jersey in 1970 where they raised their family, made many friends, and became involved in the community.

After searching for a weekend home for several years, Jeanette urged Bob to follow his dream of designing and building a house. His specifications were: a gravel road, an open meadow setting, and a western view of the mountains. And they found such a site north of Salisbury. The house was completed in 1998, and they were weekenders until becoming fulltime residents in 2014. Why Salisbury? When the children were young, the family often traveled from New Jersey to Vermont, driving through Salisbury and stopping at the White Hart Inn where Elyse Harney had a general store with penny candy. There the children got to select candy for the rest of the drive. Each time, Bob would say: "I would

SALISBURY — Bob We- love to live in Salisbury some



ing time with his family and friends. He attended all the children's soccer games, wrestling matches, and other events. He served on the Glen Rock Sports Association, was treasurer of the Salisbury Congregational Church, and grilled hundreds of hot dogs for the Salisbury Fall Festival for many years.

He had long-time close friendships from his single days in New York City, his many years at Bulova, and raising his family in New

He and Jeanette enjoyed wonderful trips together throughout the United States, the Caribbean, Europe, Scandinavia, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. Some trips were by themselves and others with family or close friends. Bob was usually the designated driver and learned to negotiate roundabouts, drive on the left, wait for herds of sheep, end up in very narrow lanes, discover too late the sign indicating "pedestrians only," and numerous other funny memories.

Bob was a devoted husband to Jeanette. He was a beloved father to his children. Having lost his own father at age 7, Bob always tried to be the father that he never had. And he so enjoyed each grandchild as he or she joined the family.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanette; son Eric and wife Kristie of Brooklyn: daughter Laura and husband Timmy of El Cerrito, California; Christine and husband Scott of Cromwell, Connecticut; and seven grandchildren ranging in age from 22 to 1: Madison, Belle, Cooper, Ryan, Skyler, Theo, and Ethan. He was Robert, Bob, Dad, Papa, Weber, or Webs to those who knew him, loved him, and will miss him so very much.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service, PO Box 582, Salisbury, CT

A celebration of Bob's life will be held in Salisbury in Spring 2026.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Send obituaries to obituaries@lakevillejournal.com

OUR TOWNS

Millbrook to welcome the New Year with music, magic and community fun

By LEILA HAWKEN leilah@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK - Millbrook residents are invited to gather with friends and neighbors to ring in the New Year at a community celebration held across two nearby venues — Lyall Community Church and Grace Church — on Wednesday, Dec. 31. The two churches are located just a few minutes' walk from one another in the heart of the village.

The family-friendly festivities will run from 4 to 7 p.m., with activities taking place at both churches. Together, the venues will host a wide range of offerings for all ages, including live music, magic, interactive activities and opportunities to connect with neighbors in a welcoming, walkable setting.

The annual event is hosted by the Millbrook Rotary Club, Millbrook Arts Group, The Millbrook Library and the Village of Millbrook. Support services are provided by the Millbrook Police Department, and the celebration is made possible through the efforts of community sponsors and an extensive group of volunteers.

"New Year's Eve Millbrook is about creating a space where everyone feels welcome," said Michelle Del Valle, Millbrook Rotary Club Secretary, about the celebration.

"This year feels especially exciting because the evening offers something for every generation; from local live music that gets you moving, to magical storytelling that invites wonder, to the depth of community group collaboration and the shared moments that remind us how special it is to celebrate together," she added.

Live music will set the tone throughout the evening, encouraging dancing and celebration. The Hammerhead Horns will perform blues, swing, boogie-woogie and gospel music. Miss Paula and The Twangbusters are billed as a full-tilt swing experience with upbeat, vintage-inspired sounds, while Nite Train will keep the energy high with rockin' blues guaranteed to get people on their feet.

Additional family activities will include the Bubble Bus, a favorite among younger attendees, a live magic show, a puppet performance by the Grumbling Gryphons, balloon twisting and other community activities spread throughout both venues. Face painting will also be available.

Crêpes Royale, a longtime community favorite, will serve sweet crêpes throughout the event, and coffee from Spark will also be available.

Admission buttons, designed by Millbrook Central School District student Lydia Kascsak, are available for a suggested donation of \$5. Buttons are available at a variety of merchants, including Merritt Bookstore, Reardon Briggs Hardware, Hunt and Harvest, Millbrook Antiques Center, and at the Thorne Center the night of the event.

For more information, go to www.millbrookrotary.org.

John Gregory Stallings

(Gregg) Stallings, 67, of Sha-tor of the Americas, Corbis

ron, passed away Dec. 2, 2025, at his

John was born Dec. 25, 1957, in St. Louis, Missouri, and was preceded in death by his father Dr. Hugh A. Stallings, mother, Mary John Stallings McCormick and a

brother Jeffrey Stallings.

He attended Reitz Memorial High School in Evansville, Indiana as well as the University of Miami. He graduated from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. While at Alabama, Gregg was both a cheerleader and President of Sigma Chi. He attained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Marketing and Advertising.

Gregg married John H. Broomfield in 2006 and they have maintained a residence in Sharon for 19 years.

Gregg started his formal career as a sales manager at Whittle Communications. Afterward, he started his own company, The Design Crew in Washington, DC.

After a role as a Business Development Manager at the Image Bank in Los Angeles, he

SHARON — John Gregory rose to the position of Direc-

Corporation in Seattle, Washington, a privately held company owned by Bill Gates. He was named Top Manager for two consecutive years. He presently owned the Found Art Co. + Gregory Marks Estate Sales in

Sharon.

Gregg came from a large family and is survived by his sisters Amy (Dan Glover), Darcy (Mike Winslow), Lesly (Pete Wagner), Betsy McAtee and brother Todd (Susan), stepfather Russell McCormick, as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Gregg was a warm caring, and generous man with an extensive and varied circle of friends. He will be missed greatly including by his beloved Weimaraner, Bill.

A local Celebration of Life in his honor is planned for late

Contributions in Gregg's memory can be made to the American Diabetes Association (ADA).

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.



Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon

Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M All welcome to join us 860-364-5260 ww.christchurchsharon.org

Trinity Episcopal Church 484 Lime Rock Rd. LakevilleOffering companionship along the Way ndays at 8 and 10:30 a.m. ww.trinitylimerock.org

trinity@trinitylimerock.org (860) 435-2627 **North Canaan**

Congregational Church, UCC Joyfully opening our hearts and doors to all God's people 172 Lower Rd/Rt. 44, East Canaan CT Worship services Sundays at 10 am www.Facebook.com/ northcanaancongregational

860-824-7232 FISHES & LOAVES FOOD PANTRY, A MISSION OF OUR CHURCH is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan

Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org **Congregation Beth David**

reform Jewish Synagogue 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Oneg (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME Rabbi Ion Haddon info@congbethdavid.org

The Lakeville United **Methodist Church**

319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039 9:15 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Sunday School "Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors" The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496 Lake villemethod ist@snet.net

Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 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 Summe The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-364-5634 sharonumc5634@att.net

> The Smithfield **Presbyterian Church** 556 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY

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

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, C Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M.

Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online 860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

Sharon Congregational Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or info@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

Millerton United **Methodist Church** 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812 Millerton, NY 12546

Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 P.M. 518-789-3138

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C. 30 Main Street, Salisbury, C

Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here! Worship, Sundays at 10 am, in-person and streaming www.salisburyucc.org Sharing God's shalo ness, harmony, justice, and joy! (860) 435-2442

St. John's Episcopal Church 12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT SUNDAY SERVICE

10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II) Rev. Dr. Johan Johnson, Priest-in-Charge In-Person and on You-Tube www.stjohnssalisbury.org

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT

Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons Sunday, January 11 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiauloi@gmail.con All are Welcome

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS **PARISH**

4 North Street, Norfolk St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE

Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Conception Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mar ALL ARE WELCOME! For information, please call 860-824-7078

UCC in CORNWALL Cornwall Village Meeting House

Worship Sunday, 10 am Outstanding Church School (10 am) Mission Opportunities
Warm Fellowship following Worship
860-672-6840 www.uccincornwall.org Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the LGBTQ Community

The Chapel of All Saints. Cornwall

Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower River Road, West Cornwall in person and on zoom Warm fellowship following service All Are Welcome!

www.allsaintscornwall.org Rev. Mary Gatesl

St. Thomas **Episcopal Church** 40 Leedsville Road Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links 845-373-9161

www.stthomasamenia.com A Community of Radical Hospitality

Promised Land Baptist Church 29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT

Where you will find: A Warm Welcome Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.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!

THE MILLERTON NEWS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025 & JANUARY 1, 2026

EDITORIAL

To our readers

his year showed, once again, how essential The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News are to our communities. Throughout 2025, we heard from readers who told us our reporting helped them better understand the issues facing their towns. Local organizations shared that attendance at their events increased following coverage in our papers or features in our newsletter. Advertisers reported an increase in business after readers saw an ad or a story about them.

