



MILLBROOK
Firemen's
Dinner **A2**



PINE PLAINS
Stewart's
Expansion **A5**



COMPASS
Fairyland;
Calendar;
And More **B1-2**

Planning Board schedules Tower Hill Road hearing

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

AMENIA — After weeks of studying plans for a three-lot subdivision of property at 365 Tower Hill Road, the planning board voted unanimously at its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 26, that the application was ready for presentation at a public hearing.

The public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, at the Town Hall, 4988 Roue 22, beginning at 7 p.m.

Final minor adjustments to the

application included adjusting driveway configuration and means of access to the third lot on the map.

Plans for the 165-acre parcel call for division into three lots: one lot of 44 acres, another of 86 acres and the third of 34 acres.

In other action, because a number of board members would be unable to attend the next regular meeting that had been scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, the board voted unanimously to move consideration of the Troutbeck adaptive re-use application to the May 24 meeting.



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH MAIER

Left to right, rear: ESL teacher Joanne Koch, Stissing Mountain Assistant Principal Sara Bon Burg, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Gian Starr; in the foreground with student graphic novels, Alana Garnica and her co-teacher Renee Rundall.

ENL Family Night focuses on English and community

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

PINE PLAINS — "I love this school, and I am so grateful to everybody who works so hard to help my son learn English," Cold Spring School mom Erkes Galidev said of her first-grade son, Bamboo, and his progress. A native of Ulan Baator, Mongolia, Galidev, whose

husband is a pianist at Bard College, spoke sincerely of all the kindness and attention shown to her son.

The directors and teachers, she said, keep in touch with her by email, so that she is always in the loop with school matters. Bamboo's (a simplification of his Mongolian name) day-to-day learning astonishes his mother beyond

words: "Every day," she said, "it is..." she gestures as if to describe a head expanding upward.

Galidev and son were one pair of about 50 parents and children who enjoyed an informal evening of crafts and games for kids and families, while learning about offerings in the school district and

See ENL, PAGE A6



PHOTO BY ELIAS SORICH

Jack Chastain, president of the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association, with two of the group's telescopes at an MHAA-hosted star party Friday, April 28, at the NorthEast-Millerton Library.

Indoor star party explores the universe

By **ELIAS SORICH**
elias@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Driven indoors by an overcast sky, the Mid-Hudson Astronomical Association (MHAA) nevertheless hosted an evening of astronomical exploration at the NorthEast-Millerton Library.

Jack Chastain, the association's president, made use of Stellarium, a free software, to jump around the night's sky, showing the crowd of primarily elementary students a number of deep-space objects in-

cluding the Ring Nebula and the Horsehead Nebula. Chastain also gave detailed information on our solar system, the Sun, and constellations.

Fielding an almost never-ending onslaught of engagement from the crowd's younger members, Chastain answered queries from "How far is space?" to "Have you ever been to space?" Chastain responded to the latter in the negative, to which he received an exasperated follow-up: "Then how do

See STAR PARTY, PAGE A6

Local schools celebrate top seniors

The area's valedictorians and salutatorians discuss their high school careers and plans for the future. For more, turn to page A3.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pine Plains



PHOTO BY DANIEL PIETRAFESA

Webutuck



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Millbrook



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OPINION

Real and Positive;
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OUR TOWNS



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Kids help with Arbor Day

Designated a Tree City USA site for more than 30 years, Millbrook celebrated Arbor Day, on Friday, April 28, by planting a 7-year-old pin oak tree in front of Village Hall at 35 Merritt Ave. Helping to plant the tree were three first-grade classes from Elm Drive Elementary School. Dennis Gendron of Twin Brooks Gardens, seen above with the first-graders, donated the tree and the labor, directed the planting and talked to the children about the tree. Mike Herzog, chairman of the Village of Millbrook Shade Tree Commission, spoke about the importance of Arbor Day, and Dave Gilmour, also from Twin Brooks, helped the children shovel the dirt around the tree.

Millerton caucus shocker

By CHRISTINE BATES
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — The results of the Tuesday, April 25, Republican and Democratic caucuses shocked both parties. Each party's caucus met at the Village Hall to select and endorse a candidate for mayor and two trustee positions on the village board.

Two surprise candidates, Kelly Kilmer and Ray Nelson, showed up at both caucuses to seek both parties' endorsements. Typically caucuses held before village June elections are sleepy and brief with only a few Democratic or Republican registered voters showing up to vote for candidates who run unopposed. The April 25 caucuses were very different.

Twenty-two registered Democrats showed up at 6 p.m. and listened as former village clerk and treasurer Kelly Kilmer made her surprise bid for becoming Millerton's next mayor, while

incumbent Mayor Jen Najdek talked about her accomplishments while in office.

Only two candidates, Lisa Erdner and Ray Nelson, sought the Democratic nomination for the two village trustee seats. Both Erdner, a Democrat, and Nelson, a Republican, are new to village politics. Since there were no other candidates, both were selected, but there was a vote for the Democratic slot on the ballot for mayor between Najdek and Kilmer.

Since both women are registered as No Other Party (NOP), they had to leave the room while votes were counted, with Najdek narrowly edging out Kilmer 12-10 according to Debbie Middlebrook, chair of the village Democrats.

Twenty-four registered Republicans filled the village hall at 7 p.m. following the Democratic caucus. Three candidates sought party endorsement for the two trustee positions. Dave Sherman, a

Republican veteran of town and village politics, is the incumbent trustee seeking another two-year term. Erdner, a Democrat, and Nelson, a Republican, both endorsed by the Democratic Party, also made their case.

The two NOPs, Najdek and Kilmer, presented their qualifications and experience. When the paper votes were counted, Republicans selected Sherman and Nelson to run on the Republican ticket for trustee, and Kilmer, with a margin of 14-10, to run against incumbent Najdek for mayor.

In both caucuses, there were discussions about transparency in politics, the budget, the status of Eddie Collins Park, and the wastewater project. In the Democratic caucus, Town of North East Supervisor Chris Kennan addressed the possibility of a supermarket, explaining that a sewer solution must be in place to attract a retailer. The notable issue of the status of Millerton Police Department did not surface in discussion.

While Erdner was asked by the Democrats to run as village trustee and Najdek and Sherman are incumbents, the two surprise candidates, Kilmer and Nelson, both explained their reasons for running to The Millerton News after the caucus (the press was not permitted to attend either caucus).

