

The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

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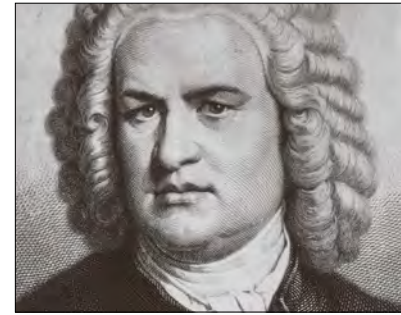
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PINE PLAINS
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Winners **A2**



AMENIA
Grads'
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Day **A3**



COMPASS
Bach As You've
Never Heard
Him; Calendar;
And More **B1-2**



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

The 2023 Troutbeck Symposium kicked off on Sunday, April 30 with an educators' session. Prof. Christina Proenza-Coles, University of Virginia, provided historical perspective on native populations and the rise and demise of slavery.

Second Troutbeck Symposium uncovers neglected history

By **LEILA HAWKEN**
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Seeking to build upon the legacy of commitment to inter-racial progress that underpins the significant history of the Troutbeck conference center in Amenia, the 2023 Troutbeck Symposium was held over three days, celebrating the year-long work of 14 local schools.

Students in area independent

and public schools had set out to explore the many aspects of the history of racial, religious and ethnic divides, the forgotten narrative of the marginalized. This was the second symposium following last year's event.

Over three days from Sunday, April 30 and Tuesday, May 2, the students' work was a focal point of the symposium that also pre-

See **TROUTBECK, PAGE A6**

Mobile health unit to fill gap in community needs

By **DEBORAH MAIER**
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — On Thursday, May 4, Dutchess County and local leaders gathered outside the North East Community Center (NECC) to view a brand-new addition to the county's much-needed services for rural and small-town dwellers: a 39-foot-long RV holding facilities for physical health needs on one end and mental health services on the other.

With a mandate to "expand access to public and behavioral health services and promote healthy lifestyles," the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) presented the RV, in the works since at least 2019.

New York State Assemblymember Didi Barrett said in a statement: "I am delighted that we are finally able to launch the new Mobile Health RV in Millerton today. Critical mental and behavioral health providers have been in short supply in the rural eastern and northern communities of Dutchess County."

Barrett secured the funding for the vehicle, which can be customized to a community's needs as it travels the county. Its exterior is equipped with a video monitor and awning for outreach and training opportunities. The funding for the vehicle came primarily through a \$250,000 New York State State & Municipal Facilities (SAM) Grant secured by Barrett.



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

From left: Stanford Town Supervisor Wendy Burton; North East Town Supervisor Chris Kennan; Dutchess County Legislature Chair Gregg Pulver; Amenia Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti; North East Community Center director Christine Sergent; NECC board chair Irene Banning; Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health and director of community services Jean Marie Niebuhr; Dutchess County Executive William F.X. O'Neil; Assemblymember Didi Barrett; Aileen Meehan, Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation community engagement officer for northeast Dutchess County; DBCH Assistant Commissioner Anthony Ruggiero; and Millerton Mayor Jenn Najdek at the launch of the Dutchess County Mobile Health RV on Thursday, May 4, in Millerton.

The remainder of the cost, \$150,000, was covered utilizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

As to the need for such a unit, following words by Millerton Mayor Jenn Najdek and North East Town Supervisor Chris Ken-

nan, NECC's Christine Sergent pointed out that as beloved as Millerton and the Town of North East are, in some respects, they are a desert for those residents with modest incomes. She noted espe-

See **MOBILE HEALTH, PAGE A6**

School board elections set for May 16

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
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DUTCHESS COUNTY — The three school districts of Millbrook, Pine Plains and North East-Webutuck will have voting on Tuesday, May 16, for special referendums and to fill school board member seats.

Millbrook Central School District (MCSD) has two incumbents who are running for reelection. They are the only two candidates.

The first is Howard Shapiro, who has been on the board for the past six years, three of which as vice president. When Shapiro first came on the

board, he used his skills as a retired state education investigator to review past school district contracts and uncovered \$100,000 in overcharges all of which was returned to the school district.

His goal continues to be that the students receive the best possible education: "We owe it to them to prepare them for tomorrow's world—their world—by giving them the skills necessary for them to be the best individuals they can be."

Chris Rosenbergen is finishing his first three-year term. He and his wife live in Pleasant Valley; their two daughters attend MCSD. Employed

in the financial field for 30 years, Rosenbergen has sat on the boards of United Way, the American Bankers Association and the Millbrook Education Foundation.

Rosenbergen said: "The students of Millbrook are truly amazing and deserve the best learning options, best safety available, a great support system and top-notch educators. While we look to get the best programs for our high honor students, we need to find better ways to raise up those who are struggling every day."

Pine Plains also has two incumb-

See **ELECTIONS, PAGE A6**



PHOTO BY CLAIRE GOODMAN

Responsible removal of refuse

The Town of North East held a Bulk Trash Day on Saturday, May 6, for residents of the town and the Village of Millerton at the town's old highway garage on S. Center Street. From left are Ron Watson, Catherine Shin, Henry Smedley, North East/Millerton Climate Smart Communities Task Force coordinator Kathy Chow, Millerton Mayor Jenn Najdek, North East Town Supervisor Chris Kennan, CSC member Andrew Stayman, Jennifer Dowley, and North East Highway Department superintendent Bob Stevens driving the excavator.



CONTACT

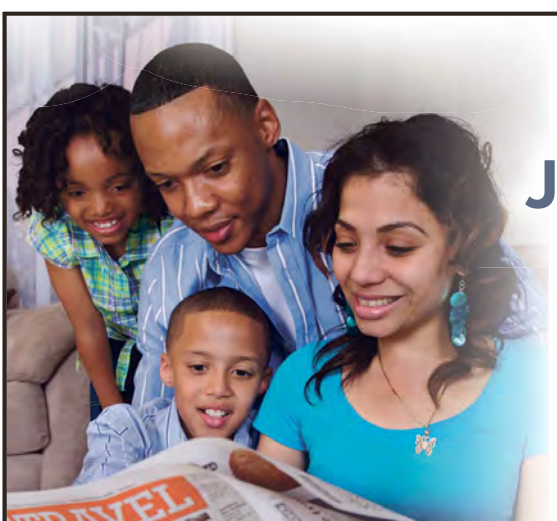
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OPINION

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY SARA VON BURG

Stissing Mountain High School's mock trial team after their win at the April 26 Dutchess County championship. From left: Ryan Orton, teacher and co-advisor; Brianna Blackburn; John Schoonmaker, teacher and co-advisor; Hailey Lamping; Milo Francavilla; Siena Millar; Michell Barron; Cam Decker; Andy Simons; Estrella Ruano; Max Heggenstaller; the Hon. Jonah Triebwasser, judge; Kelsey Atkinson; Jared Heggenstaller; Leandra Costa; Nick McPherson.

Stissing Mountain takes home Dutchess County mock trial championship

By ELIAS SORICH
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PINE PLAINS — At the Red Hook Town Justice Court on Wednesday, April 26, Stissing Mountain High School's mock trial team took home the county championship, competing against Beacon High School. Presiding over the case was Judge Jonah Triebwasser, Red Hook's town and village justice since 2007.

The trial was over a civil case involving libel (last year's case was a murder trial), which required in-depth knowledge of constitutional and case law. The responsibility of researching and developing the argument for the case was distributed across the 16 members of the mock trial team, with some performing roles as witnesses and some acting as attorneys on the actual day of the trial.

Cam Decker, a senior at Stissing Mountain who gave the opening statement for the prosecution, described mock trial as a great opportunity to practice public speaking, but that the case required a lot of preparation.

She received an outstanding attorney award for her work by Triebwasser, and indicated that the nuances of entering evidence was her favorite component of the case: "But I'd love to be able to impeach someone, that'd be really fun."

This year's victory was not Stissing Mountain's first—John Schoonmaker, one of Stissing Mountain's long-time junior/senior teachers, began the mock trial program in 2003. Since then, Stissing Mountain won at the county level seven times between 2006 and 2016, making the April 26 win the school's first title in seven years.

Co-advising the team with Schoonmaker was Ryan Orton, a social studies teacher at Stissing Mountain, as well as Sarah Jones, a retired attorney who has taught at New York University and Columbia University. Orton and Schoonmaker both credited Jones for preparing the students with courtroom know-how, working with them three days a week leading up to the championship.

Part of that involved helping the students learn how to go off-script. Though every trial involved arguing over the same case, who the Stissing Mountain team was up

against and who judged the case changed at every competition.

To Orton, this meant that the students had to be prepared to improvise and think on their feet. If the judge sustained an objection to a key argument in one of their prepared statements, the students would have to know how to make a real-time pivot.

"Unlike in sports, once the trial started, we weren't allowed to say a thing to the students. So if they were arguing a point well, we'd be thinking: 'Yes, they nailed that!' But if they got something wrong, we just had to sit there biting our nails," said Orton.

To both Orton and Schoonmaker, mock trial represents an opportunity for students to devote extracurricular effort to a competitive activity other than sports—one, that is, that exercises the muscles of the mind while also teaching problem-solving skills applicable to the real world.

As for what's next, normally, Stissing Mountain would next head to a regional competition, which could then lead to state championships. But with scheduling complications making it impossible this year, the team's regional ambitions will have to wait until next year.

Village to hold candidates' forum

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — Village residents interested in the Tuesday, June 20, election will have a chance to size up candidates on both Zoom and in person, as all those vying for mayoral and trustee positions will part in a forum at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex, 28 Century Blvd., on Wednesday, June 14, at 7 p.m.

All are invited to register

for the Zoom link or to submit questions in advance at the library at 75 Main St. or through nemillertonlibrary.org

Additional questions will be fielded live at the forum and through Zoom.

The written questions will be presented by the moderator and will not be shared with candidates in advance of the event.

Only village residents will be allowed to submit and ask questions and the names of

Town board appoints representative to work with housing board on grant

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — With a deadline approaching at which the town would need to respond to Dutchess County officials about whether the town's housing board will accept a grant to fund an affordable housing project, the Ameni Town Board voted at its workshop meeting on Thursday, May 4, to take a step toward that decision.

The town board voted 4-1 to name Councilman Brad Rebillard, a realtor, to work with the housing board and its chairman Charles Miller, perhaps meeting with the property's owner to determine how the grant's stipulations could best be met. Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti voted in the negative.

A decision on acceptance of the \$150,000 Community Development Block Grant needs to be sent to the county by Monday, May 15, Miller reported to the town board. He indicated that for the past 18 months he has been working to secure the Dutchess County grant to acquire property at 74 Lake Amenia Road and develop plans to see the property become the town's first unit of affordable housing. During that time, he has been speaking with the owner of the property.

The property's acreage and location give rise to the additional possibility of subdividing the parcel to allow for construction of a modern wastewater processing facility.