Our core mission remains unchanged - to deliver trusted local news. National policy shifts created significant uncertainty this year, and we focused on explaining their local consequences: from immigration enforcement and school funding to the loss of federal support for healthcare, the arts, and food access in our rural communities. But even amid heavier topics, there was much to celebrate - Sharon Playhouse's launch of a program for emerging theater artists; community fundraisers for Project SAGE, the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, and the North East Community Center; and countless examples of neighbors stepping up to meet needs.

Transitions

This year was also one of important transitions in our newsroom. With John Coston's retirement, we welcomed Christian Murray as Executive Editor. At The Millerton News, Nathan Miller became Managing Editor, and Aly Morrissey joined as a reporter. Along with a team of correspondents, they are reinvigorating coverage across eastern Dutchess County. With strong editorial teams in place across both papers, we are positioned for an ambitious reporting agenda in 2026.

Education initiatives

We remain committed to building the next generation of editors, reporters, and readers. This year, we launched a journalism curriculum and student newspaper -HVRHS Today - at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, giving students professional guidance and a platform for their voices. Our competitive summer intern program continued to draw talented young journalists, and we established a new partnership with Marist University to broaden future opportunities. None of this would have been possible without the support of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, the 21st Century Fund, the William and Mary Greve Foundation, along with generous private donors.

We look forward to the continued growth of our education program.

Sustainability

Like many community newspapers, we continue to navigate financial and operational challenges. With the help of national, local, and regional foundations - including the Foundation for Community Health, the MacArthur, Tow, and Barr foundations, and new grants from the DJ McManus and Anne and Rollin Bates foundations — we've been able to stabilize operations and invest in our newsroom. Combined with community support, this funding sustains essential reporting and helps us build the capacity we need for the future.

Community Engagement

This spring we held the first Millerton Street Fair, modeled on our annual Salisbury Street Fair, convening nonprofits and community groups for a day of connection and shared purpose. And in November, we presented the Estabrook Community Leadership Award to Bunny Williams, recognizing her extraordinary contributions and bringing together supporters and neighbors in celebration of community leadership.

Looking ahead to 2026, our focus is on strengthening our reporting, deepening community engagement, and building a sustainable local news organization. None of this work is possible without you — our readers, subscribers, advertisers, donors, and partners.

Thank you for your trust and support. It's a privilege to serve our communities.

> James H. Clark CEO/Publisher

Reach out to us

Please don't hesitate to contact me directly with questions, comments, concerns at 860-435-9873 x401 or jamesc@lakevillejournal.com.

News: Reach Executive Editor Christian Murray at christianm@lakevillejournal.com, Lakeville Journal Managing Editor Riley Klein at rileyk@lakevillejournal. com and Millerton News Managing Editor Nathan Miller at nathanm@millertonnews.com.

Letters to the Editor may be emailed to publisher@ lakevillejournal.com or submitted via our websites.

Obituaries may be submitted to obituaries@ lakevillejournal.com or via our websites.

Advertising inquiries can be directed to Roxanne Lee, roxannel@lakevillejournal.com, or Mary Wilbur, maryw@lakevillejournal.com. And for classified line ads, Lyndee Stalter at classified@lakevillejournal.com.

Legal Notices can be sent to Michelle Eisenman at

legals@lakevillejournal.com.

Subscription questions including new subscriptions, renewals and address changes can be sent to circulation@ lakevillejournal.com.



"Okay, she's organic, needy sourdough. Call me if she bubbles after midnight."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Decorations missing inclusivity

When so many other towns in Dutchess County openly embrace a collective spirit in public, why does Millerton put forth such a miserly and backward-thinking message about representation during the holidays? Millerton Village's policy of "neutrality" towards religion

regarding holiday decorations in the town is actually exclusivity wrapped in white lights. If a menorah or a dreidel were put up next to the tree and covered in white lights then it could also be considered "secular" and not religious. After all, Jewish people don't worship

ment was summoned at about

10:30 o'clock this morning

when a chimney fire broke

out at the William Campbell

home on the Rudd Pond Road.

The fire was extinguished be-

fore the firemen arrived, how-

December 24, 1975

BORN IN CALIF.

szka of 1133 Meadow Lane,

Concord, Calif. are the proud

parents of a new son, 7½ lbs.

born Dec. 18. Mother and

child are fine. Mrs. Malyszka

is the former Susan Gross,

daughter of Mr. and Mrs.

H.C. Gross of Wilton, Conn.

They are former Millerton

residents, who for many

years have summered at Twin

Lakes. Mrs. Gross is the sister

Gordon Sisters Named

Tree Decor Winners Cathy and Patti Gordon

were named the winners

on Thursday, Dec. 18, of the

North East Historical Society

Christmas Tree Decoration

of John Hager of Sharon.

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Maly-

ever. No damage was done.

a menorah any more than Christians worship a tree. However, the government of the town of Millerton has decided it just doesn't want to get involved. This is sad, disappointing, and ultimately not sustainable.

Jane Morgan Millerton

Amenia

LETTER TO THE **EDITOR**

Thank you for your vote

So, it is finally official, I am now the new council person for Amenia having won by one vote. I deeply appreciate the support I received throughout the election. For those who chose differently, please know that my commitment is to serve and support everyone equally. As promised before the election, I am committed to serving all Amenia residents—young or old, long-time residents or newcomers. We are one town, and my goal is for Amenia not only to endure but to thrive.

Charlie Miller, it was an honor to compete alongside you. You ran an excellent race and your commitment to Amenia is clear. I hope you continue your valuable work for our town, and you have my full support. It was effectively a tie and I recommend you take a seat on the board alongside the other elected officials.

Councilman Elect Walter Dietrich

From the archives headline

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

December 27, 1934 **Federal Government To Take Farm Census**

A census of Dutchess and Columbia County farms will be made by the Federal Government in conjunction with a census of farms and farm populations throughout the nation, it has been disclosed. Dutchess County is to be included in a district with Putnam and Orange Counties, the census to be taken under the direction of a district supervisor. Counties will make recommendations on the designation of supervisors.

Millerton Merchants Report Increased **Holiday Business**

Christmas Sales Reach 1929 Level in Some Instances, Survey Shows - Other Firms Say Volume Compares Favorably With 1931 and 1932

About Millerton

Cadet George Randolph Culver, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. George R. Culver of Millerton, is home for the Christmas holidays from the New York Military Academy, Cornwall-on-Hudson, N. Y. Culver entered the academy last fall.

> **Chimney Fire** The Millerton Fire Depart-

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

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

A tree bearing all the contest decorations has been on display at the Millerton branch of the Rhinebeck

support. Accepting financial support does not mean we endorse donors or their products, services or opinions.

Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week's publication. No more than 500 words. Send to editor@millertonnews. com. Include town and phone number for confirmation.

Savings Bank on Route 44. FROM THE Contest judges were Louise Orton, Henrietta Terni, and **ARCHIVES** Mrs. Everett Jones. The Millerton News

Two United States Savings Bonds were awarded to the Gordon sisters. Patti Gordon won in the age 6-10 group and Cathy Gordon won in the 10-14 group.

December 21, 2000 Millerton Skating Rink Will Open Next Month

MILLERTON — Adults and children alike will be pleased to know that coming in January there will be one more winter attraction in Millerton.

Village trustee John Scutieri has been working diligently in conjunction with both the village and town boards for over a month now to receive funding for a new skating rink to be located at Eddie Collins Field. The persistence has paid off; both

boards have approved funding for the rink, which should be in place by early January, Mr. Scutieri reported at Monday's village board meeting.

Storm Causes Damage in Harlem Valley

Unlike much of the rest of Dutchess County, the northern Harlem Valley escaped major harm last weekend as strong winds and torrential rains caused minor flooding and road damage.

After 30 Years, Burns Leaves Saperstein's MILLERTON - After

working at Saperstein's for almost 30 years, Judith Burns has entered her last week on the job. A 40-year resident of Millerton, Ms. Burns' face will be missed at Saperstein's after her retirement on Friday, Dec. 22. But don't worry Ms. Burns does not plan to go into hiding, she will "make some appearances."

THE MILLERTON NEWS

(USPS 384600)

An Independent New York Newspaper

Official Newspaper of the Village of Millerton, Town of North East,
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(Webutuck) Central School District and Millbrook Central School District Published Weekly by LJMN Media, Inc. A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization; Dan Dwyer, Chair P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546

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Mission Statement

LJMN Media, Inc., Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News

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

James H. Clark Publisher & CEO Thomas K. Carley **Chief Operating Officer** Christian Murray

Executive Editor In Appreciation

William E. Little, Jr. Chairman Emeritus Janet Manko **Publisher Emeritus** A. Whitney Ellsworth 1936-2011

Managing Partner Robert H. Estabrook 1918-2011 Editor and **Publisher Emeritus**

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DRIVERS: Gary Hufner; Geoffrey Olans, John Runge. CORRESPONDENTS: Christine Bates; Leila Hawken.