Nelson said that he had considered running for quite a while: "The village needs more transparency in government and better fiscal responsibility. Nobody asked me to run. I'm a concerned citizen. Lisa and Dave are both hard-working candidates, but I'm more conservative. Does a small village like Millerton need to spend \$2 million to

improve the Eddie Collins baseball field and parking lot? And now another \$4 million for a swimming pool? I just want to do the best thing for the village."

Likewise, Kilmer said she had taken time to make her decision and discussed it with her family before deciding to run for mayor. She pointed out that she's been a village resident her whole life, and with her experience as village clerk and treasurer, knows municipal government.

"I just want to do what's best for people who live, work and visit our village," said Kilmer. "I want to give people a choice. I can't say that the police aren't an issue. It's been the frontrunner for the last nine to 10 months. It has to be discussed during the campaign." She's looking forward to learning about voter's issues and introducing herself to the village's new residents.

Ed Stillman, a village Democrat, summed up the view of many who attended one of the caucus meetings: "I was pleased with the turnout on Tuesday evening, even if I wasn't thrilled with the outcome. It wouldn't surprise me if everyone there had walked in with their mind already made up."

Edie Greenwood, chair of the North East Republicans commented: "All I can say is that this is how democracy works. Now the candidates have to bring their message to all the eligible voters in the village."

This year's village election will be contested between Najdek and Kilmer for mayor and three candidates—Erdner, Sherman and Nelson—for the two trustee positions. The village election will take place on Tuesday, June 20.

Awards, food and fun all part of annual Millbrook firemen's dinner

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The annual Millbrook Engine, Hook & Ladder Company No. 1 dinner is a serious event, with people singled out and praised for their service to the company and the residents of Millbrook, the Town of Washington and the surrounding area.

This was the 115th anniversary of the Millbrook Fire Department, and the 45th anniversary of the fire department auxiliary, so there was much to celebrate.

But the event also seems like the social event of the season, as it always draws a huge crowd, and when Fire Company President Matt Rochfort announces the dignitaries in the room, he announces just about everyone who serves the town or village in any capacity.

Mayor Tim Collopy was unable to attend but his wife, Ceil, was there, as was Deputy Mayor Vicky Contino, who took over the mayoral introductions and remarks for Collopy.

Also present were members of the village of board of trustees; village clerk Sarah Witt; Town of Washington Supervisor Gary Ciferri; councilmembers of the town board; and Deirdre Houston, Dutchess County legislator for District 25, with her husband, Brian. Witt was on hand as members officially signed in at the end of the evening.

Ted Bownas, who just stepped down as fire chief after having served in that office from April 2012 to April 2023,



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left, Millbrook Fire Department President Matt Rochfort, former fire Chief Ted Bownas and fire Chief Dominic Boscardin hold a plaque presented to Bownas in honor of his 30 years of service to the fire company, including 20 years as chief.

was feted for his 30 years of service. The Augustine Rotunno Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Michael Masserone.

The Lynn Karn Memorial Award went to Kelly Tomasulo. The Shawn Fimbel Rookie of the Year Award went to Trevor Gruntler, and the Bert Roberts Memorial Award was presented to Peggy Mulligan.

Other recognition went to Lynn Swart for 45 years of active service in the auxiliary. She is a charter and lifetime member.

Tributes were paid to past presidents and chiefs; service awards were presented to members who responded to 100 or more calls in the past year. Special mention was made of those who had passed in the last year: Reb Powell, Tim Russell, John Evangelista and Lew Keenher, as well as

Donald Cady and Don Howe from the Pleasant Valley Fire Department.

An especially poignant mention was made by Rochfort of Bob Myers, who passed in January 2023 and his wife, Kathy, who died in January 2022. He said that they had always been together, and in the passing of Bob, were reunited. He presented to their family members a joint plaque, for their combined 89 years of service.

Outgoing officers were thanked: directors Allen Meyer and Robin Horan, and act-

ing secretary Kara Granger.

Current officers are Deputy Chief Deputy Chief Kevin Granger, Assistant Chief Ken Walsh, Capt. Tim Race Jr. and First Lt. Roland Burlingame.

The current civil officers, along with President Rochfort, are Vice President Kara Granger, treasurer Shelley Hollingsworth and acting secretary Kelly Tomasulo.

Rescue squad officers are Assistant Chief Laurie Olson, Capt. Kim Bownas, First Lt. Kevin Duncan, treasurer Shelley Hollingsworth and secretary Kim Bownas.

Auxiliary officers are President Jodi Swart, Vice President Debbie Wheeler, secretary Lynn Swart and treasurer Allison Hults.

The board of directors are Chairperson Peggy Mulligan, Deputy Chair Jodi Swart, and Leo Arruza, Brian Hicks, Terry Donoghue and Rick Seaman.

The food was prepared by Millbrook Deli, and the nearly 200 people attending seemed to thoroughly enjoy the evening. The volunteers are a vital part of the community, and enjoyed a lively night of

Bulk Trash Day upcoming for Millerton, North East residents

MILLERTON — On Saturday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to noon, the Town of North East will host a Bulk Trash Day event for residents of North East and the Village of Millerton. at the town's old highway garage on the corner of Fish and S. Center streets.

Working with Climate Smart volunteers, the event will accept bulky items including metal, lawn mowers, tools, furniture, carpeting,

refridges, air conditioners and other junk. Electronics and batteries will not be accepted this year, nor will items that can be disposed of in household trash including latex paint cans, light bulbs, alkaline household batteries, and empty aerosol cans.

For a complete list of accepted items and what not to bring as well as disposal fees (cash or check only), go to climatesmartmillerton.org/bulktrashday

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OUR TOWNS

Top Webutuck seniors reflect on high school and on next steps



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Olivia Lucal, left, valedictorian of the Millbrook Central School District's graduating high school class of 2023, and salutatorian Sadie Krueger.

Athletics, public service, make for top students in Millbrook

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
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MILLBROOK — Millbrook Central School District (MCSD) has named Olivia Lucal as valedictorian and Sadie Krueger as salutatorian for 2023. They will be delivering their speeches on Friday, June 23, at the Millbrook graduation, and they have had remarkably similar careers throughout their years at MCSD.

Coming to the district in the fifth grade, Lucal is the third sister in a family of four girls. She enjoys running, weightlifting and boxing, and in high school, did track and field and excelled on the girls varsity cross country team.