Stipulations enumerated within the grant award indicate that the grant is to be used to purchase a home to be

rented to a low- or moderate-income family. Those stipulations became the stumbling blocks to a town board decision about whether to accept the grant. First up is a need for a risk assessment in connection with any lead-based paint that might be present, or any asbestos in the home.

The grant would only be paid to the town if the stipulations are met. Most of the stipulations are relatively minor, Miller said, but the first step needs to be what is called a "risk assessment."

Miller asked that the town board approve his proceeding with the risk assessment and obtaining an estimate of costs for remediation if the offending materials were found. He emphasized that no costs would accrue to the town, as his housing board budget has sufficient funds to cover that item in the stipulations.

A spirited debate ensued defending the advantages of the property and affordable housing, countered by concerns about future costs and obligations, short-term and long-term fears.

"No one on the town board knows the cost of the property and no one knows the cost of the remediation," said Perotti, concerned also about lack of an indication of the property owner's interest in the subdivision idea.

Reminding the town board of the history of the project and grant application, Councilman Leo Blackman said, "We on the town board have approved pursuing the property."

Councilman Damien Gutierrez expressed a concern

that the home would be too close to the wastewater plant to make the location viable and sought more detail as to expected costs going forward through the project's phases.

Eventually, he was convinced to allow for Rebillard's involvement, while also urging that as the project proceeds, public hearings should be an important part of that process to allow residents to have greater visibility on each step.

If the grant is accepted on behalf of the housing board, the existing home would be rehabilitated for use as the town's first rental unit of affordable housing. The house stands on a parcel of land that would have sufficient acreage to allow for the subdivision of the land to locate a wastewater treatment building on the property.

"The town understands that there are question marks," said Councilwoman Vicki Doyle. "It's clear that this is not an easy project. This home and parcel are affordable and located in the right place," she added.

"You are only asked to accept the contingency list to retain the grant award. We are not committing the town to any expenditure," Miller said. "If you approve this, the housing board will be able to go out and seek estimates to accomplish a required assessment of lead paint and asbestos," he explained.

There seemed to be general agreement that a representative from the town board should be authorized to work with the housing board, and Rebillard has agreed to serve.

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Baked ham dinner available for takeout at Stanford Grange May 20

STANFORDVILLE — Stanford Grange No. 808 will hold a takeout baked ham dinner on Saturday, May 20 at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82. The menu will consist of baked ham, cheesy

scalloped potatoes, broccoli, a dinner roll, and homemade 7 Up cake for dessert.

There is a \$17 donation per dinner. Participants are asked to drive to the back door of the Grange Hall, pay for din-

ner, get their food through their car windows, and take it home. Reservations are required. For more information or to make a reservation, call Grange secretary Ryan Orton at 845-868-7869.

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OUR TOWNS



PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left: Duncan Ladalaus, Apani Rowe and Cadance Shufelt are among the 41 high school seniors who will be graduating next month from Webutuck High School. On Friday, May 5, they gathered for a cookout lunch with other students and staff at the school to celebrate the choices they made on National Decision Day, which was May 1.



From left: counselor Vincent Merendino, student Matthew Mangione and counselor Darlene McLaughlin enjoyed the Decision Day luncheon and conversation on Friday, May 5, at Webutuck High School. Mangione will be going into the U.S. Air Force following next month's graduation.

Celebrating graduation decisions at Webutuck High School

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — With graduation for area high schools just around the corner, many celebrations are beginning to take place. On Friday, May 5, the senior graduating class of Webutuck High School had a celebratory cookout luncheon in the courtyard of their school, a follow-up to celebrate National College Decision Day, which was on Monday, May 1.

Not everyone wants to or needs to go to college, but that doesn't mean they don't all have to plan for the future. Talking to some of the

seniors, found that many of them know exactly what they want to do, and many have already taken steps to secure that future.

The number of different colleges these young adults will be attending ranges from Dutchess Community College to Hawaii Pacific University, Western New England University, Florida State University and others near and far.

Some who are not opting for college have also made plans; one enterprising young man will be starting his own landscaping service right after graduation. Of course, he's been working at it for a while, and by now, has lots of experience. Another young man has

been taking welding courses at BOCES, and will be working in that field, something he loves.

The Webutuck students have gotten lots of guidance from their counselors, and even went on a college tour with them in the Syracuse area to get a taste of the college life, visiting SUNY Polytechnic Institute and Le Moyne College. They've had lots of discussions on whether college is the right choice, and they were prompted to do research on colleges as well as the fields of work that interest them.

Some of the graduates are going into medicine, architecture, dental health and cosmetology. A few have decided on

teaching, social work, welding, landscaping, para-rescue in the armed forces, and a couple are considering going into counseling. Many are going to four-year colleges; others are planning on attending two-year colleges.

These graduates spent most of their high school years dealing with COVID-19, doing work remotely and not having the social interaction with their peers that most enjoy in those years. Some of them never got to play the sports they loved, or had to play catch-up after schools reopened, but the counselors and the students know they missed out on a lot.

Darlene McLaughlin, who

is a guidance counselor for grades K-12, noted that in small communities, the students are close because the schools are small: "They did life together. COVID changed that." But, she said, "These are really good people, they support each other, and I will really miss them!"

Fellow guidance counselor Vincent Merendino sees the aftermath of COVID as more of a rebirth and was very positive about the students who are graduating, noting that this day of celebration was well-earned, and that it was great for the staff and the students to celebrate together.

Robert Knuschke is finishing his first year as Webutuck High School principal, and was elated with how the year went. He is already looking forward to next year, saying that the school has been working on introducing new curriculum, possibly giving credit for work experience, and adding courses such as environmental science and

strength and conditioning. Originally from Red Hook, Knuschke lived in the South for many years, but is happy to be back and in the Webutuck school system. He's worked as a teacher and in administration, but loves working more closely with students.

Also on hand was Dan Pietrafesa, the public affairs officer for BOCES, who is at Webutuck three days per week. He loves the "smallness" of the district, and likes working with a small community, both students and staff. He noted that he went to Arlington High School, which was huge, and he always felt he missed out on something, which he thinks smaller districts like Webutuck can provide to students.

The celebration was fun, the food was good, everyone is looking toward the future: When young people are doing well, what more can you ask for? Maybe good weather on graduation, and a happy future for all the 2023 grads.

Words, artifacts reflect nature at eco event

By DEBORAH MAIER
Special to The Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — On a perfect Saturday, May 6, after what seemed like a month of rain, a Schaghticoke Sachem, or chief, engaged children and adults alike in thinking about the environment as a whole by means of gentle but persistent questioning about specifics.

In a gathering on the lawn of the Graham-Brush House just behind Rosey's, Sachem

Hawk Storm led children to learn a few words of the Indigenous group's language by means of words painted on stones by a local artist, hidden then found during a scavenger hunt. The event was sponsored by the Little Nine Partners Historical Society.

Storm focused on biodiversity and how to achieve it along with a healthy society by tending to the exact needs of the seven layers of the liv-

ing forest ecosystem, from the canopy to the roots, while thinking of food at the same time. "In the last two years," he said, "we've planted 3,000 trees in our 72-acre forest," many of which bear nuts or fruit.

"We are relatives," he re-

minded all, when the child with the "Atchwechteed" stone raised her hand; and in a moment of serendipity, "living water," P'mawoso` Mbei, was the word painted on the stone held by a child whose middle name happened to be River.



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH MAIER

In one room of the 1776 (determined by dendrochronology assessment) Graham-Brush House, members of the Schaghticoke nation and Little Nine Partners Historical Society leaders enjoy a favorite word as coached by the chief. Left to right: Shukuvena Yawanawa, his mother Nawashahu Yawanawa-Bergin; LNPHS' Valerie LaRobardier and Dyan Wapnick; and Sachem Hawk Storm.



Anne Simmons, standing, offers prompts and suggestions as her granddaughters and other children try to identify the meanings of words and symbols on painted rocks they had collected. Sachem Hawk Storm kneels in front of a table laden with cultural and ecological artifacts.

South Amenia Church to hold takeout roast beef dinner

WASSAIC — On Saturday, May 20, the South Amenia Church will hold a takeout roast beef dinner from 3 to 5 p.m. at the parish hall, 229 South Amenia Road.

On the menu will be charcoal-roasted beef, mixed green salad, rolls, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and homemade desserts.

The cost is \$16 per meal. Reservations are requested; to make them, call 845-789-1206 or 845-877-3939.

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OBITUARIES

Brent Prindle

SHARON — Brent Prindle died peacefully Saturday morning, May 6, 2023, surrounded by family at UConn John Dempsey Hospital in Farmington after a long battle with bladder cancer. He was a month shy of his 83rd birthday. A lifelong, fourth-generation Sharon resident, Brent attended Sharon Center School and Oliver Wolcott High School and was deeply rooted in the community both as a tradesman and active volunteer.



ery was both a Grange and family affair, until Brent determined the fence wood was shot. He replaced the picket fence with a handsome faux-wrought iron post and chain fence that stands today. He also was the caretaker for small cemeteries on East Street and Tichnor Road.

Brent's wife of nearly 60 years, Barbara, asked him shortly before he passed what he loved most. "It made me happy and gave me a lot of pleasure in my life to help my family and friends," he said.

Brent's first job after graduating from high school was at the Berkshire Transformer Co., a now-defunct electronics design and manufacturing firm in Kent, where he worked for 20 years, many of those as manufacturing manager.

He then joined Cornwall Electric where he worked for another 20 years, eventually buying the business, which he ran with Barbara. Brent used to say that he knew the inside of most homes in Sharon and that was surely the truth.

He developed an expertise in electronics and most things mechanical. He loved to take things apart — cars, lawn mowers, and anything electronic — to see how they worked and was skilled enough to put them back together, restored to working order. An early computer geek, Brent could write code and also solder together the components of a motherboard in the earliest days of computers.

"He had a computer before there were computers," Barbara said.

Brent loved his family, NASCAR, gardening, and the Taghannock Grange, which he joined at age 14. He was instrumental in maintaining the historic Grange Hall on Dunbar Road in Ellsworth while also attracting new members to keep the agrarian organization thriving even as the number of local resident family farmers began to dwindle. He ran the Grange's annual plant sale, a welcoming presence in a big straw hat who knew everything about each plant on offer. He loved working in his own vegetable garden — a love he inherited from his mother, Kay, who was passionate about organic gardening decades before that became a thing. Brent loved to cook and would run workshops at the Grange on how to can vegetables and make jams and jellies from the berries and quinces he would pick in the woods and along roadsides. His borscht was delicious.