> LJMN Media, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

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Sharon Kroeger named Wassaic Citizen of the Year

By LEILA HAWKEN leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA - Wassaic resident and proprietor of Calsi's General Store Sharon Kroeger was selected as Wassaic's Citizen of the Year for 2025. The honor, presented at the Thursday, Dec. 18, meeting of the Amenia Town Board, recognized her contributions to the better-

ment of the Town of Amenia

and the hamlet of Wassaic in

particular.

"This recognition is way overdue," said Town Supervisor Leo Blackman, as he spoke of the several major community accomplishments helped along by Kroeger, owner and proprietor of Calsi's General Store in the hamlet for more than 20 years.

Blackman noted that Kroeger runs the store as a "health food store" and a coop for small family farms in the area. The store is also a



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Recognizing her years of service to the hamlet, Sharon Kroeger was named Wassaic Citizen of the Year for 2025. Town Supervisor Leo Blackman presented Kroeger with a certificate at the Town Board meeting on Thursday,

lending library, he added.

In the 1990s, Kroeger formed a nonprofit with John Whiteford to take ownership and save the deteriorated Maxon Mills grain elevator, a prominent feature within the hamlet. As a result of

Kroeger's efforts, the structure was included on the State Register of Historic Places. Subsequently, the grain elevator gained new ownership and extensive renovation, now serving the arts community and the Wassaic Project,

a nonprofit group that hosts resident artists and art installations in and around the former mill building.

During the years when graffiti was spreading, Kroeger teamed with Bea Nelligan to commission "the mural on the Main Street Bridge," a work that won a Public Art Award from Dutchess County in 2003.

When the Luther family was moving away from Wassaic, Kroeger purchased the long green building standing between Main Street and the railroad tracks, a building that housed a dairy pavilion and livestock auction house where animals were loaded onto trains. That building is now the home of Vitsky's Bakery, a thriving attraction for the hamlet.

Kroeger has reactivated use of a grassy space between the General Store and The Lantern for leisure reading and summer chess games.

Amenia Town Board changes boards'rules

By LEILA HAWKEN leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA - Town Board members adopted new local laws allowing the appointment of alternate members to Amenia's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Town Board unanimously adopted the new laws at its regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 18, the final meeting of the year, after a public comment period that drew no comment from the public.

The new laws clarify the structure of the two boards, formalizing the selection and seating of alternate members to meet quorum. Attendance rules are also clarified, along with prescribed minimum hours of training.

Later in the meeting, and by unanimous vote, both chairmen of the two boards were re-appointed to their posts, Robert Boyles Ir., Planning Board chair, and Terry Metcalfe, ZBA chair, will continue to serve for the calendar year 2026.

Town Supervisor Leo Blackman reported on the current status of construction projects, including the sidewalk to Beekman Park, the new town garage and the Water District.

Work on the sidewalk, which began in August, has been plagued by construction delays, Blackman said. With the onset of winter weather, the completion date will be in spring, he added, noting that the final asphalt application between curb and pavement will also occur in spring. In the meantime, coarse gravel will fill the gap for the winter.

Spring will also see the start of construction work on Water District improvements, beginning with the well heads and the new pump house. The following phase will see work on the town's water tank.

Site work for the new town garage and salt shed is

not complete, Blackman said. Town crews were able to help with site clearing and grading. Construction will begin in early spring.

In other business, the Town Board approved the re-hiring of Christina Gast, an independent contractor, to assist with grant-writing for the calendar year 2026.

Long-anticipated electrical improvements to Fountain Square will proceed at a cost of \$2,630. The project will bring removal and replacement of the existing electrical panel at the site.

In the coming year, the Recreation Department will be updating its Master Plan, with the help of consultation services from Nexus Creative Design of Mt. Kisco, one of six bids received. Although Nexus at \$49,750 was not the lowest bid received, Judy Moran, Recreation Commission chair, indicated that Nexus is currently shepherding the town's update of the Master Plan for Development.

Observing how Nexus consultants are managing that task, particularly community outreach, made them the logical choice for the Recreation Plan update, Moran said.

Attending the meeting and speaking briefly was Dutchess County Representative-elect Eric Alexander, who indicated that he expects to attend Amenia's meetings with frequency.

Commenting on his tenure of service on the Town Board, councilman Brad Rebillard spoke of the experience as he prepares to step aside.

"I encourage anyone to step up and serve in any position within the town's government," Rebillard said, adding that he appreciated the opportunity to serve.

The next meeting of the Town Board will be its annual reorganizational meeting scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 8, when oaths of office will be administered to elected town officials.

Amenia zoning board comments on trail project

By LEILA HAWKEN

leilah@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The Zoning Board of Appeals discussed comments and recommendations for a proposed hiking and biking trail system that is currently going through the site plan approval process at the Planning Board.

Northern Red Oak LLC is proposing to create a hiking and biking trail system on Old Route 22 in Wassaic. The Zoning Board of Appeals met on Monday, Dec. 15, to prepare official comments on the project to be delivered to the Planning Board.

The Northern Red Oak Trails Project was first described to the Planning Board in June. The application was accepted for consideration by the Planning Board in late

If approved, the project in Wassaic would create 10 to 12 miles of mountain biking and hiking trails on a 450-acre property formed by combining three separate parcels.

As one of the steps necessary for a decision on the application, the ZBA was asked to submit comments on the application.

General ZBA concerns focused on issues of land ownership, hiker-biker safety and liability, and wildlife encounters. Although there was general agreement that the project is a worthwhile idea, some ZBA members said they would have preferred that the project developers were represented at the meeting to respond to questions.

"I think it's a great idea, but I am concerned about liabil-

ity," ZBA member Craig Meili said, and Alternate member George Bistransin, seated to meet quorum, sought details on ownership and whether the parcels will become taxexempt when operated by a nonprofit organization.

"Bikers just want to race," said ZBA chairman Terry Metcalfe, citing his experience with similar trails, echoing concern about safety and trail behavior. He felt that bikers might be dangerous for hikers and joggers. He suggested a solution of creating lanes or imposing a bike speed limit, while acknowledging that enforcement would be difficult.

The significant presence of wildlife on the aptly named Rattlesnake Mountain, including bears, lynx and rattlesnakes, was of ZBA concern, fearing encounters between inexperienced hikers and resident wildlife, as well as the effect of humans on wildlife habitat.

"That's part of being out in the wild," reasoned Metcalfe.

"It's a great idea," said ZBA member David Menegat, speaking of the project, "but there is no way to make it safe for people. The dangers are inherent, but the benefits outweigh the dangers."

"People should be aware of the wildlife dangers," said ZBA member Paula Pelosi, and Meili added that signage at the trail heads could provide safety instruction.

"The developers have taken a lot into consideration in their planning," Metcalfe said, adding the importance of informing trail users that they are in the wild.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). The name of the LLC is: Kim's Business LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: 11/8/2025. The County in which the Office is to be located: Dutchess. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: 420 Quaker Hill Rd Pawling, NY 12564. Purpose: any lawful activity. 11-20-25

> 12-11-25 12-18-25 12-25-25

11-27-25

12-04-25

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of DULCIFY LLC Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 09/04/2025. Office Location: 56 South Center Street, Millerton, Dutchess County, NY 12546. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the Dulcify LLC, 56 South Center Street, Millerton NY 12546.Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

11-27-25 12-04-25 12-11-25 12-18-25

12-25-25 01-01-26

Legal Notice

Notice is hereby given that a license, ID No. TBD, for beer, wine and liquor has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine and liquor at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at Listening Rock Farm, 78 Sinpatch Road, Wassaic, NY 12592 for on premises consumption.

Millbrook Distillery, LLC d/b/a Tenmile Distillery

12-18-25 12-25-25

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Lady Hounds Farm, LLC. Arts. or Org. filed with SSNY on 8/25/25. Office Location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jane D. Watson, 33 Prospect Avenue, Amenia, New York 12501. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

12-18-25 12-25-25 01-01-26

01-08-26 01-15-26

01-22-26

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Max Cohen Design LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/07/2025. Office location: Dutchess County.

SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Max Cohen Design LLC, 253 Benson Hill Road, Dover Plains, NY 12522. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

> 12-18-25 12-25-25 01-01-26 01-08-26

> 01-15-26

01-22-26

TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF NORTH **EAST**

NOTICE OF **SPECIAL MEETING PLEASE TAKE NOTICE**

that the Annual Re-Organizational Meeting of the North East Town Board for the year 2026 will be held on Friday, January 2, 2026 at 5:00pm at the Town Hall, 19 N. Maple Ave., Millerton, New York.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, in case of cancellation due to inclement weather, the Annual Re-Organizational Meeting will be held on Monday, January 5, 2026 at 5:00pm at the Town Hall, Millerton, NY.

The meeting will be recorded and a transcript of the meeting will be made available at a later date. Dated December 11, 2025.

BY ORDER OF THE NORTH EAST **TOWN BOARD** Elizabeth Strauss, Town of North East Town Clerk 12-25-25

TOWN OF AMENIA PLANNING BOARD **RE-NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASETAKENOTICE that pursuant to NYS Town Law § 277 and Chapter 105 of the Town of Amenia Code, the Planning Board of the Town of Amenia will hold a public hearing on the application by Barlow Farm, LLC for a 2-lot subdivision of lands located on Kent Road in the Town of Amenia (Tax Parcel # 132000-7165-00-182419-0000). The parcel is located in the Rural Agricultural (RA) and Rural Residential (RR) Zoning Districts.

 $P\;L\;E\;A\;S\;E$ TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hold the public hearing on the Application on January 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, New York 12501.

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

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that

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

Dated: December 16,

Robert Boyles, Jr., Chairman Town of Amenia Planning Board 12-25-25

TOWN OF AMENIA PLANNING BOARD **RE- NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Chapter 105 of the Town of Amenia Code, the Planning Board of the Town of Amenia will hold a public hearing on the application by Silo Ridge Ventures, LLC (the "Applicant") for amended Subdivision approval (the "Application" ") on lands located within the Silo Ridge Resort Community at 4651 NYS Route 22 in the Town of Amenia (the "Project Site"). The Project Site is located in the Rural Agricultural zoning district and the Resort Development and Scenic Protection overlay

TAKE PLEASE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board will hold the public hearing on the Application on January 14, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Amenia Town Hall, 4988 NYS Route 22, Amenia, New York 12501.

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

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

Dated: December 16, 2025

Robert Boyles, Jr., Chairman Town of Amenia Planning Board 12-25-25

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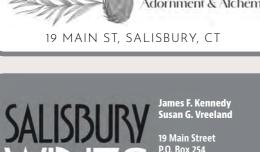




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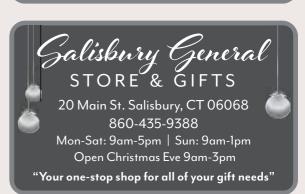


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CANNABIS Continued from Page A1



PHOTO BY NATHAN MILLER

The former home of Demitasse at 32 Main St. in downtown Millerton will become the home of Wassaic-based cannabis farmer Douglas Broughton's new dispensary.

the dispensary's selection. He grows cannabis in a green-house at his Wassaic home, using artificial light and a hands-on approach.

That hands-on approach results in lower yields, but Broughton said he values quality over quantity. His wife, Maria Laura Quintero, said he has even sacrificed entire harvests when problems arose.

"He has wiped out entire crops because he saw a mite," Quintero said. "He won't give that to the public. He would prefer to kill the whole thing and start all over."

By choosing an existing retail space in the Village of Millerton, Broughton was not required to go through lengthy approval processes before municipal boards.

The location is ideal, he said, though he acknowledged

parking is limited and plans to warn customers on the dispensary's website. "Parking, unfortunately, is going to be about a block walk either way," Broughton said. "You're going to have to park at the rail trail and walk up, or go park above the church and walk down. It's a nice walk — three minutes, you're there."

For customers who prefer not to walk, Black Rabbit Farm will offer delivery within an Office of Cannabis Management-approved radius of the storefront. "It'll be probably, I don't know, 10 miles as the crow flies," Broughton said.

Broughton said he wants the dispensary to fit in with downtown Millerton. "The motif is going to blend right in," he said. "It's not going to be this big neon pot leaf like a McDonald's thing."

REZONING Continued from Page A1

While there have been some updates over the years to address specific issues, the changes before the public this time are an ambitious attempt to align with the town's Comprehensive Plan, which was adopted six years ago. In this first go-round, the focus is on the town's commercial districts, such as the so-called Boulevard District that runs along Route 44 to the Connecticut border.

Residential and land conservation districts have been included to varying degrees in this proposed update, but largely are to be considered in a second phase of zoning review that soon will be initiated.

A housing focus

The 2019 Comprehensive Plan sought "to promote a variety of housing alternatives" and update zoning laws to allow for higher density development in the Town and Village, noting that fewer than one in five housing types were multi-family dwellings and most of them offered fewer than four units.

The predominant single-family housing stock in the Town and Village dated to the mid-twentieth century; 37% of the housing in the Town and 80% of the housing in the Village was built before 1950.

"This is a sea change but it depends on getting sewers in the Boulevard District," said Edith Greenwood, who headed the six-member volunteer Zoning Review Committee that worked on all the amendments over years. The committee engaged professional consultants with a goal to make the town's code more accessible, and streamline approval processes, as well as update language and definitions.

The zoning overhaul, however, addresses more than just housing. The revised code is laid out in extensive detail, and its comprehensive approach requires many pages of documentation — 181 pages to be exact. However, many provisions, regulations and procedures remain unchanged even though they are included in the complete document up for review at the Jan. 8 hearing.

Here are some of the changes proposed in the new code:

Multifamily dwellings

Existing code doesn't contain a section about multifamily dwellings, but the amended code applies standards.

"Multifamily dwellings may be located on upper floors of commercial buildings and/or within standalone buildings," the amendment provides. "No less than three (3) and no more than twelve (12) individual dwelling units shall be contained in a single building," according to the draft regulation.

Floor areas are defined to conform to New York State

Rental apartments above commercial space

This so-called mixed-use development allows for rental apartments above commercial spaces.

"The intent is to permit mixed use development under carefully regulated conditions to facilitate reinvestment in and the renovation of existing commercial buildings, as well as encourage the development of new mixed-use facilities, resulting in positive economic impacts to those properties and the town at large, while imposing minimal burden on town services and municipal infrastructure," the draft proposal states.

Adding Affordable Housing standards

The current code is amended to include general standards for affordable housing units, including specifics related to the cost and ownership of such units, among others. Such housing provides homes priced below market rate allowing for housing opportunities to low- to moderate-income families with eligibility based on income.

Proposed affordable housing regulations in North East will limit the cost of affordable rental housing to 30% of 60% of the area median income for Dutchess County.

The regulations will limit the cost of so-called "ownership" units to 30% of 80% of the county's area median income.

Affordable housing regulations provide a benefit to developers, allowing additional commercial space on second and third stories in exchange for placing affordable housing units in the remaining floor area above a commercial space.

Commercial buildings are allowed to host additional commercial uses on second and third floors as long as it does not exceed 50% of the floor area of those stories. All remaining floor space must be dedicated to affordable housing.

Accessory Apartment section becomes Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU)

A section of the current code refers to 'Accessory Apartments' but that category is amended to regulate 'Accessory Dwelling Units,' which is the current terminology. "An ADU shall be clearly incidental and subordinate to the principal one-family dwelling use and shall not change the one-family residential character of the neighborhood," the amended code reads.

'Everything but the kitchen sink'

The amended zoning regulations also seek to regulate a wide variety of businesses and activities.

Mobile food vendors will need permits to operate. Electric vehicle charging stations, which didn't exist in the 1970s, will come under the regulations, including charging stations at residences. Outdoor vehicle storage will have requirements spelled out as well as outdoor dining at restaurants.

EV charging stations are allowed at all residences, but regulations require a zoning permit. Residential chargers are allowed inside garages, on an exterior wall or as a freestanding structure adjacent to a driveway.

Chargers are also permitted in parking lots for commercial buildings, subject to site plan approval by the North East Planning Board.

Parking regulations get extensive coverage in the amended regulations. They also include amended regulations for roadside farm stands, cell towers and self-storage warehousing, among many others. The amended regulations call for the creation of a zoning enforcement officer to receive, review applications for a zoning permit, sign permit and certificate of use, among other duties that include inspections to ensure compliance. The town currently contracts a zoning officer, whose services are shared with the Village and with other municipalities.

The amendments update design standards and site-plan expectations for off-street parking, signage, landscaping and exterior lighting, a category that takes up several pages and even includes illustrations.

Motel provisions are deleted and replaced with hotel requirements, and include a requirement prohibiting "the establishment of a tenant/landlord relationship or legal residence by any such occupant."

A section on cannabis regulates the location and operation of retail cannabis dispensaries "to ensure any such use will be in harmony with and will not have a detrimental effect upon the surrounding area and, that both the location and operation are protective of public health and welfare and preserve quality of life."