In the summer 2022, an interest in science found her working with the Mid-Hudson Young Environmental Scientists (MH-YES), a program coordinated by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies.

This summer Lucal will be working at the Millbrook Golf and Tennis Club, where she has worked before, and has also taken a position and Millbrook Beef and Dairy Farm Store for the first time. She'll be getting ready to leave for college in the fall, when she will be attending the University of Chicago, studying astrophysics.

"Being in a small school system, there is a lot of support around you, and you support others," Lucal said. Her advice to other students: "Stay confident in yourself."

Krueger is a native of Millbrook and a lifelong student of MCSD. Her younger sister is a student at the high school as well. Krueger will be headed to Kenyon College in Ohio this fall, where she will study biology with an eye toward becoming a physical therapist, although her favorite subject in high school was English.

While in high school, Krueger played varsity soccer and was co-senior captain of the 2022 Champion C soccer team when it progressed to the state final four for the first time in school history. She also ran track.

This summer will find her working at a sleepaway camp, which she has done before; she feels that having spent summers away from home and family will be helpful in her adjusting to being away at college.

Both young women are members of the Interact Club, a service-based club which works through the Rotary Club. Lucal and Krueger are also members of the National Honor Society, peer tutors, and took part in the

Hike for Hunger. They were among the Millbrook Blazers athletes and teams who were recognized by the New York Public High School Athletic Associations (NYSPHSAA) in fall 2022.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

GinaMaria Kirk, left, salutatorian of Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, and Amanda Dillinger, valedictorian.

Stissing Mountain valedictorian, salutatorian will pursue sports, community while in college

By ELIAS SORICH
elias@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Out of a class of approximately 68 students at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, Amanda Dillinger of Pine Plains is this year's valedictorian, and GinaMarie Kirk of Millbrook is the salutatorian.

Dillinger, who listed Spanish as her favorite class of the year, is headed to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the fall, and intends to study environmental engineering: "I grew up on a dairy farm, and when I was little I heard about this energy system where you could convert cow manure, methane, into energy and I thought, 'Oh my gosh, that's really cool. I want to do stuff like that.'"

A varsity field hockey and softball player to boot, Dillinger also coaches the elementary school field hockey team, which she listed as one of her favorite activities for how "happy and energetic" the students are.

Kirk, who spoke fondly of her math classes this year, has put her deposit down at SUNY Cortland, where she intends to study exercise science and concentrate in athletic training.

Kirk described her life as "revolving around sports,"

By DEBORAH MAIER
Special to The Millerton News

AMENIA — "I've always been interested in how things are built, how buildings are designed," Webutuck valedictorian Morgan Sprague recalled. Tagging along with her general-contractor dad from an early age and seeing plans for homes and renovations piqued a desire to be the one who creates those designs. Sprague, who's been active in sports and has a passion for gardening, plans to major in architecture and is will be attending Savannah College of Art and Design.

Salutatorian Jordyn Thorne, like Sprague, has taken pretty much all the Dutchess Community College (DCC) courses available in the Webutuck building as part of the offerings to ambitious juniors and seniors. In Thorne's case, math has proven to be the path to follow, with plans to pursue a major in mathematics and a minor in accounting at Hawaii Pacific University in



PHOTO BY DANIEL PIETRAFESA

Webutuck High School Class of 2023 valedictorian Morgan Sprague, left, and salutatorian Jordyn Thorne.

Honolulu.

Hard-won advice for underclassmen

"I'd definitely advise sophomores to start their search for colleges" quite early in that 10th-grade year, Sprague stated. Thorne urged younger schoolmates to manage their time wisely; "...you will have a lot of work and you will have to get it done as well as living life." Her graduation speech promises to expand upon that notion.

Finding balance

Both young women evince a healthy balance of work and life. Sprague turns to gardening, which she has done with her aunt for years, to offset the possible stresses of higher academic pursuits.

Thorne takes 40-minute runs when she can. When asked how she came to the elusive work-life equilibrium she enjoys, "I gradually figured it out myself," she responded.

Sports figure importantly for both girls. A special highlight was Webutuck's Class D Section 9 basketball championship, the first since 1993, in which Sprague had a part. She has also played soccer for Webutuck. Thorne has focused on varsity track and soccer at this year and has in the past played field hockey, basketball and other sports.

Pandemic veterans

"We're very adaptable," said Thorne. Having gone through cycles of in-school

then Zoom-based instruction starting as freshmen at the beginning of the pandemic, and again after the school auditorium's ceiling suffered damage, students of the class of 2023 are pros at facing challenges and rolling with them.

The loss of a well-liked classmate in late winter posed a special poignancy in the close-knit class of 42 seniors; as the school responded with open doors that weekend and counselors from neighboring districts came to support the community, McLaughlin noted, students themselves created a large heart-shaped memory board, enhancing the existing Valentine's Day theme with personal notes for and about their missing friend and classmate, Noah Thompson. Therapy dogs rounded out the efforts to help.

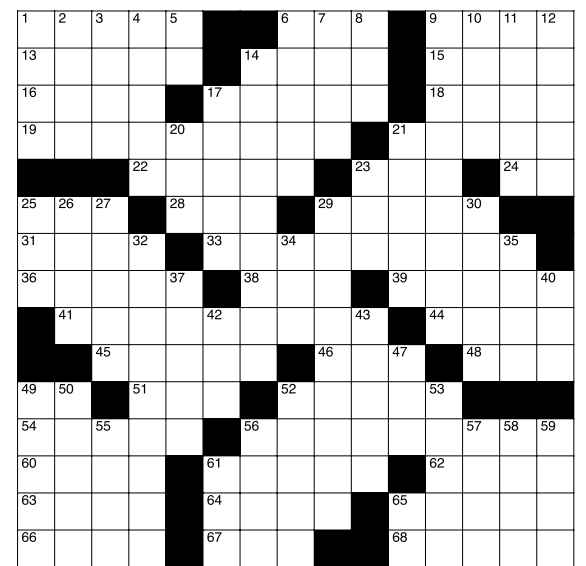
Next steps

Sprague and Thorne are working on their speeches for graduation, which takes place on Saturday, June 17, at 11 a.m. The guidance office has announced a Decision Day Luncheon for all Seniors on Friday, May 5, during the noon lunch period. At that time, students will wear colors, insignia or mascots of their post-high-school choices, whether they be college, work or the military, and be celebrated for their hard work and relationships made.