As a member of the volunteer Sharon Fire Department, in 1968 he helped build the Ellsworth Fire Station which adjoins the Grange Hall. He also drove the Sharon Ambulance while volunteering for the Fire Department. Brent served as assistant leader of Sharon's Boy Scout troop as a young man, but then had the great fortune to have three daughters. He switched and led Sharon's Girl Scout troop. He began tending the Ellsworth Cemetery 50 years ago, taking over the job from Ralph Dunbar. The painting of the white picket fence that used to surround the cem-

Brent was a long-time elected member of the Sharon Board of Assessment Appeals and could often be seen at meetings of other town boards and commissions, both as a knowledgeable resident able to offer advice and also to video meetings for viewing on the local public-access television and website. He was a founding volunteer in 2019 of the Sharon Connect Task Force, which is working to ensure all Sharon residents have access to high-speed internet at their homes. Brent used his knowledge of the town's utility grid to map out where in town there was no access to high-speed internet and he was key in helping assess various plans being considered for how to wire the most unserved homes at the least expense to the town.

A steadfastly practical man, Brent even assured Barbara that his purchase of a 1972 Dino Ferrari for about \$20,000 — the same amount as they spent to build their house — would be a good investment. The man knew sportscars. He initially courted Barbara by driving back and forth from Sharon to her college in Long Island in a two-seater Austin-Healy. He ended up owning five different Opel GTs and even had a Model A, though that classic wasn't a sports car. He was practical, yes, and only drove the Ferrari on special occasions, but he did learn to race the "investment" at Skip Barber Racing School at Lime Rock Park.

Brent loved his family and stayed close. He and Barbara, who married on July 4, 1963, and therefore got to celebrate every anniversary with fireworks at Lime Rock Park, purchased land from his mother and built their house next door to her.

He had a generous heart and was always willing to share his knowledge to help others. Indeed, after surviving his first bout of bladder cancer, he and Barbara began running a support group for other cancer patients at UConn hospital, holding meetings one Saturday a month. The groups continued for 10 years, until Covid hit. Brent spent his last days at UConn hospital in hospice care and his family wishes to thank the doctors, nurses, and staff there for their exceptional care and kindness.

Brent was pre-deceased by his parents, Stuart and Kay Prindle, and his daughter Michele Prindle Eykelhoff. He is survived by his wife Barbara; his daughter Wendy Prindle Grillo and son-in-law Scott Grillo; his daughter Debbie Prindle Hanlon and fiancée Mike Taylor; his son-in-law Thomas Eykelhoff; his brothers Dale, Barc, and Warren; his sister Pam Barlowe (Prindle); and his grandkids Charissa, Mariah, Anna, Thomas, Kat, and Allie.

There will be celebration of life at a future date. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to Taghannock Grange, mailing address at 468 Cornwall Bridge Road, Sharon, CT 06069.

Caroline Killam Moller

LAKEVILLE — Caroline Killam Moller, age 85, passed away peacefully on Jan. 7, 2023, at her home in Lakeville.



Caroline was born on Oct. 4, 1937, in New Haven, to Charles Loomis and Cornelia (Hemingway) Killam.

Caroline and her family resided on her family's farm, Killshire Farm, in Wallingford, from 1935 to 1958.

Mrs. Moller graduated from Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford in 1955. And, from Lasell College in Auburndale, Massachusetts, in 1957.

On April 23, 1960, she married the late Henry Gerdes Moller.

Caroline and Henry resided in New Canaan until their move to Weston, in 1962 where they raised their family.

In 1988, Caroline and Henry relocated to Lakeville.

Caroline is survived by her son, Kurt Moller, his wife Erin, and their three children, Duncan, Peter and Abigail Moller, and daughter Kris Henley, as well as her two children, Olivia and Victoria Henley.

She is also survived by her sister Elizabeth Silvert of Kalispell, Montana.

Caroline is predeceased by her husband, Henry, and her three brothers, Mallory, Charles, Jr. and Luther Killam.

Throughout her 35 years in Lakeville, Caroline devoted countless hours to volunteering in the Lakeville/Salisbury community she so dearly loved.

She was also passionate about the natural world; she welcomed the changes of seasons and adored the animals, trees and wildflowers that called her property home.

She is dearly missed by her family and friends.

Frederick L. Cadman II

LAKEVILLE — Frederick L. Cadman II passed away



on May 5, 2023, at Hartford Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. Born May 30, 1959, in New Rochelle, New York, he was the son of the late Carolyn Scoville (Fisher) Cadman and Samuel Parkes Cadman II. Fred grew up in Pelham, New York. He is predeceased by his parents and his beloved sister, Cheryl Cadman Evans.

He earned his A.B. in History from the University of Connecticut in 1981, his J.D. from Suffolk Law in 1984, and his M.L.T. from Georgetown Law in 1985. After working briefly for a taxation and accounting firm in Boston, Fred returned to Connecticut in November 1989 and started his own law practice on Russ Street in Hartford. Later he moved his office to Farmington Avenue in West Hartford. He ran a general law practice for thirty-three years, specializing in taxation, workers' compensation and personal injury, estate planning and administration, real estate, and business formation. Fred believed in the importance of making legal services accessible and being kind to others. This was reflected in his advocacy on behalf of a wide range of clients throughout the greater Hartford area and in the Northwest Corner.

Fred took great pride in his family. He and his wife, Mary, met at UConn and had triplets, Sam, Emily, and Frank, whom they raised in Lakeville. They share many fond memories, including

time spent swimming at the Grove in Lakeville, fishing, playing basketball and baseball, and watching the New York Mets. He was an avid reader, plant enthusiast, and dog lover.

His constant love, support, and sense of humor will be sorely missed by his family and friends.

Fred is survived by his wife, Mary H. Cadman; his children, Samuel P. Cadman III, Emily E. Cadman and Francis H. Cadman; his son-in-law Evan W. Dorney and daughter-in-law Trang Nguyen; his brother Anthony B. Cadman and Kathryn P. Cadman; his brother-in-law B. Daniel Evans; his nephew William F. Evans, Caitlin B. Evans, and their son Jack F. Evans; his brothers and sisters-in-law, Elizabeth and John Smith, Susan and Mark Carrier, Anne Healey, Joan Healey, Frank T. Healey III and Beth B. Healey, Martha and Charles Holden, Barbara and Michael Plummer, and Kathryn Healey; his dog Duke; and many more nieces, nephews, and friends, in whose lives he enjoyed sharing.

A gathering in celebration of his life will be held on Sunday, June 11, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Lakeville town Grove. His burial will be private, at his request.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Fred's name to a food pantry or animal shelter of the donor's choosing or to the Little Guild in West Cornwall, CT.

The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Email obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

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James G. Sager

CORNWALL BRIDGE — James Gerald Sager, "Jimmy," left us peacefully on the morning of Feb. 9, 2023, after a decades-long struggle with Ataxia. He was the son of Donald and Mary Sager of Cornwall Bridge, born Oct. 4, 1963.



He had a happy childhood surrounded by nature. His days at Cornwall Consolidated School were good memories. Jim graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 1981. He enjoyed being on the wrestling team. After a brief stint in the Army, he settled in Cornwall Bridge, where he went on to work for several local businesses.

He met his lifetime partner, Peter Hartz, in 1987. They moved to Keene, N.H., where together they renovated their Victorian home. Jim's working life ended in 1995, when the effects of Ataxia became

disabling. Still, he and Peter enjoyed many friends and travels, especially going to Ogunquit, Maine, every summer.

Jim leaves behind his partner of 35 years, Peter; his daughter, Stephanie Seward; and grandsons Cole, Carter and Collyn

Fendley of Norfolk; his brother, Paul, of Winsted, brothers Donald and Mark, and sister Donna Sitter of Torrington; also many aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his parents and his sisters, Christine and Carol.

Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon is entrusted with the arrangements. Friends are invited to join his family at a celebration of life on Saturday, June 3, at noon at Irondale Cemetery in Millerton, N.Y. Flowers and memorial donations are welcome.



Worship Services

Week of May 14, 2023

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

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.
30 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Whoever you are, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!
Online worship, Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
www.salisburyucc.org
Sharing God's shalom: Wholeness, harmony, justice, and joy!
(860) 435-2442

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
9 South Main, Sharon CT
Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 A.M.
Transitioning through prayer
All welcome to join us
860-364-5260
www.christchurchsharon.org

St. John's Episcopal Church
12 Main Street, Salisbury, CT
Rev. Paul Christopherson
SUNDAY SERVICE
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)
In-Person and on You-Tube
www.stjohnssalisbury.org
860-435-9290

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
40 Leedsville Road
Amenia Union, NY
SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30
IN-PERSON AND ONLINE
Visit our website for links
Rev. AJ Stack
845-373-9161
www.stthomasamenia.com
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860-824-7232
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is at Pilgrim House, 30 Granite Ave., Canaan
Tuesday 4-6 pm & Thursday 12-2 pm
www.fishesandloavesnorthcanaan.org

Trinity Episcopal Church
484 Lime Rock Rd. Lakeville
Offering companionship along the Way
Sundays at 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Sunday School at 9 a.m.
Livestream at 10:30 found at www.trinitylimerock.org
Misa en español a las 4 de la tarde el último domingo de mes
The Revs. Heidi Truax & Felix Rivera
trinity@trinitylimerock.org
(860) 435-2627

The Lakeville United Methodist Church
319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
Pastor Joy Veronesi
860-435-9496
Lakevilleumethodist@snet.net

Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons
The next meeting will be Sunday, May 14 at 10:30 a.m.
Apology - A Possible Access to Belonging
For information, contact Jo Loi at jokilaol@gmail.com
All are Welcome

The Sharon United Methodist Church
112 Upper Main Street, North End of Sharon Green
Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits
10 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care
No Sunday School in Summer
Pastor Sun Yong Lee
860-364-5634
sharonumc5634@att.net

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St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville
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Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church
Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE
Wednesday 6pm
St. Joseph Chapel or Church
Thursday 8am
Immaculate Conception Church
Friday 8am
Church of St. Mary
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Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M.
Lenten Services online
Rev. John Kreta
860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us

The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall
Join our intimate Episcopal service via Zoom Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mngates125@gmail.com
or from an invitation to the Zoom service
If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.

OUR TOWNS

Recent property sales in the town of Pine Plains

The Millerton News will periodically publish a listing of residential real estate sales in eastern Dutchess County towns. Below is a listing of residential real estate sales in the Town of Pine Plains closed in March and April of this year. The median price of these sold properties is \$345,000, well below the median sales closed price in all of Dutchess county of \$375,000 in March.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

This home on a small lot at 3018 Church St. built in 1875 in the center of Pine Plains was purchased for \$75,000 in July 2020, renovated and sold for \$315,000 in March of this year.