Cannabis dispensaries will be permitted within the town as long as they are at least 200 feet "from a private or public school, park, playground, library, adult or child day care, or a place of worship."

Consumption of cannabis on the premises of a dispensary is prohibited, and an onlooker outside the building must be unable to see or smell the products inside. Regulations also require a detailed operational plan as part of the site plan approval process that would contain information about hours of operation, loitering mitigation, lighting and signage among other details of the business.

Public workshops that have been held with the Town Board to review the proposed changes have for the most part been sparsely attended by the public, as they dragged out for hours while board members quizzed the planning experts as well as the town attorney, Warren Replansky, about detail on any number of zoning matters and how North East's requirements would align with those of New York State and Dutchess County. The amended zoning regulations have been reviewed by the **Dutchess County Department** of Planning and Development.

Supervisor Kris Kennan said additional public hearings will be scheduled as necessary. In August, Kennan remarked that the adoption of the updated zoning code amendments could stand as the most significant accomplishment of the current board.

CAFFEINE ACADEMY Continued from Page A1

ing Board of Appeals Chair Kelly Kilmer explained that there are two potential paths forward for the application.

One option would require That to apply to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a parking variance, a process that would involve a full environmental review and public hearings separate from those required by the Planning Board. The second option would be to wait for a recently passed local law to take effect. The law exempts buildings in the village's General Business District from additional parking requirements, which would eliminate the need for a parking variance.

"The Village of Millerton Board passed a local law amending the village code for the General Business District

and parking variances, which, in all honesty, Alex, works in your favor," Kilmer said.

Kilmer said Local Law C must be stamped and filed by the New York Secretary of State before it officially goes into effect. That process typically takes between 30 and 60 days and could be further delayed by the holiday season.

"If you want to move forward, you would fill out an

application," Kilmer said. "I'll make sure that we get a meeting together."

Planning Board members recommended that the application move to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a parking variance. However, it remained unclear at the end of the meeting whether That would proceed with that option or wait until Local Law C is officially on the books.

UPSTATE PINES Continued from Page A1

members decided in October that a waiver was unnecessary because the local regulations are unenforceable.

Board members also approved the site plan and granted necessary waivers to The Hudson Co., which was proposing a 50,000-square-

foot lumber mill, office building and showroom just south of Stewart's Shops gas station on Route 82 at the southern entrance to downtown Pine Plains.

Approval was unanimous with a 7-0 vote and no abstentions

The lumber mill will produce wood beams, flooring and panelling.

Hudson Co. representatives proposed the large mill and expanded campus because the operation had outgrown a manufacturing facility it currently occupies at 2290 Route

199 in Pine Plains. LaBella Associates engineers designed the expanded campus.

The Upstate Pines cannabis dispensary first went before the board in August, and the Hudson Co. mill and showroom has been under review since May.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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profit organizations whose mission is to help create affordable housing throughout Connecticut, They face the different challenges of accomplishing this in both rural and urban communities. One of their goals is to separate land ownership from building ownership to keep homes affordable long-term. A good example for this would be the Salisbury Housing Trust (www. salisburycthousing.org/aboutsalisbury-housing-trust). On January 14th at 6:30pm a webinar will be held to explore the different models of Community Land Trusts across the state and how this might help support affordable housing in our diverse communities. To join this webinar, please register at: bit.ly/ CLTsofConnecticut.

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'Swallow Tail Kite' by Rex Brasher

MUSIC: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Between feathers and strings: Christopher Hoffman's solo cello journey through the world of Rex Brasher

hen cellist, composer and filmmaker Christopher Hoffman moved into the former home of Rex Brasher in Amenia in August 2023, he didn't arrive with a plan to make an album about the painter and ornithologist who once lived there. But once he began to learn about the home's former inhabitant — about his attention to land, to birds, to work done slowly and with devotion — he started to compose. "Rex," Hoffman's solo cello album (releases Jan. 16, 2026) is not a portrait of Brasher so much as an echo of a person, a place and a way of seeing the world.

Brasher (pronounced "brazier") was born in Brooklyn in 1869, the son of a stockbroker whose passion for birds left a lifelong mark. After his father's death, Brasher vowed to paint every bird in North America, and to do it from life. He eventually created more than 1,200 works, depicting birds with a precision and intimacy that bordered on obsession. Working largely outside the art world, Brasher lived on 116 wooded acres he called Chickadee Valley, where he painted, wrote and published his monumental 12-volume "Birds and Trees of North America."

Founded in 2008 to preserve Brasher's legacy and promote bird and habitat conservation through art, the Rex Brasher Association became an early point of connection for Hoffman, who composed and performed an original piece at the 2023 Rex Brasher Symposium just months



PHOTO BY KENNETH JIMENEZ

Cellist Christopher Hoffman wrote and recorded his 13-track, solo record 'Rex' while living in the former home of Rex Brasher in Amenia, the self-taught painter who created 1,200+ watercolors of North American birds.

after moving into Brasher's former home. After many years in Brooklyn, Hoffman and his family had been looking for a change when they were shown the 116-acre property by association board member and architect Matthew Schnepf, who shared the history of the land and of Brasher himself.

"We're the first renters outside of Rex's family," Hoffman said, explaining that the house is rented as part of an agreement to maintain the estate. Upon moving in, Hoffman dug deeper, purchasing the two-volume set of "Birds and Trees of North America" and immersing himself in Brasher's world. Around

the same time, and at the encouragement of composer, saxophonist and flutist Henry Threadgill, Hoffman debuted his first solo project at Tomeka Reid's Chicago Jazz String Summit, planting the seed for the 13-track album that he then composed, recorded, mixed and mastered in Brasher's home. The RBA (Rex Brasher Association) was equally supportive of the finished work, granting Hoffman permission to use Brasher's artwork for the album, including the swallow-tailed kite painting that appears on the vinyl packaging. "You open up the record and the whole painting is right there," said Hoff-

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man.

Though birds are central to the record's spirit, Hoffman deliberately avoided literal birdsongs. Instead, the cello is layered into dense soundscapes that suggest rather than illustrate. "There are tracks with tons of layered stuff where I guess you could hear bird sounds if you wanted to," he said. Brasher's refusal to accept approximation — destroying paintings when feathers didn't look right — mirrored Hoffman's own instincts as a musician. Tracks were built, discarded, rebuilt. Nothing stayed unless it felt true.

For Hoffman, "Rex" became a kind of reckoning. Though Hoffman has begun noticing birds with new intensity, using the Merlin bird app to identify some 30 species on the grounds, he says

Continued on next page



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Soft opening of the Zen Den for friends and family.

BUSINESS: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Zen Den Center opens in Winsted

holistic healing center, the Zen Den, has opened at 58 Main St. in Winsted. Described as a revolutionary clinical wellness center, it offers classes and individual, couples, and family therapy focused on trauma and wellness. Its intention is to bring high-end holistic healing practices to the masses. As the founders say, "Make it reasonable, doable, and achievable."

The space is warm, soothing, sunny and inviting. At a soft opening for family and friends on Dec. 5, the mood was mellow and joyous. Each arrival was greeted with a hug as children twirled around the room. Soft coral walls, small Buddhas, sage for burning, a central gong, green plants, pastel sound bells and soft music create a sense of

calm. The center even has a healing dog!

Founders Britt
Rovi, an LPC, and
Thuan Nguyen are old
friends who most recently worked together at Mountainside
Treatment Center in
Canaan. They bring
extensive experience
as therapeutic healers
and as survivors of
their own journeys
from adversity to
wellness.

"We believe healing happens in community — where you can feel connected, seen and loved," they said. "So please help us spread the word about this cool, soulful, and uplifting new space — a hip, spiritual hangout for those who crave purpose, meaning and connection."

The new clinical wellness membership center combines holistic treatments such as yoga, reiki,

Continued on next page

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BUSINESS: ALEC LINDEN

Get a boost, then unwind, at these two new Great Barrington spots

all brought two additions to the growing southern Berkshires café and bar scene with the opening of the lounge-like natural wine purveyor Half Rats in late August, followed by beloved North Canaan specialty roastery ilse coffee installing its second location on Railroad Street in mid-November.

Head up to Great Barrington this holiday season to caffeinate, then ingurgitate (in moderation) – just don't forget to hydrate.

ilse coffee (47 Railroad Street, Great Barrington, Massachusetts). Hours: Thursday -Monday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Sunday open at 9 a.m.

Stylized lowercase, this sleek coffee brand does away with pretense and lets the brew speak for itself. Sourced ethically and with a focus on partnerships between producers, consumers and the roastery itself, a black coffee at ilse is served on a tidy tray in a clear glass mug, alongside a ceramic cup for the drinker to transfer the elixir into at their leisure. The whole set up feels emblematic of the transparency and collaboration at the core of the roastery's ethos.