Brain Teasers

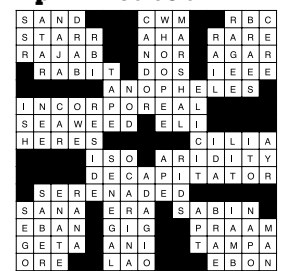
CLUES ACROSS

1. Dull and flat
6. Baking measurement (abbr.)
9. Education-based groups
13. Not behind
14. Runners run them
15. Japanese ankle sock
16. Grave
17. Japanese industrial city
18. People of southern Ghana
19. Particular designs
21. Device fitted to something
22. Infections
23. Pirates' preferred alcohol
24. Expression of sympathy
25. Rock guitarist's tool
28. Neither
29. Ancient city of Egypt
31. You ___ what you sow
33. Ruined
36. Narrations
38. Body art (slang)
39. Fencing sword
41. Apartment buildings
44. Type of missile
45. Fathers
46. Extremely high frequency
48. Type of school
49. Incorrect letters
51. Two-year-old sheep
52. Nasty manner
54. One who accepts a bet
56. Indian prince
60. Asian country
61. Rhythmic patterns in Indian music
62. "Uncle Buck" actress Hoffmann
63. Detailed criteria
64. Son of Shem
65. Talked wildly
66. Discount
67. Not good
68. Growing out

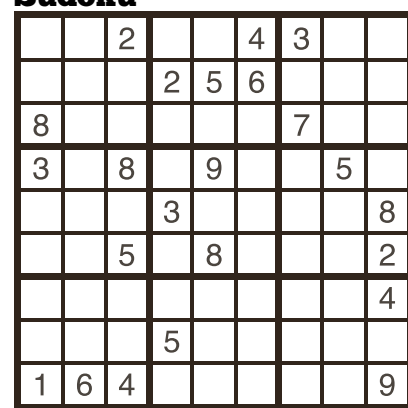


11. Manila hemp
12. Unites muscle to bone
14. Makes deep cuts in
17. 18-year period between eclipses
20. Member of a people inhabiting southern Benin
21. Synthetic rubbers
23. Unwelcome rodent
25. Expression of creative skill
26. Some is red
27. Seems less in impressive
29. Harry Kane's team
30. Gland secretion
32. Action of feeling sorrow
34. Disallow
35. Deceptive movement
37. More dried-up
40. Crimson
42. Actress Ryan
43. Adherents of a main branch of Islam
47. Accomplished American president
49. Side of a landform facing an advancing glacier
50. Sheep breed
52. Appetizer
53. Broadway actress Daisy
55. Influential film critic
56. NY Giants ownership family
57. Type of script
58. Assist
59. London park
61. Bar bill
65. In reply indicator

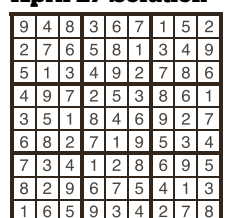
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OBITUARIES

Madonna Theresa (Althoff) Hundt

MILLERTON — Madonna Theresa (Althoff) Hundt, 94, of Bangor, Wisconsin, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 25, 2023, with her husband of 75 years, Arnold, holding her hand. Madonna was born in Lansing, Iowa, on Nov. 30, 1928. Madonna



and her twin brother Donald were the sixth and seventh children of Henry and Anna (Teeling) Althoff.

Madonna moved with her family to Greenwood, Wisconsin, and they eventually settled on a farm near Bangor. After her father passed, in addition to helping with farm chores, Madonna worked several jobs including setting pins at the bowling alley and boxing peas at the pea factory in West Salem.

In 1944 she met the love of her life behind the round oak heater on the Hundt home farm at the wedding reception of George Althoff and Delores Hundt. For the next several years Arnie made the trip to Bangor in Grandpa Pete's old red Firestone truck to court Madonna. Arnie and Madonna were married at St. Peter's Catholic Church on Middle Ridge on June 17, 1947. They honeymooned in Milwaukee and attended a Cubs baseball game at Wrigley Field in Chicago.

Following their marriage, they began farming on the Hundt home farm with Arnie's Dad and then rented a couple of farms before returning to the home farm in 1962 where they would live the rest of their life. Together they raised 10 children on their little dairy farm and Madonna drove tractor, baled hay, milked cows and raised a huge garden in addition to managing a bustling and bursting household. Following Grandma Hundt's example Madonna had a day for every chore. Wash day, mending, gardening, her household was a well-oiled machine. She always managed to have the kids washed, clothed and ready for the bus.

Madonna also worked off the farm at various times including at Villa St. Joseph's as an Aide and later in the activity department. She also worked for several parishes in La Crosse as a housekeeper. Madonna served as president of the St. Peter's Ladies Altar Society for several years.

Madonna was world famous for her dill pickles, homemade bread, fried chicken, making rugs on her loom, sewing, and throwing firecrackers under your chair at the most inopportune moment.

Following their retirement from farming in 1978 Madonna fell in love with fishing, making frequent trips to the Mississippi River hitting the spillways and fishing floats, or going out in the boat with her brother-in-law George.

She often easily out fished the surrounding fishermen with thousands of dollars' worth of equipment with a

bucket of worms and a bobber. She would later pass her love of fishing to many of her grandkids and great grandkids.

Madonna loved playing cards with the extended family, dancing, especially when Howie Sturtz was playing.

She and Arnie traveled often to California to see her brothers and to see their children across the country including winter trips to Arizona, Atlanta, summer trips to Minnesota to visit family and fish, and a trip to Germany in 2005.

Madonna was known for her wry sense of humor and her "Madonnaisms." She reveled in her constantly growing extended family. She had a magical ability to make a meal for a surprise crowd out of nothing, and to calm a restless baby that no one else could calm.

Madonna was dedicated to her faith and was known for lighting candles at church and at home to keep her family safe and protected. It was common to find a candle glowing on her stove for a loved one she had in her prayers and would often fall asleep with a rosary in her hand.

Madonna is survived by Arnold, her husband of 75 years, her children Jean (Roger) Mashack, Richard (Lyn) Hundt, Charlene (Tom) Mashak, Donald Hundt, Bonnie Hundt (Mary Murfitt), Carol (Alan) Nicolai, Rod (Jane) Hundt, Greg (Kelley) Hundt, Tim Hundt (Lisa Henner), daughter-in-law Susan Hundt, brother Henry (Jackie) Althoff, sister-in-law Betty Althoff, sister-in-law Delia Bina, and many loved ones, friends and family members.