- 546 Carpenter Hill Road for \$350,000, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, sold on March 16
- 6 Sheldon Drive for \$360,000, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, sold on March 24
- 144 N. Main St. for \$140,000, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, sold on March 24
- 3018 Church St. for \$315,000, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, sold on March 24
- 6 Sheldon Drive for \$360,000, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, sold on March 24
- 10 Woodside for \$345,000, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, sold on April 3
- 17 Fairview for \$345,000, 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, sold on April 17
- 138 Ryan Road for \$195,000, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, sold on April 21

from Mid-Hudson MLS and Dutchess Parcel Access. Bates, Real Estate Salesperson with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.

Compiled by Christine

The MILLERTON NEWS
www.facebook.com/themillertonnews



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Sophia Zhou, director of chamber music at the Stissing Center in Pine Plains, paused for a photo following her piano concert at the Smithfield Church in Amenia on Saturday, May 6, part of the Bang Family Concert Series.

Bang Family Concert Series draws a crowd to hear Sophia Zhou

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — The chance to hear a world-class performance of piano repertoire at the acclaimed hands of Sophia Zhou brought an enthusiastic audience to the Smithfield Church on Saturday, May 6. The concert was part of the Bang Family Concert series at the church, inviting renowned performers to share their talents in an historic space offering perfect acoustics and even an original 19th-century whale oil chandelier hanging above. The historic setting was perfect, as was the performance, and even the weather. “You don’t have to go to Carnegie Hall to hear fabulous music; we have it right here,” said Smithfield pastor Douglas Grandgeorge, welcoming the audience.

closer to the heart and home. Her Stissing work strives to bring world-class music to the community and to promote young, talented performers who are always in search of a place to showcase, Zhou said during an interview following the concert. “I am hoping to bring greater opportunity to enjoy chamber music in the area,” Zhou said. Praising the Smithfield audience, Zhou described the audience as “highly supportive.” “The beauty of live performance,” she added, “is that it is visceral, immediate.” Zhou said that Sunday’s concert was to be the first time she had played the chosen compositions in public. She would play the works of W.A. Mozart, John Field, Alexander Scriabin (his nocturne for solo left hand when he had injured his right), and Robert Schumann. “These are all pieces I like anyway,” Zhou said, singling out Mozart for his “mish-

mash” of styles. And nocturnes have lots of arpeggios, she added. “I liked the concert very much,” said Kristen Pettersson of Montclair, New Jersey, during the post-concert reception. “I came all the way up here just for this,” she said, although she is toying with the idea of spending more time in the local scene. Susan Bang, whose family initiated and sustains the concert series, spoke of Zhou’s “delicate yet powerful” performance accompanied by commentary about each piece. She termed it “an enduring musical memory.” “We hope for an encore performance some day soon,” Bang said. Coming next on the Bang Concert Series calendar is the Smithfield Chamber Orchestra on Saturday, May 27, beginning at 4 p.m. For more information about what’s coming up in the series, go to www.thsmithfieldchurch.org

SHERIFF’S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff’s Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for April 27-May 3.

April 28 — Deputies responded to 527 Mill St. in the Village of Millerton for a reported Order of Protection violation. Suspect was not on scene at time of patrol’s arrival. Investigation continuing.

April 29 — Deputies responded to the New York State Police Barracks in Dover to take custody of Perez R. Ignacio (age 23) who was wanted on an outstanding bench warrant issued for his arrest by the Town of Amenia Court. Ignacio was transported to Amenia Court for arraignment where he was arraigned in released with a notice to appear at a later date in Amenia Court.

April 29 — Deputies arrested Fadila L. Ouhenia (age 50) in the Town of Amenia for issuing a bad check. Ouhenia issued an appearance ticket to appear in the Town of Amenia Court at a later date.

April 29 — Deputies responded to N. Maple Ave. in North East for a brother/brother verbal domestic. Matter resolved without further police intervention.

April 30 — Deputies responded to Church Street in the Town of Pine Plains for an anonymous report of possible animal fighting based on animal noises heard coming from a garage on the property. Investigation revealed subjects practicing turkey calls for the upcoming turkey hunting season.

May 2 — Deputies responded to Morse Hill Road in the Town of North East

Chicken BBQ drive-through at Amenia Fire Co. May 13

AMENIA — The Amenia Fire Company will hold a takeout-only chicken barbecue on Saturday, May 13, at the Amenia firehouse, 36 Mechanic St. Each meal will include barbecued chicken, coleslaw,

for a report of 13 cows in the caller’s yard. Deputies located the owner of the cows who then rectified the matter.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned 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.

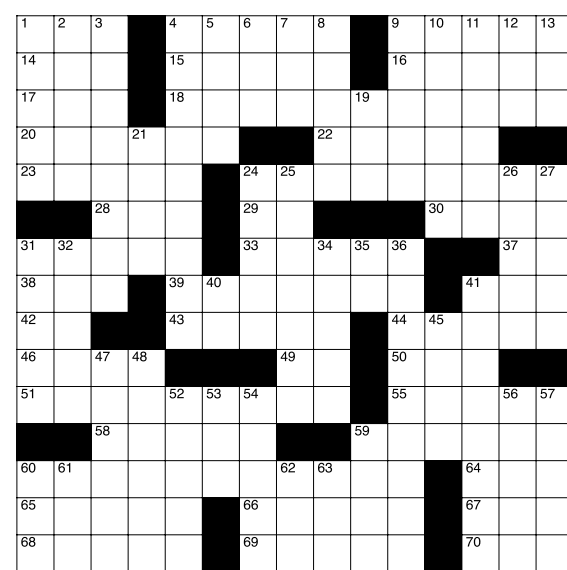
All persons arrested and charged are alleged to have committed the crime and are presumed innocent until proven guilty and are to appear in local courts later.

baked beans, a cookie, and water. Dinners will be ready for pick-up in a drive-through style between 3 and 6 p.m. Tickets are \$16 each and available by reservation only by calling 845-418-8633.

Brain Teasers

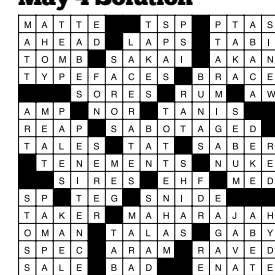
CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Midway between south and southeast
- 4. Fathers
- 9. Wine grape
- 14. Al Bundy’s wife
- 15. Organic compound
- 16. Venezuelan state
- 17. Interest term
- 18. Experts
- 20. Central cores of stems
- 22. Smooth and glossy
- 23. One-time S. Korean city
- 24. One from Damascus
- 28. Short message at the end of an email
- 29. It cools your home
- 30. Oh, God!
- 31. Intestinal pouches
- 33. Men
- 37. Popular English soccer team (abbr.)
- 38. Former CIA
- 39. Arrange in steps
- 41. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
- 42. The Great Lake State
- 43. Dog-_: to mark a page
- 44. Stop moving
- 46. Ancient Dead Sea region
- 49. Of I
- 50. Clerical vestment
- 51. Songs sung to a lover
- 55. Charges
- 58. Popular design program manufacturer
- 59. Where to park a boat
- 60. One who values reason
- 64. Slang for cigarette
- 65. Sailboats
- 66. Actress Zellweger
- 67. Screen material
- 68. Country music legend Haggard
- 69. Puts together in time
- 70. When you hope to arrive



- 10. For each one
- 11. A bog
- 12. The creation of beautiful or significant things
- 13. Affirmative
- 19. Pie ___ mode
- 21. Nonclerical
- 24. Inspirational football player Hamlin
- 25. Learning environment
- 26. Khoikhoi peoples
- 27. Bring out or develop
- 31. Shows up
- 32. Theatrical device
- 34. Loads
- 35. Popular Hollywood alien
- 36. Distinguishes
- 40. College dorm worker
- 41. Secondary or explanatory title
- 45. Resembling wings
- 47. One who delivers a speech
- 48. In the middle
- 52. Loop with a running knot
- 53. Airborne (abbr.)
- 54. Beloveds
- 56. Ordain
- 57. Breed of small cattle
- 59. Very small period of time (abbr.)
- 60. Revolutions per minute
- 61. They ___
- 62. Longtime ESPN anchor Bob
- 63. A place to stay

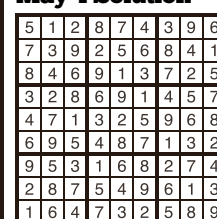
May 4 Solution



Sudoku



May 4 Solution



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TROUTBECK *Continued from Page A1*

sented lectures by renowned educators who explored the well-known, little-known and forgotten narratives of the American experience for Black citizens, Native Americans and other minority populations.

Troutbeck's early owners, Amy and Joel Spingarn, had engaged with and supported the early history of the NAACP, when their estate had hosted the Amenia Conferences of 1916 and 1933, establishing the enduring legacy of social reform.

"I'm trying to learn this history along with my students," said Rhonan Mokriski, history teacher at Salisbury School at the opening session on Sunday, April 30, adding that he and his students are engaging with themes of accessibility and sustainability, amplifying the stories of all people who contributed to the building of our country.

"Why do we still have these inequalities," asked Christina Proenza-Coles of the University of Virginia, speaking at the Sunday opening. "We are trying to retell the narrative of American history to illustrate the best of our ideals."

Helping to establish context and a definition of place, Proenza-Coles provided an



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Students and faculty delegations representing 14 area public and independent schools assembled on Monday, May 1, at the 2023 Troutbeck Symposium in Amenia.

outline of the centuries of the history of the Western Hemisphere and its substantial population of Indigenous peoples, nations and tribes. She also covered the influx of the Spaniards and their influence on the Caribbean culture, the migration of Africans to South America and the history of slavery in North America.

Many of the early western cowboys were Black or Hispanic, she noted.

How people over history strive for and achieve their freedom was a focus of the narrative, Proenza-Coles said.

"White people are trapped in a history they don't com-

prehend," she said, suggesting that people reach toward the freedom achieved by knowing more, paying attention to the detail afforded by historical reality.

A feature of the Sunday session was "Cotton," a documentary created by Sharon Center School students to tell the story of local artist Katro Storm's guest teaching at their school about cotton as a plant, cotton as a crop, and the relationship between cotton and slavery in the history of the southern states. He also guided the young students in interpreting that history in individual art projects.

"This work is not academic; it's the work of recovery," Mokriski told the audience. "Students sought the ignored stories seeking a more open story, a new vision of history," he added.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was not the end result, Mokriski said, explaining that there was then an obsession with the idea of racial integration, the idea that proximity to white people was the overarching goal. It was not, he said. The goal was equal treatment and the rights afforded by freedom, a struggle that continues to the present day.

"We will be looking to you," Mokriski told the students. "Take this project experience and reimagine your space and you will see that it shapes the trajectory of our nation."

Student-produced documentaries were part of the "Coloring our Past" project initiated through The Salisbury School and now extended to all 14 of the participating schools. Topics explored local stories linked to Black and Indigenous narratives where students interacted with local and area historical societies to uncover fragmentary evidence and do the detective work to piece those puzzles together, shaping the stories of courage and commitment.