Situated in the airy space formerly occupied by Marjoram + Roux, the new coffeehouse builds on the concept inaugurated by ilse's first public location in a converted auto body shop in North Canaan.





PHOTOS BY ALEC LINDEN

Left, A cup of ilse's fairly-sourced coffee in the new Great Barrington location. Right, Natalha Palhete, an orange wine from the Alentejo region of Portugal, was on the specials menu on Thursday, Dec. 18.

Rebecca Grossman, who co-founded and co-owns the business with her fiancée, Lucas Smith, is local to the area, leading the couple to move roasting operations north from Stamford when they decided to expand from the wholesale production they had focused on the previous four years.

With the new shop, the brand moves even further into the food-and-beverage service game, aiming to build out a full breakfast and lunch menu as it ramps up operations on Railroad Street. Currently, the bites on offer are primarily provided by Canaan-based baker Pastries By Hanna, with the addition of one item produced in-house: a fluffy scone stuffed with cream and jam – Smith's mother's recipe; she's

English. In the coming months, the open kitchen that takes up about half of the café's interior will roar to life as the team develops the culinary program.

Stylistically, the space follows the minimal, elegant example set by the North Canaan location, but lower ceilings, tighter quarters and a communal table that abuts the bustle of

the above-mentioned open kitchen make for a decidedly cozier atmosphere. Tuck yourself into a window seat and sip a cup of steaming, ethically-sourced coffee while gazing down at the brick-lined streets beneath the hulking ridgeline of East Mountain, and you'll find it easy to remember why you love the Berkshires.

Half Rats (343 Main

Street, Great Barrington, Massachusetts). Hours: Wednesday and Sunday, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Thursday – Saturday 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Natural wine and resurrected Victorian slang are unlikely partners in Abby Pendergist's new downtown venture that happily marries modern tastes with classic appeal.

"Half Rats" refer-

ences 19th-century parlance meaning slightly tipsy, or buzzed, which is exactly what guests are invited to become - responsibly, of course - as they swill Pendergist's rotating ensemble of natural wines from around the world. The snobbery that sometimes hangs over wine-forward enterprises is nowhere to be found here, perhaps booted out by the semi-deranged rodents who decorate the menus, clearly half rats themselves. Instead, the vibe is decidedly relaxed, inviting drinkers to approach the wines with an open and playful

The space, designed and decorated by Pendergist with help from her boyfriend, Nick Speidel, indicates a well-practiced eye is behind the madness. Located within the tall brick walls of the 1924 Whalen & Kastner Garage, Pendergist has tastefully decked out

attitude.

Continued on next page

...Zen Den

qi gong, sound baths, somatic therapy and trauma-informed care for mind, body and soul with clinical groups for stress management, grief and trauma.

Nguyen, who was born in Vietnam during the War, survived a harrowing escape with his family, later settling in Westchester and attended Vassar College and Cornell University. He became addicted to crystal meth and his family got him into rehab. He recalled his journey to sobriety:

"In recovery meetings, people gave me a language for my experience, words I never had access to before. They shared their stories with honesty and courage, creating a space safe enough for me to find my own. My journey continued through meditation, yoga, energy healing and various wellness practic-

Continued from previous page



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Thuan Nguyen and Britt Rovi are old friends and now business partners at the Zen Den.

es that helped me return to myself. I learned that true healing is holistic — it touches mind, body, spirit and community."

Nguyen has since worked at two nationally recognized inpatient treatment centers as a 12-step coach, spiritual advisor, wellness coordinator, manager and director. He is also a master teacher in Usui Reiki and certified in Karuna Reiki.

Rovi is a clinical life

and relationship coach with a master's degree in clinical mental health counseling and a specialization in family therapy. During college, the sudden suicide of a dear friend plunged her into a self-destructive spiral. A spiritual awakening centered her, and she began her remarkable journey

When asked about her dream for the center, she

to wellness.

said, "Community more than anything. We live in a world where everything is sad, stressful and hard. We need connection and to not feel alone. I want to ignite that spark in humanity again from a small local vibe. I want to breathe hope back into the world."

Rovi and Nguyen are grateful for the support of the Winchester Economic Development Commission, which helped them open their doors on Main Street near the town green. At noon on Dec. 27, there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony with members of the commission, and the community is invited.

For more information and to become a member of the Zen Den community, visit: thezendencenter.com

...Hoffman Continued from previous page



PHOTO PROVIDED

Rex Brasher at his home in Chickadee Valley.

Brasher's acuity still feels out of reach. "Even with binoculars, I still can't see the details he was seeing."

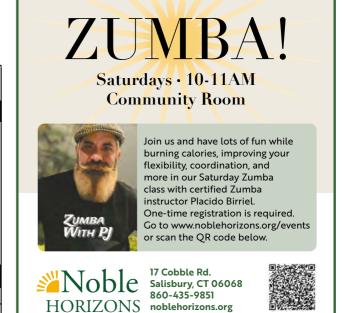
The album will be released Jan. 16 on Out of Your Head Records. Composed for acoustic and electric cello, the record reflects the solitude and intensity that shaped both Brasher's

vision and Hoffman's process. "This guy was working so hard," said Hoffman of Brasher. "And it was like, 'Alright, Chris, get it together. Make the solo record you're afraid to make."

To listen and purchase the album, go to: https:// christopherhoffman. bandcamp.com/album/ rex

At The Movies





... GB spots Continued from previous page

the room with quirky paintings, a hemlock sapling adorned with string lights, rat-themed T-shirts and the taxidermized head of an antelope wearing an evergreen garland as a necklace. Memorabilia is all around - Pendergist has a background in selling antique clothes, including at a former brick and mortar on Railroad Street.

Amid the mayhem, there is a carefully-wrought logic to the space. Guests freely move from seats at the pounded steel bar to a comfortable lounge, where games and wine literature await, or simply peruse the walls as one might in a gallery. A massive communal table dominating the center of the room is highly modular in its function, hosting large parties of wine drinkers or pumpkin carving contests alike. Several window tables and high-tops offer couples seeking a quieter drink the opportunity to do so with some privacy.

Like everything else, the menu is eclectic and changeable. A core

selection of Pendergist's favorite bottles remain while others rotate, though no bottle is safe from being swapped out. In addition to the main lineup, special bottles are also on offer until they run out. On a recent Thursday, a chilled and unchilled red, both Austrian, graced the specials menu, joined by another red, this one Georgian, as well as a Portuguese orange and a white gleaned from the faraway lands of Maine.

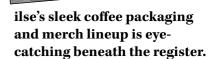
A short, rotating list of craft beers, alongside cheaper standards (\$4-\$5), are also available, as well as non-alcoholic options such as Mexican coke and espresso. Simple but enticing bar snacks — including olives, a goat cheese plate and "Spanish skewers" of anchovy, olives and pepper — are also available for those who like a snack with their Syrah.

For those who want to bring the experience home, small souvenirs and knickknacks, including Christmas cards, are available for sale at the bar. A Syrah, and snack and a sticker it is, then.



PHOTOS BY ALEC LINDEN

The bright interior of ilse is simple and elegant.





The comfortable lounge area, where games and wine-related literature are available for those who have exhausted their conversation quotas.



PHOTO PROVIDED

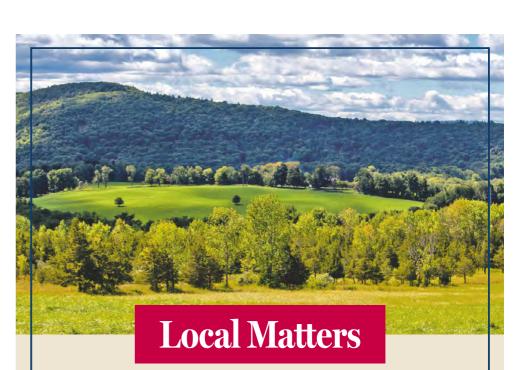
The dining room at Belsen House & Mews in Litchfield.