Her spirit will live on in 24 grandchildren, 41 great-grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her son Gerry Hundt, her parents Anna and Henry Althoff, siblings George (Delores) Althoff, Mary (Wilbert) Hammes, Anna Mae (George) Hammes, Rosella Kammel (Bill Hundt, Gerald Kammel), James (Agnes) Althoff, Donald (Jean) Althoff, Leo Althoff.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the caregivers at Vernon Memorial Hospital and Vernon Manor in Viroqua, for all their assistance and incredible care given to our mother over the last several months.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, April 1, 2023, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Middle Ridge, Wisconsin. Burial followed in the church cemetery. A visitation was held Friday, March 31, 2023, at St. Peter's Church. Memorials may be given in Madonna's name to the St. Peter's Catholic Church; or to a charity of your choice.

The Torkelson Funeral Home of Cashton, Wisconsin, assisted the family with details. Online condolences may be offered at www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com.

Scott Krizman

SALISBURY — Scott Krizman of Fowler Street passed away on April 4, 2023, at Sharon Hospital. He was the loving husband of Sandra Krizman and father of Karen Krizman Saver of Spain.

Scott was born Feb. 22, 1931, in Glasgow, Scotland, the son of the late Morris

Krizman and Rachel Miller Krizman.

A memorial service will be celebrated on Monday, May 8, at noon at the Kenny Funeral Home, 41 Main St., Sharon. Memorial contributions may be made to the Sharon Ambulance, P.O. Box 357, Sharon, Ct. 06069.

George Marshall Howard

SALISBURY — George Marshall Howard, M.D., 92 (almost 93) of Dobbs Ferry New York, and Salisbury, recently moved to Cape Cod, Massachusetts. He passed away on April 22, 2023, at Harbor Point in Centerville, Massachusetts, surrounded by his loved ones.



George was born on June 12, 1930, in Detroit, Michigan. He is the first child of Mary Isabell Marshall Howard and Philip Jay Howard, M.D. He was a brilliant and much-loved man by all who knew him and had too many accomplishments to list.

He was valedictorian of his Highland Park High School Class, a member of its orchestra and leader of a jazz band he created and starred in as trumpet player for high school dances. He was an accomplished trumpet player who idolized Harry James and played in jazz bands well into his later years.

George graduated from Dartmouth College in 1952 and attended Union Theology Seminary from 1952-1953. Then he followed in his grandfather's footsteps and pursued ophthalmology. Graduating from Albany Medical College in 1959 and then onto Harvard University Mass Eye Infirmary 1960-1964.

George began his lifelong ophthalmology career in 1964 at the Edward S. Harkness Eye Institute, Columbia Presbyterian Hospital and retired 44 years later in March 2008. He was also the Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology for many years.

He was a knight of the American Society, Royal Order of St. John, appointed by Queen Elizabeth II. He was an

active member/lector of the St. John's Episcopal Church in Salisbury.

He was a lifelong member of the New York Athletic Club, the New York Yacht Club, and the Ardsley Country Club in Ardsley Park, New York. As you can tell, he led a very rich life.

George loved traveling, especially on cruise ships with the QE II being a favorite. He had an infectious smile which endeared him to the many wonderful people who cared for him over the last few years.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 48 years, Nancy Colean Howard, his adoring daughter, Camille Angela Howard Alberico, his son in law, Bruce Michael Alberico, his grandchildren, Victoria Patricia Alberico, Elizabeth (Lizzy) Nancy Alberico, and his siblings, Julie (& Peter) Parker, Philip (Jay) Howard, Charlie (& Kathy) Howard, and many beloved nieces and nephews.

He also had many very dear friends who he held close to his heart and cared about deeply, Peggy Suchanyc, Bill Furey, and Eric Johnson to name just a few.

I cannot properly express how much he will be missed, but I certainly want to thank the wonderful staff at Brookdale, Harbor Point & Hospice. They have all been incredible, kind, loving, caretakers that I am forever grateful to, and am sure extended his life expectancy, and guided me/us through the very difficult process of saying goodbye to a loved one, my sweet dad. A memorial service and burial in Vermont will be held at a later date. For online guest condolences, please visit hallettfuneralhome.com

Carol Lynn Schnall

SALISBURY — Carol Lynn Schnall (née Singer) of New York, New York, and Salisbury, passed away on Sunday, April 9, 2023, at the age of 81, due to heart failure.



The only child of Samuel ("Buddy") Singer III and Lillian (Chait) Singer, Carol is survived by her beloved and devoted husband of almost 58 years, Norman, her children Marianne (Tom Kay); Eric (Shax Riegler); her grandchildren Jazmin and Lotus, and many relatives and close friends.

A lifelong New Yorker, Carol was born in Manhattan on Jan. 16, 1942, and was raised on the Upper West Side. She was a graduate of P.S. 87, Julia Richman High School, and the University of Wisconsin-Madison where she received a BA in Political Science. She served as the President and CEO of Specialty Products Company, of Jersey City, New Jersey, which supplied lubricants to the Glass Container Industry. She was one of the only female executives in the industry and served as the first female

chair of the Phoenix Awards Committee along with other related industrial organizations.

Carol had a deep interest in many social and political causes including women's rights and racial justice. She loved the arts and culture, especially theater and world travel.

Carol and her husband Norman bought their house in the Amesville section of Salisbury in 1986. Their son Eric and his partner Shax, also Manhattanites, have had their own home in Salisbury since 2013. Carol loved so much about the Northwest Corner, and especially adored spring and summer when she could be in nature and tend to her garden. She had the ability to make people around her feel both at ease and accepted. She will be greatly missed.

Private services were held on Sunday, April 16, 2023, at Temple Israel Cemetery in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. Donations in her memory may be made to her favorite non-profit organization, The League of Women Voters of The City of New York.

Email obituaries to johnc@lakevillejournal.com

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Todd Francis Belfiore

KENT — Todd Francis Belfiore, 53, entered into eternal rest on April 22, 2023, in New Milford, Connecticut. He was born June 9, 1969, to Tamara Potter and Roger F Belfiore. Todd was both creative and mechanically talented and as owner of Belfiore



Fine Finishing provided painting, decorating and antique restoration services. He had an adventurous spirit and loved to ski, bike, cook and hike. He was a car and motorcycle enthusiast and sports fan, especially of the New England Patriots. Todd deeply loved his family and friends and those closest to him will remember his warm smile, witty sense of humor

and love of history. Todd was preceded in death by his father Roger F. Belfiore, and grandparents Mary and Frank Belfiore and Helen and Edward Os-trander.