A highlight of the symposium was the participation of Prof. Hasan Kwame Jeffries of The Ohio State University who offered his thoughts on each of the schools' presentations.

Jeffries said, "We need to teach the true history of the past. It has to be taught across the curriculum. People need to study the place of activists and their positive effect over time."

One documentary produced by Housatonic Valley Regional High School students had explored the local connection to the 1958 state action to close schools in Little Rock, Arkansas, rather than to integrate them, leading two Black students to be invited into a Lakeville home and welcomed into HVRHS to continue their high school years and graduate.

On Monday, May 1, students from The Salisbury School presented the story of "someone who was meant to be forgotten." The story of

Rachel Cesar, an Algonquian sachem needed to be told, but it was made difficult by "the elusiveness of the lost detail of the historical narrative." A sachem was a high-ranking representative, a king, elected by the tribe rather than by inheritance or appointment.

In a departure from the documentary genre, the young students from Cornwall Consolidated School had chosen to create a "Crankie Theater," telling their story of Cornwall's Foreign Mission School using a scroll powered by a hand crank. It proved to be a crowd favorite.

Both guest educators offered high praise for the Troutbeck Symposium. Proenza-Coles proclaimed it to be the best symposium she had ever attended in her entire career of attending innumerable symposia, and Prof. Jeffries said that he intended to brief his brother, House Minority Leader Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-N.Y.), on the whole Troutbeck Symposium experience.

"It's an example of what can happen when a community gets behind and supports its teachers," Jeffries said. "This is a model of possibility," he added.

Region One Superintendent Lisa Carter spoke on Tuesday, May 2, praising the project.

"This symposium is really important, where all area students can come together as a community," Carter said.

A selection of projects from the symposium will be on display in Salisbury Association's Academy Building from May 6 to June 3. Representing the Salisbury Association at the symposium was Executive Assistant Lou Bucceri.

ELECTIONS *Continued from Page A1*

bents running for their seats. Heidi Johnson is running for her fourth term on the board. She has lived in Stanfordville for 30 years, and both her children attended Pine Plains schools from kindergarten through 12th grade.

"I am running for reelection because I feel that strong Board of Education leadership is vital to the health of our community," said Johnson. "We have been very successful at raising the academic success of Pine Plains school district in the nine years I have been on the board, and I believe that we if we continue with the same membership, we will continue to maintain our goal of excellence in education."

James Griffin, an IT networking and security professional with over 30 years in the trade, is also finishing his third term. Living in Stanfordville with his wife, a Pine Plains teacher, they have three children in the district.

"Our students are well served by this district," said Griffin. "We have kids who make regional music conferences, state championships and receive high honors, but tucked here in the northern corner of Dutchess and the southern portion of Columbia, we're seeing our kids have opportunities removed."

"Recently, Dutchess County Community College has started charging for dual enrollment classes. These are classes taught in our school, by our teachers during our school day, paid for by Pine Plains taxpayers. The students of these classes are going to be required to pay per credit to where a class will cost approximately \$300. I believe this will just widen the equity gap where the haves get to go, and kids whose parents may not be able to comfortably pay these fees will not."

The North East-Webutuck Central School District has four seats with three incumbents running for reelection, one of whom is finishing serving a term for another person and will be running herself for the first time, and one person who is also running for the first time.

Board President Judy Moran is running for another term because she feels that the board has been a good



Chris Rosenbergen



Howard Shapiro



Aimee Wesley

team and made great strides in the past. She also feels that the current superintendent is good at his job, that there are some fine teachers, and that the administrative staff and the union are in a good place.

Moran said that fresh blood is good, but experience is also invaluable. "I feel that we're accomplishing something good," she said, and hopes to keep doing it in the future.

Richard Keller-Coffey is vice president of the board, running for his fourth term. He is a retired teacher with over 30 years' experience. He currently works out of Poughkeepsie fighting against child abuse.

He's lived in the school district for more than 10 years. "It's a team effort," he said, and is proud of the fact that the board has kept tax increase at little or none by using Silo Ridge and COVID-19 funding.

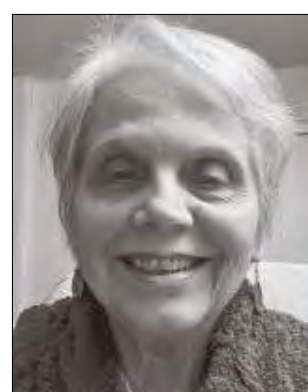
Aimee Wesley was asked to fill in for a board member mid-term; this is her first time running for a seat. She has three children attending



Richard Keller-Coffey

school in the district, having lived in Amenia for 12 years. She has been an elementary school teacher for more than 20 years in Dover, possessing a Bachelor of Arts in language arts and a Master of Science in curriculum. Being a teacher and knowing how the system works is something she feels can be put to good use as a board member.

Jerry Heiser is new to the school board candidacy, but not new to the school system. He retired as head of the school's transportation sys-



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Judy Moran

tem after working there for more than 19 years. He feels that he still has more to offer after all those years, and wants to help get the students what they need. He thinks the way to do that is through building bridges.

Voting will take place on Tuesday, May 16, from noon to 9 p.m. at the Millbrook Middle School auditorium; from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School; and noon-9 p.m. in the Eugene Brooks Intermediate School gym.

MOBILE HEALTH *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Dori Bischof, FNP, BC, shows the mobile health RV's pop-up screen to be used for educational displays and videos.

cially food shopping, child care, transportation, health care and mental health. The latter two, she said, will be significantly improved by the presence of the new RV.

In her remarks, Barrett acknowledged the importance of the NECC, saying, "That one organization does the work of ten," citing its work with child care, after-school and teen programs, and the food pantry it maintains. Indeed, Sergeant had cited the staggering figure of 19,000 meals the pantry had provided in just the month of January 2023, and gratitude that NECC will now be even better able to assist local

residents.

The mobile health unit will be a welcome sight at local events per requests from those localities. Some upcoming events include Apple Blossom Day in Red Hook on Saturday, May 13; Dutchess Outreach Farmstand events; Dutchess County Office for the Aging summer picnics; and ThinkDIFFERENTLY Fitness and Field Day.

The county invites those interested in scheduling the Mobile Health & Wellness RV at their organization or local event to contact DBCH's Trish Munk by phone at 845-486-3559 or by email at pmunk@dutchessny.gov

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment



PHOTO COLLAGE BY ALEXANDER WILBURN/ PHOTO HULTON ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES VIA WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

THEATER: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Bach As You've Never Heard Him

While the casual classical music fan may easily list off “The Brandenburg Concertos” or “The Goldberg Variations,” the best of the Baroque era’s orchestral compositions, even the ardent will readily admit there is little we know about their author, the prolific and devout Johann Sebastian Bach. The man behind the music eludes us, especially compared to the well-chronicled lives of later Romantic period composers, like Frédéric

Chopin. For author and playwright William Kinsolving, that enigma is the reason to put pen to paper.

“Bach has been a mystery, he’s been amorphous, he’s been put on a pedestal and worshiped,” he said over an interview at The White Hart Inn in Salisbury, Conn. Originally from New York City, he lives in Lakeville, Conn., with his wife Susan, poet-in-residence at The Hotchkiss School.

On May 17, Kinsolving will debut a filmed presentation of his new

musical, “That Week With The Bachs,” at The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y. This staged reading was performed this past February at Grace Cathedral, an Episcopal church in San Francisco, Calif., which hosts an annual arts festival.

Inspired by the biography “Bach: Music in the Castle of Heaven” by British maestro John Eliot Gardiner, Kinsolving’s musical takes place across seven days in 1731, while Bach is employed as director of church music in Leipzig, Germa-

ny, working for the city council to provide music for the Saxony city’s multiple churches. Treated as more of a workhorse than the revered genius we think of him as today, Kinsolving described the Leipzig period as “hell.”

“He was overlooked, he was taken for granted, and nobody paid attention to him — they just asked him to get the music done every week.”

The clock ticks, the stress builds... waiting in the wings are Bach’s second wife, the soprano Anna Magdalena, as

Continued on next page

CULTURE: MAUD DOYLE

Bard Creates Repository of Journalism Under Putin

Bard College in Annandale-On-Hudson, N.Y., and PEN America have launched an archive of Russian journalism published since 2000 when Vladimir Putin took office as Russia’s president.

The aim is to preserve independent journalism in a secure, searchable

archive available to reporters, historians, political scientists, and the global public at large.

The archive, called the Russian Independent Media Archives (RIMA) was launched on April 11. It includes over 519,000 documents from thirteen independent national, regional, investi-

gative, and cultural news outlets; ultimately, RIMA hopes to include the archives of more than 70 such institutions.

As the buildup of Russian forces on the Ukrainian border began in earnest in the spring of 2021, so did the state’s pressure on its own independent media, partic-

ularly on those outlets critical of Putin’s agenda.

Across the country, the state raided and shuttered newsrooms; equipment was destroyed and forcibly abandoned; editors, publishers and journalists were arrested or forced into exile under increasingly draconian laws against spreading “false information” about the war.

“A horrible transition was going inside the country,” recalled TV Rain broadcaster Anna Nemzer of the period. “All the opposition politicians were in prison or in exile, Boris Nemtsov was killed, they tried to poison Navalny. [Independent media offices] were being closed or demolished, and my colleagues declared foreign agents.”

By December of 2021, Russia was in position for a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, and TV Rain was Russia’s only remaining independent tv channel.

In Moscow, Nemzer and her colleague, the information technology specialist Serob Khachatryan, found themselves discussing the idea of an archive that might

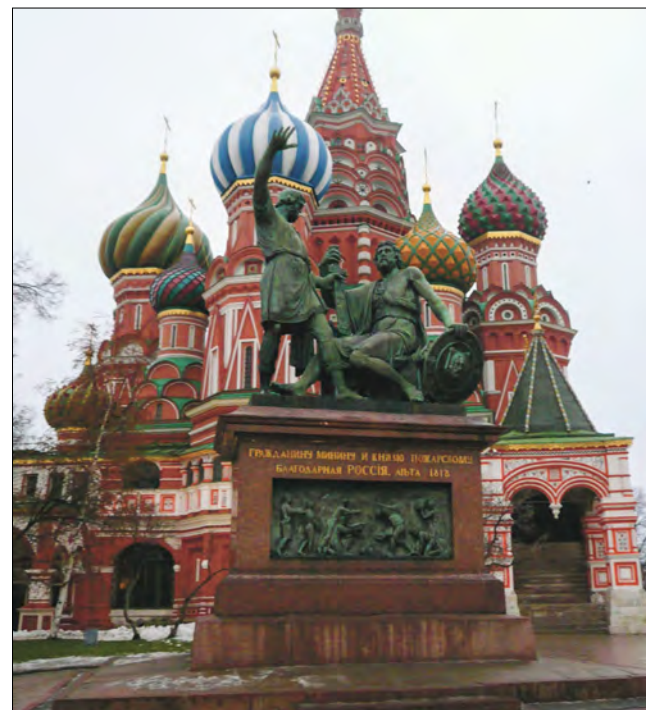


PHOTO BY FRANCESCO BANDARIN, WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

preserve the opposition journalism that was fast disappearing in the state’s campaign against freedom of information. They envisioned, said Nemzer, “a record of testimony,” evidence of the lived reality of “Putin’s era.”