Afternoon tea at Belden

ince its debut on Dec. 1, afternoon tea is served Sunday through Thursday at Belsen House & Mews in Litchfield from 2 to 4 p.m. The beautiful new hotel — the latest delight from Dutchfield, the team that owns Troutbeck in Amenia invites both guests and visitors to indulge in a relaxing tea experience in a warm and welcoming setting. The tea selection features a variety of premium blends from local tea purveyor In Pursuit of Tea, including Wood Dragon Oolong, Darjeeling,

Lapsang Souchong and White Peony. Known for sourcing the finest single origin leaves directly from farmers, In Pursuit of Tea ensures the highest quality and purity in every cup. The tea service is complemented by a generous assortment of savory and sweet treats, including traditional tea sandwiches (such as cucumber, boiled egg, and curried chicken) and freshly baked scones served with clotted cream and jam. For reservations, visit: beldenhouse.com

— Natalia Zukerman



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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

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

DECEMBER 27

New Year's Recital: Élisabeth Jacquet de La

Saint James Place, 352 Main St., Great Barrington, Mass. and Trinity Church, Lakeville,

A New Year's solo program featuring works by Jacquet de La Guerre, performed by Edson Scheid and Christine Gevert. Sat., Dec. 27, 4 p.m., Saint James Place, 352 Main Street Great Barrington; Sun., Dec. 28, 4 p.m., Trinity Church, Lakeville. Tickets \$15-\$80 at crescendomusic. org.

DECEMBER 30

Hidden Treasures Storytelling Tour Featuring our **Revolutionary Founders**

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

On Tuesday, Dec. 30, 5 to 6:30 p.m., join Scoville Library staff and friends for some holiday-magic time travel! Hear thrilling tales from our Revolutionary founders, explore the library's towers, climb secret staircases, and discover hidden treasure chambers. All ages welcome. Registration is required at scovillelibrary.libcal. com/event/13599821.

DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR RETREAT AT TROUTBECK -**Sophisticated Shifts: Embrace and Manifest** 2026

Troutbeck, 515 Leedsville Rd., Amenia, N.Y.

Dec. 31 to Jan. 1

As the year draws to a close, step into a sanctuary of renewal and reflection with Troutbeck. The two-day experience begins with an elegant dinner on New Year's Eve following by a mesmerizing fire ceremony that encourages participants to release the past through the gentle art of journaling. On January 1, the journey continues with a morning practice blending mindfulness, movement, and intention, beginning with a serene meditation and flowing into heartfelt intention-setting and vision-crafting for a vibrant 2026. The retreat concludes with each guest choosing either a refreshing walk or a revitalizing cold plunge followed by an infra-red or traditional sauna. More info at troutbeck. com

ONGOING

"This Is What Art Is" **Exhibit: Appreciating** the Joy and Dedication of Creating Art

The Gallery of Dreams, 156 Gay St., Sharon, Conn.

Dec. 5 to 21

Open Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Exhibition of more than 18 local artists and craftspeople featuring painting, sculpture, ceramics, woodworking and artisan crafts.

Mindfulness Series with Miranda Lee

The Norfolk Library, 9 Greenwoods Road East, Norfolk, Conn. norfolklibrary.

Learn how to use Mindfulness tools in your daily life as Miranda Lee holds her weekly classes on Saturdays from 9:15 to 10 a.m. through the winter. Sponsored by the Library, this course is offered via Zoom. Anyone can join at any time. Please visit the Norfolk Library website www.norfolklibrary.org to register for the Zoom link or call front desk circulation 860-542-5075 ext. 2.

6th Annual Old Fashioned Christmas Exhibit

The Great Barrington Historical Society 817 South Main St., Great Barrington,

This six room exhibit takes the visitor on a tour of the history of Christmas beginning with the traditions of **Europe and Colonial** America. The evolution of Saint Nicholas and the important role the American Civil War played in the development of the holiday will also be highlighted.

Next, the visitor travels through time to understand how Christmas changed in the Victorian age, the roaring 20's, the depression 30's, the war years 40's and the happy days 50's. The tour concludes in the modern era exhibit where a large train and Christmas village is featured. A gift area is also available featuring unique gift ideas. Through Jan. 4. Special group tours at different times can be arranged by emailing info@gbhistory.org for information. Admission is free.

Wendell Minor: American Stories

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

Nov. 22 (through Jan. 11)

The Cornwall Library presents an exhibition of book jackets, original watercolors, and drawings by awardwinning illustrator Wendell Minor, curated by Stephanie Plunkett of the Norman Rockwell Museum. The show highlights Minor's work with authors including David McCullough, Jean Craighead George, Pat Conroy, and Larry McMurtry, along with art from his children's books.

Wish You Were Here **Exhibition at The Hotchkiss School's Tremaine Art Gallery**

Tremaine Art Gallery, 11 Interlaken Road, Lakeville,

Nov. 15 through Jan. 25

A collaborative exhibition featuring works by Fern Apfel and Colleen McGuire, Wish You Were Here explores themes of place, memory, light, and loss through still life and landscape painting. Curated by Joan Baldwin.

Art is Freedom Exhibit

Gallery of Dreams, 156 Gay St., Sharon, Conn

Opening day Fri. Nov. 7 (through Sun. Dec. 28)

Hours Friday to Sunday noon to 5 p.m.

An exhibition of 18 local artists featuring painting, photography, sculpture, ceramics and artisan crafts.

Art Show

Birdie and Hall, 12 Cornwall Road, Warren, Conn.

Oil and canvas painter Steven Miller's new exhibit opens at Birdie and Hall runs through

EBB & FLOW

Mad Rose Gallery, 5916 N Elm Ave., Millerton, N.Y.

Featured Glass Artists: Eric Hilton, Lisa Sacco, Natalie Tyler, Steven Weinberg

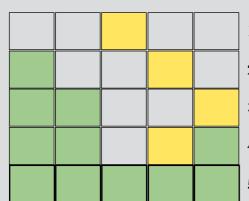
Exhibitions Run: Sept. 20 to Dec. 31

Last week's WotW

В	U	L	L	Y
G	L	A	S	S
S	L	Е	Е	P
S	L	I	С	Е
S	L	I	D	Е

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.



- 1. A seat for one; recliner
- 2. Talk, say something
- 3. Beauty parlor
- 4. Nordic warmer, hot room
- 5. Jolly gift-giver

WORD OF THE WEEK ©THE LAKEVILLE JOURNAL

Focus on Sharon: Documenting Through Photography

Sharon Historical Society & Museum. 18 Main St. Sharon. Conn. sharonhist.org

There is a new photo exhibition highlighting Sharon's history from the 1890s to today at the **Sharon Historical Society** & Museum. Features rare and newly digitized images. Exhibit runs through December 31.

Monthly Book Sale

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

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

First Saturday of every month

New and used books, cds, dvds, coffee table books, antique books, cookbooks, audiobooks, fiction, history and more are all for sale. The book sale happens on the first Saturday of every month. The proceeds of the sale benefit the library.

LGBTQIA+ Game Night

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

The David M. Hunt Library will partner with Out in the Corner to host a LGBTQIA+ game night. Bring your own game, play one of the games provided, or just come to hang out. This program will be held monthly on

the first Thursday of the month. Out in the Corner is an LGBTQIA+ coalition based in Litchfield County with a mission to provide a safe and inclusive space for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Lunch and Learn at Hotchkiss Library of Sharon

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

Join us on the second and

fourth Fridays of every month for a nutritious lunch and a variety of activities including movies, chair yoga, Qigong, crafts, Scrabble, cards, and more! The program runs through September 2025, with activities changing each session. Pre-registration required; limited to 12 participants per session.

For more info, call (860) 364-5041 or visit hotchkisslibraryofsharon. org.

Old School: Visions of Local History and Personal Pasts

Sharon Historical Society and Museum, 18 Main St., Sharon, Conn

Visit the Sharon **Historical Society** and Museum to see an exhibition by The Beard Collective (Theo Coulombe & Katro Storm), which explores how personal and local histories blend into a creative dialogue.

Holley Knife Exhibit

Academy Building, 24 Main St. Salisbury, Conn.

The Holley Manufacturing Company, located on Holley Street in Lakeville, was one of the early producers of pocketknives in the country at a time when everyone needed and carried one. A display featuring the craftsmanship of the company, hosted the Salisbury Association's Historical Society, is now on view.

Twelve Moons Coffee House

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

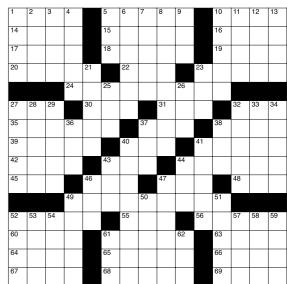
Twelve Moons Coffee House builds community through live music, poetry readings and storytelling on the 1st Saturday of each month. Doors open at 6 p.m. with open mic performances beginning at 6:30 p.m. Featured Professional Artists play from 8 to 9 p.m. Guests are welcome to bring their own dinner and beverage or enjoy the venue's light refreshments.

Address your calendar entry to editor@ lakevillejournal.com by Friday at noon.