He leaves to cherish his wonderful memory: mother, Tamara Potter and her husband William Potter; daughter Claudia Belfiore Gonzalez, brother Andrew Belfiore and spouse of Roger Belfiore, JoAnn Belfiore. His family will host a celebration of his life on Saturday June 10, 2023, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at 20 Lane Street in Kent, Connecticut. Lillis Funeral Home, 58 Bridge Street in New Milford, has care of the arrangements.

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Zoning board of appeals overrules Dutchess County to allow Stewart's setback variance

By ELIAS SORICH
elias@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — With a 4-1 vote on Monday, April 24, the Pine Plains Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) has granted the Stewart's Shops at 7710 South Main St. a front yard setback variance for a proposed 4,000 square-foot Stewart's, overcoming a determination by the Dutchess County Planning Department that the proposal is not in keeping with the character of the town.

The plans will next go to the Pine Plains Planning Board for approval on Wednesday, May 10, which will give the project a broader look.



PHOTO COURTESY DAISY SINDELAR, NEW PINE PLAINS HERALD

Stewart's at 7710 South Main St. in Pine Plains

Necessary to grant under Pine Plains' zoning laws, which do not allow businesses to be set back more than 25 feet from their property lines, the variance will allow Stewart's to build its new store up

to 163.5 feet from the road (the current store is 104.5 feet from the road), and place its new gas pumps in the front of the new building.

The current store and gas pumps will remain available

while the new store is built, after which point gas will become unavailable for one month. Without the variance, Stewart's alternative plans were to place its new pumps in the rear of the building,

a process that would cause gas services to become unavailable for closer to three months, according to Marcus Andrews, a project manager for Stewart's.

Dissent to the generally favorable opinions of the proposal was voiced by Scott Chase, the ZBA chairman, who argued that granting the variance would directly contradict Pine Plains' 2019 Comprehensive Plan, as well as current zoning laws, and that there were alternative building plans Stewart's could pursue.

ZBA member Carl Baden had recused himself from the vote due to his business ties with Stewart's, and an additional member had been

added to allow the possibility of a majority plus one vote (a stipulation required by Dutchess County for an overrule).

Under the proposed plans, additional services offered by Stewart's would include low-flow diesel, which would not accommodate use by trucks and larger vehicles. Rich Jewett, manager of the Pine Plains Stewart's, spoke during public comment to indicate that diesel was an often-requested service by the community, and that a "nice new store for the community, with the looks of a new store, with new landscaping and everything" would represent an investment in the community by Stewart's.

Millbrook continues Earth Day with bees, books, zoo

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — On Saturday, April 29, the celebration of Earth Day continued with an event at the Dutchess County Home and Garden Center, 2715 Route 44.

More than 22 participants filled the auditorium at the center, including Trevor Zoo, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies, the Millbrook Library, Garden Park Garden Habitat, Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County (CCE) and Dutchess Land Conservancy.

The Trevor Zoo table, managed by Jessica Bennett, shared zoo stories, including about red pandas, and offered a chance to win a free zoo membership. Stuffed ani-

mals representing species that can all be found at the zoo, had lots of people stopping by to talk.

Hyde Park had Rotary Club members to help with activities. The Hyde Park Visual Environment Committee showed ways of making plant containers from toilet paper and paper towel rolls.

The Dutchess County Division of Solid Waste Management taught recycling methods, as well as how to determine what is and isn't recyclable!

The Repair Cafe made repairs on-site, proving that almost anything is worth saving. Repair Cafes are free community events to which participants bring broken items and volunteer repair coaches help fix them. Information about local Re-



PHOTOS BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Kara-Lyn Horan of Dutchess Land Conservancy was on hand Saturday, April 29, at the Dutchess County Earth Day celebration at The county's Home and Garden Center in Millbrook to tell people the importance of land conservation and how they can help.

pair Cafes is online at www.repaircafehv.org.

The Northern Dutchess

Bee Club shared ideas on the importance of honeybees and pollination, including how the public can help. A table from the Staatsburg Library showed some of the butterfly species in Dutchess County, especially the monarch butterfly.

The Wildlife Rehabilitator had information on invasive species and protecting wildlife as well as instructions on what to do if you find an injured animal in the wild.

Building a bird feeder from pine cones could be done on-site, or one could take the materials to try at home, compliments of the Frederick W. Vanderbilt Garden Association,

Cary Institute had a display detailing the environment before the first Earth



Jessica Bennet, left, and son Ethan Dutt stand behind the many stuffed animals at the Trevor Zoo table at the Earth Day celebration, among them red pandas, wolves and marmosets, all of which can be found at Trevor Zoo.

Day was enacted in 1970. The display also showed a historical view of Earth Day from its inception.

The Housatonic Valley Association displayed information about the Ten Mile River watershed, the 2,000 square mile watershed that travels from the Berkshires to Long Island Sound.

Riverkeeper offered the chance to learn about their efforts to Save a Million Bass, a program to save fish, and also teach about watershed contamination.

Information about the Sustainable Hudson Valley fell to the organization of the same name, which showed how to prepare ourselves and our communities for a changing climate while being environmentally responsible and

being economically smart.

CCE took on home composting, and also introduced people to the invasive spotted lanternfly and instructed in sustainable garden practices. Another part of the CCE aspect was the No Child Left Inside Program, which gets youngsters outdoors, connecting with nature, learning life skills, and getting job training at the same time.

Others involved in the event were the Dutchess County Planning and Development Department; the Lions Club, which took old glasses to recycle; the municipal conservation committees of Hyde Park, Pleasant Valley, Poughkeepsie and Red Hook; and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

Concert pianist Sophia Zhou to perform May 6 at the Smithfield Church

By LEILA HAWKEN
leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Concert pianist Sophia Zhou will perform at the Smithfield Church, 656 Smithfield Valley Road, on Saturday, May 6, as part of the Bang Family Concert Series. The concert will begin at 4 p.m. and be followed by a reception.