On Feb. 24, 2022, Russia launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine. On March 1, TV Rain’s studio was raided by Russian police, its website blocked, and the staff told to leave the country immediately. Nemzer, who happened to be in Tel Aviv at the time, found herself in exile.

The next day, Nemzer sent a proposal to Bard outlining an actionable plan for a living archive, one that would preserve and make accessible the last 24 years of independent Russian journalism.

Nemzer had chosen Bard on the advice of her friend Masha Gessen, a Russian-American writer and activist, who is a faculty member at Bard and a trustee of PEN America, the organization that champions freedom of expression in the U.S. and around the world.

Gessen and their fellow PEN board member, Peter Barbey, whose own work had instilled in him the importance of archiving digital journalism, had also been discussing the pressing need for a safe repository of the independent Russian journalism under threat.

PEN America and Bard’s Gagarin Center formally convened RIMA in the summer of 2022, relying largely on funding from the Edwin Barbey Charitable Trust. PEN provided technical management while Bard

Continued on next page

AT THE MOVIEHOUSE MILLERTON ON MAY 17TH

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to create the seven movements
of
the great Cantata 140

Music by: Johann Sebastian Bach
Book, Lyrics and Direction by: William Kinsolving

Tickets: <https://bit.ly/TMH-That-Week-With-Bachs-Kinsolving>
Screening at 6:30 pm
After: Q&A with William Kinsolving. Interlocuting by Dan Dwyer.

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ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Blooming Bouquet

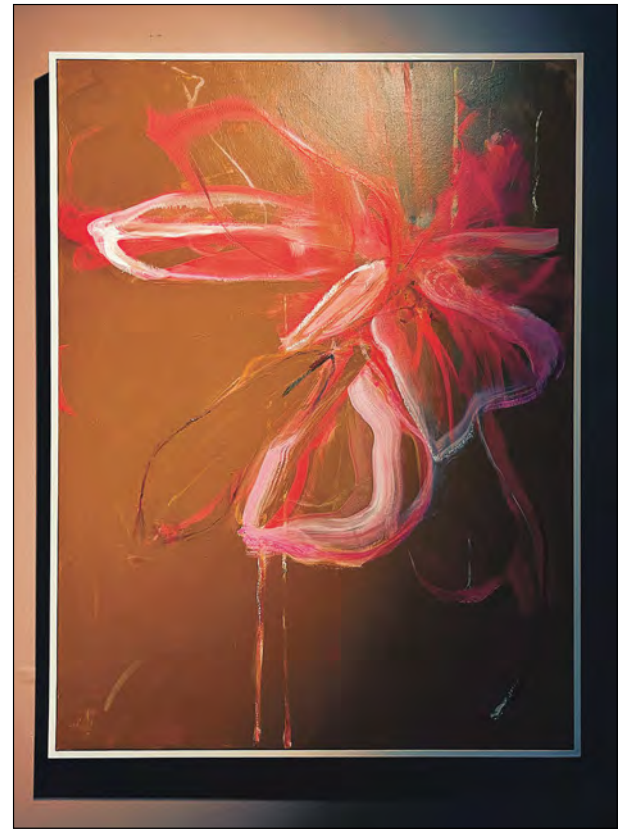
Flowers have inspired artists throughout history, from the scientific studies of Joséphine Bonaparte's Chateau de Malmaison rose garden by watercolorist Pierre-Joseph Redouté to the gloriously blooming chrysanthemums by the typically abstract Piet Mondrian hung in the Museum of Modern Art. Mixing oils and house paint on canvas in her studio in Millerton, N.Y., Alexis England has caught a case of flower fever, ditching her once monochrome signature palette for a new series of abstract botanicals in neon, flirting with gaudy glamour in an impenitent affair with color.

Debuting at Troutbeck, the romantic hotel and restaurant in Amenia, N.Y., England's series "Florescence" is currently splashed throughout Troutbeck's Manor House — including a Barbie-pink canvas behind the bar. "Everything before this was a mono-palette, white on green, so my paintings looked like x-rays," England said while in attendance at the opening reception on Friday, May 5. "I used to love restriction and now this new series is just bonkers.

"I don't even remember painting a lot of these at first. It's very freeing, and I'm a very messy painter — very gestural. Later I'll come back and hone in, and hone in, and hone in and add all these tiny details that most people don't pick up on."

While some in the series have obvious inspiration — the downward drooping petals of an iris or the tight-fisted buds of a bundle of peonies, most are too abstract to pin down. England said that's the point. "It's not about the flowers for me. It's the shape. I'll step on a flower and f--- it up to find a good shape. It may start as a painting of an iris or an orchid, but by the time I'm finished with it doesn't matter."

On view at Troutbeck in Amenia, N.Y. through July 5.



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Untitled works by Alexis England

COMPASS CALENDAR

James Bagwell at Berkshire Bach

The Berkshire Bach Society will present a performance of Baroque masterpieces as James Bagwell conducts selections of Bach and Vivaldi at the First Congregational Church in Great Barrington, Mass., on Saturday, May 13, at 4 p.m. Bagwell also serves as the director of music performance studies at Bard College. For tickets go to www.berkshirebach.org

Greg Gorman Masterclass

Sohn Fine Art in Lenox, Mass., will host celebrity photographer Greg Gorman, whose work has appeared in Vogue and Vanity Fair, as he instructs a four-day masterclass on photographing nude portraiture on Aug. 20 to 23. The summer course is \$3,000 per student. To enroll in advance for the workshop go to www.sohnfineart.com. Gorman will also have a book signing at Sohn Fine Art on Saturday, Aug. 19.

Berkshire Pulse

Berkshire Pulse dance and performing arts education center will present its Spring Celebration performance on Saturday, May 27, and Sunday, May 28 at 2 p.m., in the McConnell Theatre at the Daniel Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass. All proceeds directly benefit the Pulse Tuition Assistance program. For tickets go to www.berkshirepulse.org

...Russian journalism

Continued from previous page

offered an academic home for the initiative — and, critically, visas, made possible by Bard's Threatened Scholars Integration Initiative.

"Journalists say their work is the 'first draft of history,'" said Gessen in a statement for PEN. "My fear was — and remains — that in Russia, this draft is being deleted." Noting that historians and archivists are only now beginning to understand the story of the Soviet period, they said, "We know just how hard the historical record is to

restore."

After their exile, TV Rain's staff had regrouped in Riga, Amsterdam, and Tbilisi, Georgia, and returned to work, reporting and broadcasting, mostly via YouTube, to those few audience members they could still reach.

In Tbilisi, while Nemzer continued her work as an anchor for TV Rain, she began assembling RIMA as well. Nemzer coordinated with Russian journalists and news platforms — some long defunct, some in various stages of

closure and disarray, and some, like TV Rain, still struggling.

Together, journalists, editors, and investigators began recovering the archives they could, using burner phones and encrypted messaging, and even passing messages to and from an editor currently imprisoned for his dissent.

For now, said Nemzer, the job is to recover as much material as possible. But once the work is preserved, she said, the next step will be to learn how to work in and with it, "to make the archive not silent. To make it speak."

Bach

Continued from previous page

well as his sons from his previous marriage — resentful of his young bride and fueled with ambitions to match their father's talent.

Kinsolving's approach is for the family to voice their fears and desires through song — that is, a marriage of music by Bach and lyrics by Kinsolving. Never mind that Baroque's ornamental, layered melodies hardly exude the emotional cheese of an Andrew Lloyd Webber musical theater ballad. Bach's compositions don't naturally call out for "Music of The Night" lyrics, nor do the works tell us much of his internal passions.

"Hearing that Baroque might seem distant, well, I accept that challenge," Kinsolving said, undeterred. "The purists may have their way with me. But I haven't run into anyone who said, 'You shouldn't have touched his music.' It may happen, that's fine. But this is a piece of entertainment as a musical comedy."

Bringing Bach to life will be bass-baritone Phillip Skinner, whose career has included premiering the Philip Glass opera "Appomattox," and last year's honor of San Francisco Opera's medal of recognition. Grammy-nominated mezzo-soprano Frederica von Stade, who has graced the stages of The Metropolitan Opera and The Paris Opera, acts as narrator to the Bach family affair in their creation of "Cantata 140."



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New York state farming: variety, ingenuity and a new crop of farmers

By **DEBORAH MAIER**
Special to The Millerton News

CHATHAM — “In terms of farming, New York state is very active. It’s going and growing.” That’s how Terence Duvall responded to the question of what everyone should know about the Farm Film Festival on Sunday, April 30, if they were not among the audience of 120 that day.

Nine films were featured at the free screening in the 1926 Louis L. Wetmore-designed Spanish Renaissance-style Crandell Theatre, which accepted voluntary donations to the Chatham Silent Food pantry in lieu of an admission fee.

All of the films reflected the vibrant reality of farming in New York state in the 21st century, with the longest one, “Our Farms, Our Farmers” by Murphy Birdsall and Keith Reamer, focused on our own corner of Dutchess County. A leitmotif of the many different stories in the festival was love of the land, its gifts and its many demands.

The first film, “How 7.1 Million Acres of Farmland in New York are Harvested” was a rapid-fire rundown of statistics across all major farming and livestock businesses in the state as of 2022, noting that there were 33,500 farms and 753 farmers’ markets in operation then.

“Little Farmhouse Flowers,” part of “The Good Life” series of short films on unconventional farming worldwide, free on YouTube, follows former art teacher Linda in her quest to build a life based on her love for flowers and family. In her relatively harsh northern climate—with a dependable growing season almost two months shorter than that of our area—she has learned to use tunnels within tunnels to avoid the need for heated greenhouses. With her Pyro weeder—like a flame-thrower in the war against unwanted vegetation—and her sustainable floral design work (“No floral foam, which is basically microplastics”) plus the involvement of her whole family, she has crafted a future-oriented life that also feeds her original dreams. “I have an innate need to tinker and create; [with this farm] I just happen to be growing my own art supplies.”

A “gateway crop” presented the newest of the major New York farming crops and practices since the plant’s substances were removed from the DEA’s schedule of Controlled Substances along with the 2018 Farm Bill. They are the same species as marijuana plants, but hemp plants by law cannot contain more than .3% of THC. CBD can be derived from both plants. Those who have farmed hemp for two years have been given a fast track to growing cannabis for the adult-use market.