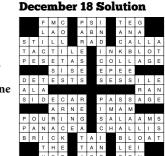
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Light cavalry 5. Coconut palms
- 10. Rounded knob 14. Central Japan city
- 15. Sandwiches 16. Shape produced by a
- curve 17. Ancient region in
- modern-day Syria 18. French modernist
- painter 19. Grandmother
- 20. Mammary gland of
- cattle 22. Rocky peak
- 23. Secret plan 24. Songs to one's lover
- 27. More (Spanish) 30. Father
- 31. Chinese principle underlying the universe
- 32. Ballplayer's accessory
- 35. Together
- 37. A person's brother or sister
- 38. Evil spirit 39. Monetary units
- 40. Partner to cheese
- 41. About Sun
- 42. Group of like-minded people
- 43. After B 44. Seaside room
- 45. Recipe measurement
- 46. Partly digested food 47. Flat-faced dog
- 48. People of southern Africa
- 49. Salts 52. Beard lichens
- 55. Sanders is one
- 56. Fencing sword 60. Ethnic group of Albania
- 61. Metric weight unit 63. Italian seaport
- 64. Longtime late night host 65. Extremely angry
- 66. Miami mascot 67. Mid-month day
- 68. Marked for omission 69. Body part
- **CLUES DOWN** 1. Two-toed sloth
- 2. Fat from a pig's abdomen 3. Romanian city 4. Specifies
- 5. Rounded, glaciated valley 6. Spoke
- 7. Collection of sacred books
- 8. Extravagantly theatrical 9. Very fast airplane
- 10. Forearm bones 11. Ancient kingdom



- 12. Legitimate: __ fide
- 13. Semitransparent
- gemstone 21. Counsels
- 23. Head honcho
- 25. Cool! 26. Touch lightly 27. Extract money via
- taxation
- 28. Dyes 29. Cloying sweetness
- 32. Sodas
- 33. Coastal village in Guam 34. Chemical ring
- 36. The bill in a restaurant 37. Car mechanics group
- 38. One-time presidential candidate Dole
- 40. Health care for the aged 41. Wise persons
- 43. Passage with access at one
- end
- 44. Make a wound 46. America's spies
- 47. Roof of the mouth 49. Plants of the lily family



50. Pinkish-red color

51. Vaccine developer

tools

Hawaii

danger

52. Mottled citrus fruit

54. Rare goose native to

58. Musician Clapton

62. CNN's founder

53. A place to store garden

57. Popular Hollywood pig

59. A move exposing one to

61. Historic Spanish soldier

Sudoku 5 3 4 8 3 6 9 6 4 5 2

6



6

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HORIZONS

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Shaina Morse stands at the checkout counter in Butter, her home decor store that she opened in Stanfordville a little over a year ago. Morse, an interior designer, sells vintage and antique home goods and decor at the store located at 5963 Route 82.

Stanfordville's Butter celebrates one year in operation

By SOPHIE GARDINER Special to the Millerton News

STANFORD — When interior designer Shaina Morse was driving her young son to daycare, she passed a space for rent on the corner of Bulls Head Road and Route 82 in Stanford that immediately caught her attention. A firm believer in self-manifestation, Morse said she saw it as the perfect opportunity to open a shop, something she had long dreamed of doing.

Morse would go on to open the doors to Butter, a curated home-goods store, in 2024. The shop began as a homedecor-focused space rooted in Morse's love of sourcing vintage and antique pieces and collaborating with other creatives to develop exclusive products. She and her husband, an industrial designer, also envision it as a platform for designing and producing their own work.

"It's ultimately a portfolio for me," Morse said. "I'm trying to stay flexible with what the space can evolve into.

Now in its second year, the shop has been both a learning experience and a test of patience. "Everyone tells me it takes at least three years to really establish yourself," Morse said. "But the shop has been really well received. People are rooting for us, and that means

What makes Butter particularly notable is that Morse founded it shortly after relocating from Los Angeles to the Hudson Valley. A graduate of San Diego State who was born and raised in Southern California, Morse said she wanted to live somewhere new for her own personal growth.

"Even though Los Angeles had been home forever and I love my family and friends dearly, I didn't see it as my forever," she said.

Morse also said she was seeking a better quality of life for her now two-year-old son. With her husband's family based on Long Island, the move east felt like a natural fit.

"I think the year that I moved, it just felt like everything was strangely falling into place," Morse said. "These opportunities kept presenting themselves, and because I didn't have a job, I had time to focus on potentially opening a store."

At first, Morse said she didn't think opening a shop would be possible — she had just moved and didn't yet have a job. However, when she met the building's owner and learned that he was a highend residential contractor, she reasoned that even if the shop didn't work out, the connection could still be valuable.

"If nothing comes from this," she said, "at least I've made a connection in the industry."

Ultimately, Morse and her husband decided the leap was worth the risk. As two crenot only as a retail venture but my own home."

also as an opportunity to build something that reflected their shared design sensibilities and long-term goals.

"I don't have any expectations because this is my first time running a store," Morse said. "I'm learning a lot, and it's been helpful getting to know other small business owners, especially being new to the area."

Alongside the shop, Morse continues to run her interior design practice, offering services ranging from paint and color consulting to full-scale renovations, new builds and custom furniture design. While she's open to many project types, residential work remains her focus.

"It's more intimate," she said. "You really get to know people, and it becomes a collaborative process."

Morse draws on her undergraduate degree in interior design as well as her professional experience working with prominent designers such as Waldo Fernandez and Peter Dunham. Balancing her design practice with curating products for Butter, she said, can be challenging, but it also informs the shop's identity. She aims to prioritize carrying goods made by small-business owners.

"The space is essentially a reflection of me," Morse said. "I find things I like - products, smells and scents I gravitate toward — and I wouldn't bring anything into Butter that atives, the couple saw the space I don't love or wouldn't use in

Millbrook home sales slow down in October

By CHRISTINE BATES Special to the Millerton News

MILLBROOK — October was an unusual month for the Town of Washington with only two commercial properties transferred in the Village of Millbrook, including ownership of the home of Babette's Kitchen, and two ranch homes located outside the Village. The 12-month median sales point fell to \$625,000, well below the 12-month high of \$900,000 recorded in February 2024, which was a historic peak for

Transfers

Reservoir Drive (#474075) — 0.27-acre residential vacant lot in the Village of Millbrook sold to 3302 Franklin Ave. LLC

3293-3295 Franklin Ave. Detached row commercial building of 9,489 gross square feet sold to Side Two Realty LLC for \$1,357,500.

4408 Route 82 - 3 bedroom/3 bath brick ranch on 2.11 acres sold to Gabriel A. Mancuso for \$599,000.

179 Horseshoe Road — 4 bedroom/2 bath raised ranch on 1.52 acres sold to Richard Pitz for \$384.800.

tober for \$1,357,500. *Town of Washington recorded real estate transfers 2025 sourced from Dutchess each property from Dutchess Parcel Access. Current listings from One Key MLS. Compiled

The building housing Babette's Kitchen and

Compass Real Estate at 3293-3295 Franklin Ave.

in Millbrook sold in Oc-

from October 1 to October 31, County Real Property Office monthly reports. Details on by Christine Bates, Real Estate Advisor with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in Connecticut and New York.

DUTCHESS COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Dutchess County Sheriff's Office Harlem Valley area activity report Dec. 11 to Dec. 17

Dec. 13 — Deputies responded to 3436 State Route 22 in Amenia for a fraud complaint. The caller reports sending over \$2,900 to pay for an apartment listed for rent on Craigslist. The caller later discovered that the listing was fraudulent. Matter currently under investigation.

Dec. 14 — Deputies responded to the Pawling substation to take a report of an

unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. An investigation was initiated which led to the arrest of Jivon A. Laguerre, age 32. Subject to appear in the Town of Pawling court at a

Dec. 14 — Deputies responded to Coulter Avenue in the Village of Pawling for a previous verbal domestic dispute between a man and a woman. The matter was resolved without further police intervention.

PLEASE NOTE: All sub-

jects arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in local courts

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office tip line at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or Email dcsotips@ gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.



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REAL ESTATE AROUND OUR WONDERFUL, AND BEAUTIFUL, TRI-STATE NEW ENGLAND CORNER REMAINS UNIQUE A LOCATION IN WHICH TO OWN PROPERTY AND ENJOY LIFE. KEEP AN EYE ON THIS WEEKLY SPACE, AND THE MONTHLY TRI-CORNER ADS, FOR PROPERTIES THAT THIS OFFICE WILL BE REPRESENTING THROUGHOUT 2026, SUCH AS: AREA RENTALS, LAND, VILLAGE, $FARMS,\ COUNTRY\ PROPERTIES,\ AND,\ SOME\ OTHER\ UNIQUE\ OFFERINGS.$

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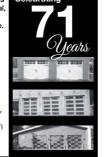


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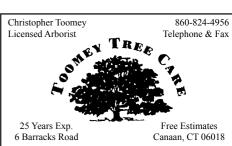




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