Acclaimed for versatility and dynamism in per-

formance, Zhou is an avid chamber musician whose performance credits range internationally to renowned venues from Carnegie Hall to Kennedy Center, and from Amsterdam to Shanghai. In 2020, she was named director of chamber music at The Stissing Center in nearby Pine Plains.

Zhou's May 6 program will include challenging romantic works by Mozart, Field, Scri-

abin (composition for solo left hand), and Schumann.

The concert is open to the public. Reservations are not required. There is no charge, although a \$20 donation is suggested in support of future concerts.

For more information about the concert and the Bang Family Concert Series, go to www.thsmithfieldchurch.org/concerts.

Historical society to host Native American, child-friendly program

PINE PLAINS — On Saturday, May 6, the Little Nine Partners Historical Society (LNPHS) will host the child-friendly event "Indigenous Ecological Reciprocity" at the Graham-Brush House, 2989 E. Church St. from 10 a.m. to noon as part of Pine Plains' bicentennial celebration.

Spotlighting how to live in right relations with the environment, foods and wa-

ter, the event will include a scavenger hunt for children ages 6-10 with handpainted rocks by local artist Sarah Miller and friends, storytelling by Sachem Hawk Storm, a snack break, and a video presentation by LNPHS on "How Trees Defined Pine Plains. LNPHS will also have

the children's book "The History of Stissing" for sale.

The event is free and open to the public, and will be held rain or shine. Attendees are advised to bring chairs or blankets to sit on. For more information, contact Dyan Wapnick at dyan.wapnick@gmail.com.

Do you have a family member or friend in the military who would be interested in the news from home?

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The Lakeville Journal Company offers free online subscriptions to our website, tricornnews.com, for active duty military personnel from the Tri-state region. For more information or to set up a subscription, contact Sandra Lang at circulation@lakevillejournal.com or 860-435-9873, ext. 301.

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With the boating season arriving, it is good to be aware of the most current regulations. A wonderful resource is the 2023 Connecticut Boaters Guide Rules and Regulations. This contains everything needed to find boating classes, select a local launch, identify required safety gear, and operate a vessel safely. You can download the PDF version at: portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Connecticut-Boaters-Guide, or I am happy to email it to you. To stay updated on water conditions, launch closures and hazardous conditions, follow CT DEEP Boating Division on Facebook (@Boating In Connecticut), Instagram (@ctdeep_boating), and Twitter (@CTBoatingInfo). Have a safe season of boating!



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ENL *Continued from Page A1*

the community. The ENL family evening was held on Monday, April 24, in the cafeteria at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School. English as a New Language, or English for New Learners, is the updated version of ESL, or English as a Second Language.

Joanne Koch, secondary ESL and reading teacher, outlined the history of the district's program for non-native speakers of English. "When I started here in the '90s, there were just a few students, mostly Russian and Polish adoptees." Now, she said, most are Spanish-speakers, largely the children of farm workers, as well as a family of polo players from Argentina who come for polo season, attend school and then leave.

It takes five to seven years to get basic skills, Koch pointed out, and achieving literacy can be challenging, especially if a student's core family do not have literacy in their own language. So students are given a diagnostic screening test even before they enter school, then are placed in not just ENL but also the broader reading program.

State guidelines

As to how long and how often students are pulled out of regular classes for English instruction, their progress is assessed yearly using the NY-SESLAT tests. Classroom differentiation of instruction has been an education byword for decades now, the assumption being that teaching needs to be tailored to students' varying capacities and learning styles. This works well for English Language Learners (ELL). Over the years, teachers have come to encourage students to talk about their cultures, and fortunately the approach to learning language is more dynamic and less aca-



PHOTOS BY DEBORAH MAIER

Erkes Galidev, left, with son Bamboo creating artwork at the Stissing Mountain ENL Family Evening on April 24.

demically rigid than it used to be.

Seymour Smith School teacher Alana Garnica and co-teacher Renee Rundall proudly presented their third-grade students' graphic novel projects. Kids chose an endangered animal, filled out graphic organizers with research about them, and illustrated their stories based on the Maxwell Eaton III "The Truth About..." series. The school had been about to collaborate with the artist when COVID-19 hit, and they and hope to reestablish the relationship.

A pioneering year for the NYSSB

Gian Starr, director of curriculum and instruction, was

present to introduce the New York State Seal of Biliteracy (NYSSB), which has been around for six years but was adopted in Pine Plains just this year. For now, the focus is on Spanish as the second language, and the Pine Plains students who are graduating with Seal of Biliteracy diplomas are mainstream, non-ENL students who have taken enough courses at a high level to accrue the needed credit points—three in English and three in Spanish—earning 85% or better in their courses. They must also achieve a set score on national tests, and complete and present a culminating project in English and/

or a world language.

In the future, Starr noted, they hope to have ELL students stay in the language program long enough to achieve true bilingual fluency in not only speaking but reading and writing in both languages—or biliteracy. "That's the goal," he stated.

Eighth-grader Zayuri De Gabriel Jose, one of relatively few students over elementary age at the event, is an ideal candidate for the NYSSB. She has come up within the Pine Plains system and, despite some challenges, consolidated her English skills by about the fourth grade. She dreams of a career in immigration law.

There was a representative from the Pine Plains Library, and the Willow Roots Food Pantry owners greeted attendees and offered packages of mushrooms to all takers. Lisa and Nelson Zayas run the pantry, a nonprofit that feeds 50-70 families twice a month.

In line with their composting concerns, Nelson Zayas noted that "we've had zero breakfast garbage at Seymour Smith for the second year now." They have compost bins there and are looking to install a similar system at the high school.

After a dinner of baked ziti and meatballs as well as a veggie option, youngsters wove through an obstacle course set up in the cafeteria until their attention was drawn to a decorate-the-cookies activity. Starr and Bon Burg urged everyone not to miss the new season of Unified basketball, which started last week, in which mixed life skills/special education and mainstream students from Stissing Mountain will compete with Unified teams from other schools.

Watershed leaders, stakeholders ponder Ten Mile River moves

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

Hudson).

AMENIA — In the Ten Mile River Collaborative's (TMRC) meeting on Monday, April 24, at Amenia Town Hall and on Zoom, local leaders and stakeholders met to continue a conversation started in earnest post-pandemic this last January.

About 20 were in attendance. New federal rule changes and their possible ramifications were discussed, with the stated goal being "to explore creative methods for Watershed Plan implementation by collaborating on public outreach and conservation strategies."