In “Dirt Stories,” a quartet of women from upstate New York practice regenerative farming, a philosophy and technique aimed at keeping the soil alive for the long term rather than solely focusing on immediate yields. Starting with an old photo of Dust Bowl times, the women in turn discuss how cover cropping is part of this solution, and how the judicious use of nematodes—“between bugs and bacteria,” and potentially both helpful and harmful—are ways of using animals “to create an ecosystem for us.” Traditional farming, they reminded us, releases lots of

carbon, whereas regenerative agricultural practices sequester it. A wry wrap-up is a shot of a poster adorning a barn: “Yes. Women farm. Thanks for asking.”

‘Our Farms, Our Farmers’

Interweaving the hopes and challenges of six farmers and three existing farms of the 15 or 20 that are remembered by the older of them, Birdsall and Reamer’s film is a thoughtful call to support small-scale agriculture in our area in whatever ways we can. The filmmakers were thrilled to see their work on the biggest single screen around, and more than pleased with the sound and image quality at the Crandell. “It was altogether a lovely event,” said Birdsall, whose favorite among other films was “Project Eats.”

“Our Farm, Our Farmers,” produced by the Little Nine Partners Historical Society, is a 22-minute trove of heartfelt stories and remarks.

Standfordville’s John Boadle, a farm kid and now a highly skilled freelance farmer, “farm whisperer” and tractor repair genius, according to filmmakers Birdsall and Reamer, remembered fellow students nodding off in study hall. Their teacher would gently prod them awake, knowing they had been up since 4 a.m. and had already put in a day’s work.

On his longtime pursuits of bovine genetics, “You want a dairy cow to ‘look dairy’—taller, better leg, depth of rib,” claimed Barry Chase. With a better leg, they more easily walk on pasture; a big muzzle enables them to get more grass, their main nourishment; depth and openness of the ribs in a calf indicate that she will be a good milker later on.

Lo-Nan Farm’s father-and-son team, speaking of being part of a 600-member dairy cooperative—Cabot products are made from their milk—stressed that there’s been only a 50% increase in their remuneration for milk over a 40-year period. (For context, the General Accounting Office states that 2% per year is an average food inflation figure, except for the mammoth 11% between 2021 and 2022; milk prices are federally regulated but vary from state to state). “Doing more with less—that’s what farming has become.” Boadle agreed, saying, “It’s



PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Left to right: Sarah Chase of Chaseholm Farm Dairy and Creamery in Pine Plains; Columbia Land Conservancy’s Terence Duvall; CLC President Troy Weld, moderator; and New York Farm Bureau board of directors VP Eric Ooms at the Farm Film Festival at the Crandell Theatre in Chatham on Sunday, April 30.

survival mode now.”

Ronnybrook Farm’s Dan Osofsky spoke of a different choice. “Walking away from a coop and its security is scary”; but they did it, and were an inspiration to Chaseholm when siblings Rory and Sara Chase took it over in 2013.

At Chaseholm, they’ve modified their systems with grazing management but stress the direct-to-consumer model, cutting out the middleman and creating and marketing value-added products on their own at their farm store and in many local stores and eateries.

A 2022 Stissing Mountain High School graduate, farmer Ben Prentice cited the “big huge emotions up and down” associated with a farmer’s intimacy with the land and animals; one morning you find a newborn calf, while another morning may bring the death of a cow. That makes it like an addiction, he said. “The power of the land, that’s something you can’t explain.”

The sixth film, “Building a Brighter Future with Young Farmers,” featured the extremely diverse National Young Farmers Coalitions (NYFC) with one particularly charismatic woman spokesperson highlighted. Actions it has urged and seen implemented since 2010—major policies, loan/micro loan policies—give reason for guarded optimism. “We need to act now and act together” is its rallying cry. See www.youngfarmers.org

“In Her Field,” made as a se-

nior thesis film at Rochester Institute of Technology, featured another strong female farmer—Erin Bullock of Wild Hill Farm—and her groups of mentees.

“Project Eats” has many unexpected views, like the rooftop farms around New York City, and whiplash editing between huge, gleaming right angles and tender seedlings being transplanted. Wards Island has the largest New York City garden plot at 2 acres, but there are another five in the boroughs. All are dedicated to providing people fresh vegetables in areas where that can be tricky or expensive, priced according to a buyer’s income or “what do you think it is worth?”

It’s an inspiring nine-minute look at an alternative to the industrial food system, and free to view online at www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-ay712g9Lo

“Beekeeping in New York” Another visual feast, with images like the closeup of two beekeepers in full gear with the Empire State Building huge and blurry in the background, this film, among other things, informs us that vacuuming bees—sometimes necessary in the constrained spaces of Manhattan rooftops—does not hurt them. This film was produced by the South China Morning Post.

In the panel discussion Q&A that followed the showing, moderator Troy Weld asked Sarah Chase, “How supported are younger farmers, and how can we support

them more?” Chase pointed out that she and sibling Rory had chosen to farm differently from their father—to go organic and grass-fed, which would not work at scale—and that the best anyone can do as individuals is to support local farmers by buying their products. There are programs to support young farmers, as Duvall elaborated; since 2008, the Columbia Land Conservancy (CLC) has connected farmers with land owned by others via agricultural leases with special conditions. The CLC, now four decades on, is a farmland trust to protect land for the future and offers subsidies for farm affordability.

Other audience questions queried how those robot milkers work; what a typical day in the life of a farmer looks like; what the current threats to farming are; and what the Farm Bureau does.

Second-generation Chatham dairy farmer Eric Ooms noted that 93% of his cows go to the robot milker themselves, saving a lot of costs. As vice president of the New York Farm Bureau board of directors, he spoke of how well-meaning regulations can sometimes stress the profit margins of small farmers, giving the example of New York’s 2019 Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. “Transitioning to fully electric energy for grain farming will take time; and EPR [Extended

Producer Responsibility laws, which mandate that producers must have and implement recycling of the packaging they use on their products] can be burdensome for small producers.”

The future of farming in Columbia and Dutchess

Ooms pointed out that it’s wise, as Chase has done, to diversify risks by adding beef and certain crop products. Local products in local stores are more prevalent than before, and should continue to increase. More opportunities are needed; serving local food in schools is a good start.

Ooms noted the new perception that farming is very chic, with a story of an old professional neighbor who years ago urged him to get out of farming and now wishes for a farm himself.

All agreed that the interconnections between businesses you count on and those that count on you are a crucial part of the equation.

When asked what she would like people to take away from this presentation of some of the breadth of New York State farming, Sarah Chase said she would “encourage people to be curious about the origins of things...the things I’m consuming, the clothes I’m wearing...just think it through, and notice that our area...is a breadbasket, it’s providing a lot. Where can you make those connections?”

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Palomba Engineering, PLLC, a domestic PLLC, filed with the SSNY on 6/17/22. Office: Dutchess County. SSNY is designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Palomba Engineering, PLLC, 1060 Broadway #1031, Albany, NY 12204. Professional engineering purposes. www.palomba.io.

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Legal Notice

Town of Amenia Recreation is hiring paid positions for our Summer Day Camp. Camp will be August 7th - August 25th from 8am - 4pm. We are looking to hire paid summer camp counselors, a camp supervisor and a camp nurse(or EMT). If interested in a paid position please email recdirector@ameniany.gov or call 845-373-8118x124 by May 31st, 2023.

05-11-23
05-18-23

TOWN OF AMENIA PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to NYS Town Law § 277 and Chapter 105 of the Town of Amenia Code Tower Hill 2014 LLC (the “Applicant”), the Planning Board of the Town of Amenia will hold a public hearing on the application by Tower Hill 2014 LLC (the “Applicant”) for preliminary plat approval of a minor, 3-lot subdivision of an existing +/- 165.42-acre parcel (the “Application”) located at 365-381 Tower

Hill Road in the Town of Amenia that is designated Parcel Grid Identification # 7065-00-266271 (the “Project Site”). The Project Site is located in the Rural Agricultural zoning district and is also located in the Scenic Protection and Aquifer overlay districts.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Planning Board hold the public hearing on the Application on May 24, 2023, 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: May 4, 2023

Robert Boyles, Jr.,
Chairman
Town of Amenia
Planning Board
05-11-23

The deadline for legal notices is Friday at 4 p.m. for publication the following Thursday.

Notices can be emailed to legals@lakevillejournal.com or mailed to The Lakeville Journal, ATTN: Legal Notices, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, CT 06039.

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



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EDITORIAL

History is in the Making

You might think of Troutbeck, the hotel and wellness center in Amenia, New York, as just a lovely destination spot for weddings and other fancy family gatherings. But in fact it has a distinguished history as a meeting spot for intellectuals and political activists who were trying to revive a stalled civil rights movement. Its original owner, Joel Spingarn, was an early member and leader of the NAACP and he hosted what came to be known as the Amenia Conferences there in the early 20th century, attended by the likes of Great Barrington's W.E.B. Du Bois, diplomat Ralph Bunche, and author Zora Neale Hurston.

So it was the perfect venue to host the second annual Troutbeck Symposium, a three-day, student-led conference at which many students from 14 public and independent middle and high schools in our area presented the results of their yearlong projects. These centered on the untold stories of Black, Hispanic and Indigenous peoples from around the region and across the U.S. There were presentations from academics and professional historians, but it was the student work that really shone. It took many forms: short documentaries, a podcast, artwork, posters, a model of 19th-century Cornwall Village and a digital story map.

Among the documentaries produced by the budding scholars was "Cotton," created by Sharon Center School students to tell the story of local artist Katro Storm's guest-teaching about cotton as a plant, an economic force, and a potent driver of slavery.

Another, produced by students at Housatonic Valley Regional High School, explored local connections to 1958 events in Little Rock, Arkansas, when state officials decided to close schools rather than integrate them. Indian Mountain School produced a video about eugenicist George Knight and the Lakeville School for Imbeciles. Cornwall Consolidated School made a "Crankie Theater" to tell the story of Cornwall's Evangelical Christian Foreign Mission School, which brought Black and Indigenous people to Cornwall in an effort to convert them to Christianity and train them as ministers and missionaries.

The symposium was very successful in creating a network of young scholars, helping students from different school settings collaborate to create works of enduring value. It also made it clear that our histories, far from being set in stone, are always unfolding and changing, as new generations look with fresh eyes at historical records that have been forgotten or deliberately overlooked.

Congratulations to all the participants in the Troutbeck Symposium for their ingenuity and hard work. We look forward to seeing what the third annual symposium uncovers next year!

You can learn more about this year's event in Leila Hawken's report in this week's paper, and by going to the symposium website at www.troutbeck.com/troutbeck-symposium.



PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

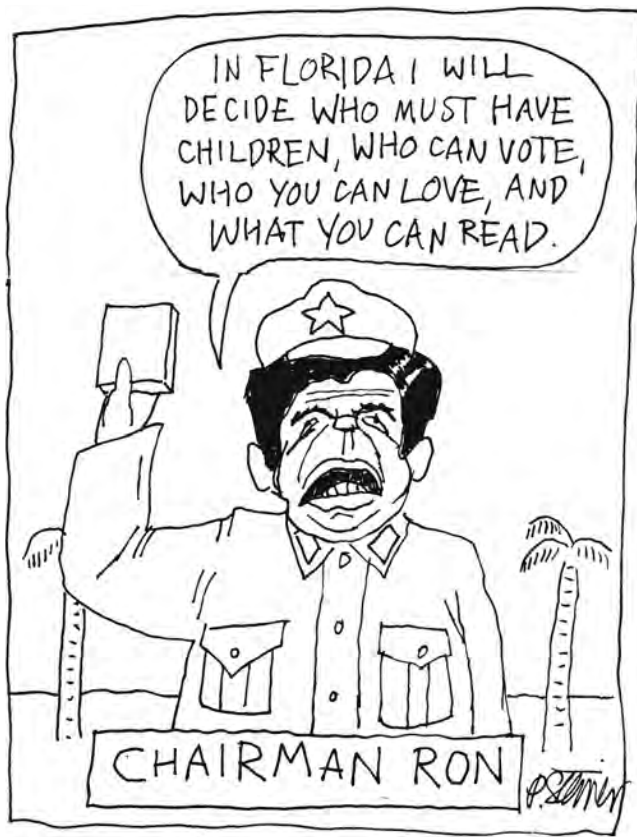
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Letters to the editor deadline is 10 a.m. Monday for that week's publication. No more than 500 words. Send to editor@millertonnews.com. Please include a phone number for confirmation.



Banks bashed as Fed continues to raise rates

The Federal Reserve Bank raised interest again, even as another regional bank saw its stock price collapse. Investors are asking when enough tightening is enough.

The key Fed funds interest rate was hiked by another 0.25%, which increased its benchmark rate to between 5% and 5.25%. That was the 10th hike in 14 months and has pushed interest rates to a 16-year high.

The stock market sold down after Chairman Jerome Powell made it clear (again) that fighting inflation is the Fed's number one objective. Powell did hold out some hope that this hike could be the last, although that decision, he said, would be data-dependent and be decided from meeting to meeting. Nothing he said was concrete enough for investors to truly believe that a pause in rate hikes is in the offing.

The bulls were hoping that the meeting would either result in no interest hike or be a one-and-done event. Neither occurred, which has ramifications for the economy, employment, and the ongoing regional banking crisis. The banks lead the market declines and well they should.

Beginning in March, with the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank, the markets realized that the rapid rise in interest rates had created both a danger for many banks and an investment opportunity for the public. Main Street could now buy high-yielding U.S. Treasury bills and CDs instead of keeping their money in checking and saving accounts with little to no returns. I have written extensively on the subject in my columns over the last several weeks.

As the Fed continues to raise interest rates, the yield on these alternative investments also rises. The yield on a three-month U.S. Treasury bill, for example, rose from 5.10% to 5.25% the day after the Fed's interest rate hike. This has had a serious detrimental impact on banks overall and regional banks as more and more investors pull their deposits.

But that is not all. The \$5.7 trillion commercial real estate sector (CRE) is also in trouble.

Thanks to high-interest rates, the pandemic, and the subsequent trend toward working from home, many urban centers are facing a historically high vacancy rate. It is so bad that many cities are considering converting empty office buildings into living spaces. This trend is spreading across the nation.

Smaller regional banks hold 4.4 times more exposure to the U.S. CRE than

THE RETIRED INVESTOR

Bill Schmick

larger banks, according to a recent report from JPMorgan Private Bank. Citigroup also found that banks represent 54% of the overall CRE market, with small lenders holding 70% of CRE loans.

Between the drain on deposits, and now the risks in real estate, is it any wonder that the regional bank index has lost 34% of its value over the last month?

Within hours after the Fed hiked rates on Wednesday afternoon (May 3), the regional bank, PacWest, reported that it was considering strategic options including a sale. The bank's stock tumbled 60% on Thursday and took the regional bank index and the stock market down with it.

Gold, silver, and Bitcoin (all areas I have featured in the last few months) spiked higher in a rush for safety with spot gold hitting a high of \$2,085.

As I said recently, where the market would finish the week would depend on the Fed's decision on interest rates. In hindsight, Chairman Powell had it right. The non-farm payroll data released on Friday showed that 253,000 jobs were added in April. The unemployment rate dropped to 3.4%, while the expectation was that the rate would rise to 3.6%. The Fed wants to see job gains fall, but they are going the other way.

The Fed needs to see the unemployment rate closer to 4-4.5% to reach its inflation target of 2%. We are nowhere near that level, so to me, the Fed's stance on monetary policy seems vindicated.

So what does all this bearishness indicate to me? For me, I think the markets will bounce back. We may even break the range we have been in for almost a month. That is a contrarian call, since most traders are what I called "beared up."

I believe we can still see my target on the S&P 500 Index of 4,325 give or take a few points. After that, likely in the second half of the month, I believe we will see a substantial pullback. Precious metals, on the other hand, are likely to now see a bout of profit-taking after a spectacular run.

Bill Schmick is a founding partner of Onota Partners Inc., in the Berkshires. None of his commentary is or should be considered investment advice. Email him at bill@schmicksretiredinvestor.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Celebrating the nurses at Sharon Hospital

As we celebrate Nurses Week (5/6 - 5/12), a national observance designed to recognize the tireless work of all nurses, I want to take some time to thank all my Sharon Hospital nursing colleagues.

In my role as Chief Nursing Officer at Sharon Hospital, I am gratified to work with such dedicated individuals that each care so deeply for our patients. Our nursing staff is the backbone of our team, ensuring that patients receive the care and compassion they need during their times of need and guiding them to health and wellness.

I am proud to lead our Sharon Hospital nursing staff toward success by working collaboratively to create efficient nursing procedures, treatment plans, and further integrate new medical technologies, all to deliver high-quality care to the members of our commu-

nity that depend on us.

I have seen firsthand our nurses' commitment to patients and our community each day and especially over the past few years, by navigating the challenges that the healthcare industry has faced and stepping up to meet every hurdle and prioritize our patients, and our community. We are eternally grateful for each of you.

I am proud to lead this team of dedicated professionals and call Sharon Hospital home. Please join me, Sharon Hospital and Nuvance Health's leadership team, Board of Directors, and staff in wishing our exceptional nurses a Happy Nurses Week and thanking them for all that they do for our community.

Dawn Woodruff,
MSN, RN

Chief Nursing Officer,
Sharon Hospital
Sharon, Conn.

Morning rituals in May

May Day/May Day; no, not our international distress call, but rather my anxious unknowing thoughts as I sit concealed on a mountainside May day pre-dawn morning wondering what dawn will conjure up on this new day. A heart-pounding adrenalin rush or a tranquil wilderness encounter.

The first hint of dawn reveals a fog enshrouded valley; fog which will slowly dissipate as the sun peeks over the eastern horizon to loosen its shafts of gold. My auditory and visual senses pique awaiting the deep throated gobble from an awakening mature tom turkey announcing his new day. The duel begins between Tom and I. Tom usually wins and that's OK with me.

This and other similar May morning rituals go on through the month until noon or on the rare occasions when mostly luck enables me to take two toms on alternate days as New York DEC law dictates. On a late waning May pre-dawn Memorial Day morning I will be waiting on a wooded overgrown and lush understoried hillside overlooking a soon-to-be visible majestic expanse of valley connecting New York and Connecticut. My senses and thoughts are fine-tuned to a kaleidoscope of the past, present and future as I await the early morning Millerton American Legion

VETERAN'S CORNER

Larry Conklin

honor guard rifle volleys honoring those veterans resting in the cemetery below.

A somber day for me. I will remain in place for a couple more hours with my thoughts before returning home, putting away my gear and heading to our main town cemetery to give my own departing respectful salute while gazing upon scores of proud American flags gently unfurling and honoring those gallant men and women resting beneath. I offer a prolonged salute while silently exclaiming "forever may they fly, forever may they fly." God bless you patriotic readers and your families. Enjoy your Memorial Day weekend festivities and celebrations.

Please take a moment to say a little prayer for those who have fallen to preserve our freedoms. They cry out in unison "REMEMBER ME, I am the one who made this freedom-loving day possible for you, REMEMBER ME."

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

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OUR TOWNS

Hernandez Pidala named superintendent at Millbrook Central School District

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Caroline Hernandez Pidala was named superintendent of the Millbrook Central School District (MCSD) by its board of education on Tuesday, April 25. Hernandez Pidala has been the district's interim superintendent since summer 2022, and as the board noted in its announcement, "...has had a significant impact on the district since she took the helm this past summer."

Coming to Millbrook from the Arlington School District in 2015 to be the Millbrook High School principal, she was made assistant super-

intendent for curriculum, instruction/pupil personnel services in 2018. She then rose, in 2021, to be named deputy superintendent of schools.

About her appointment, Hernandez Pidala said: "I feel extremely blessed and lucky to work within this community. The students are awesome, the faculty and staff are top-notch and the parents and taxpayers are so supportive. We have a team of administrators that are like-minded in keeping students first in our decisions and maximizing our efforts in the way that best impacts students."

"Our board of education is truly student-centered and supports the strategic vision

that has been developed, and I feel like we are one large team rowing in the right direction. I couldn't really ask for more."

The feelings between the board and the superintendent tend to be mutually respectful, as the board also related in its announcement: "The 2023-2024 fiscal budget, created by Ms. Hernandez Pidala and the District's leadership team, has the lowest administrative component and the highest program component of any budget over the past five years. She has also begun restructuring for long-time sustainability. With her guidance, the MCSD has completed a five-year strategic plan, inclusive of key stakeholders and components of groups of

varied interests."

In the years since Hernandez Pidala came to Millbrook, much has changed: She has worked with two different superintendents and two assistant superintendents; school principals have changed in some cases; and even the board of education has changed some of its members.

The district also suffered, along with the rest of the world, the effects of COVID-19, with students going to remote learning, even graduations being done via the internet, and the athletics so prevalent in this school district being brought to a halt in some cases.

Most schools are still com-

ing back from those years. In addressing this, Hernandez Pidala had this to say: "We are focusing on the social-emotional growth and development of our students and working to close the gap in learning left in the wake of a global pandemic. We are also trying to engage families and have them be true partners in educating the next generation of leaders, workers and thinkers. The district aims to create sustainable practices so that we can benefit from our efforts in perpetuity."

"Over the past eight years, Millbrook has come to feel like home," she said, adding, "I love the community and I am fortunate to say I love my job. Not everyone gets to say that."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Caroline Hernandez Pidala has been named superintendent of the Millbrook Central School District, effective July 1, 2023, by the Millbrook Board of Education.

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