Part of the Housatonic Valley Association, TMRC was formed in 2014 to address regional river management issues. Since the Ten Mile River Watershed encompasses headwaters in Salisbury and Sharon in Connecticut as well as North East and Millerton, those present at the meeting included Thomas Potter from the town of Canaan, Connecticut, and Susan Peterson of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as well as members from New York state.

In 2023, the term "watershed" is more often used in its figurative sense of a turning point. Collaborative coordinator and Ten Mile River Watershed manager Claire Wegh clarified: "A watershed is a drainage area into which all of the water drains to the same place."

The larger entity is the Housatonic Watershed, which encompasses 100,000 recreational acres, 83 towns, eight major tributaries and 24 sub-watersheds in parts of western Massachusetts and much of Connecticut as it makes its way to Long Island Sound; thus our region is part of both watersheds. Interestingly, a few miles to our west is the Lower Hudson Watershed (which straddles both sides of the

Of note is the fact that the new guidelines put much more discretion in the hands of local authorities; whereas before, only states could approach Fish and Wildlife with desired plans, now localities can take the initiative, though state approval is still required.

In its 194-page Ten Mile River Watershed Management Plan, five areas are targeted for close attention: water quality; recreation enhancement and promotion; climate change resilience and stream corridor management; natural heritage, and agriculture and producer support.

'Clean, cold and connected': Stewardship is for everyone

Details in the Plan's Existing Condition Report make it clear that while much of the Ten Mile River watershed is healthy, there are some concerns, and "future health of the watershed is not guaranteed."

Habitat loss, pollution, invasive species and drought are threats to its survival, all exacerbated by climate change. As an example, Wegh explained, fish need cold water to survive; shade is important along the course of the rivers, and lack of biodiversity as invasives take over can adversely affect water temperature.

Along with collaboration among groups within the entire watershed, the hope is that the new regs will lead to upgrading the science and mapping technology. Education and public engagement will be ramped up, beginning with a Celebrate our Watershed festival starting Friday, May 26.

An overview of the issues and potential solutions is in Executive Summary, pp 6-19 of the TMRWM Plan: hva-today.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/2022_07_22_TMRWBP_Final.pdf

For more on the Celebrate our Watershed festival May 26-July 4, see secure.qgiv.com/event/celebrateourwatershed-withhva/

Vocational education grants for Ancram adults

ANCRAMDAL — The Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association (ANHNA) has received \$5,000 to be used toward grants for residents pursuing vocational education or training, or for expenses related to advancing one's current vocation. Specific grant amounts will be based on recipients' needs. Examples of the way the grant money may be used include tuition, books, fees, supplies and transportation.

A recent recipient of an ANHNA vocational educa-

tion grant is Alyssa DeRocha, a Columbia-Greene Community College student working toward a degree in nursing.

The grants are available for residents of the Town of Ancram, and are based on financial need and stated career goals rather than academic performance. In addition to high school seniors, adults who are already working are encouraged to apply. For more information, call Jane Moore at 518-339-0292 or Laura Ponkos at 518-329-2031. All calls will be kept confidential.

Two scholarships available for Webutuck graduates

MILLERTON — The Friends of the Irondale Schoolhouse is offering two scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to Webutuck High School seniors pursuing post-graduate education at a two- or four-year college.

The scholarships are made possible by community support of the Irondale Schoolhouse as well as from North East Muffler and Associated Lightning Rod.

Applications are available at the Webutuck High School guidance office. For more information, contact John Brunese, chairman of the Friends of the Irondale Schoolhouse Scholarship Committee, at 518-461-3372.



PHOTO BY LEILA HAWKEN

Quilting at the craft fair

The Wassaic Fire Company Auxiliary craft fair was held on Saturday, April 29, at the firehouse and by all accounts was a community success. Artisans displayed a multitude of crafting talents, including the needlework of nonagenarian Marie Clark. Handling sales for their good friend who could not be present this year were Diane Colombo, left, and Cheryl Race. "She taught us quilting," Colombo said with a smile.

STAR PARTY *Continued from Page A1*

you know all this stuff?"

The answer, provided after the event, traces a winding path back to Chastain's time in the U.S. Navy, in which he served six active years and four in the Reserve.

"There's just no better way to look at the stars than being out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean," said Chastain. "No lights for hundreds and hundreds of miles. So I used to lie out on the deck and watch the stars."

From that point, Chastain's interest in astronomy gathered over time, and nearly 10 years ago, he started more regularly attending MHAA events, eventually becoming the association's president in 2018. Formed in approximately 1985 by a group of enthusiasts based at SUNY New Paltz, MHAA is an amateur astronomical association with the goal "to present the universe to the public."

It hosts monthly star parties at Taconic State Park in Copake Falls, provides astronomical programming to organizations like the North-East-Millerton Library upon request, and occasionally hosts gatherings when unique astronomical events are set to occur, including solar eclipse view-

ings at the Walkway Over the Hudson.

With the semi-official slogan "See the universe with your own eyes," MHAA provides event attendees with access to more sophisticated astronomical equipment than a casual star enthusiast might be able to justify purchasing. With that equipment, viewers are able to see things far beyond what the naked eye can perceive, a capability that Chastain thinks of as one of the foundational experiences that MHAA is able to provide.

"One of the most requested things is to see the rings of Saturn," said Chastain. "When they see it with their own eyes, when they see the rings, there's this wonderful understanding that what you see in pictures is real. It opens a door to what else is out there."

MHAA is an entirely volunteer-run association, and all events are free and open to the public and for all ages. Entirely donation and member-funded—it offers a \$25-per-year membership—all support goes toward enabling the association's outreach efforts and equipment maintenance. For more information, visit midhudsonastro.org

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GEER VILLAGE
The Lodge

Healthy Aging Seminar
Thursday, May 25 | Lecture at 2:00 pm

With **Sowmya Suraj Kurtakoti, MD**
Chief of Geriatrics, Hartford Hospital; Medical Director of Geriatric Service Line, Hartford Medical Group

Hartford HealthCare
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Areas of Expertise: Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, Geriatric Evaluations, Osteoporosis

- 1:00 pm Clinicians available for health fair & screenings
- 2:00 pm Lecture and Q & A with Dr. Kurtakoti
- 3:00 pm Clinicians available for health fair & screenings

To RSVP, call (860) 824-2611 or scan the QR code

COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

BOOKS: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Charting The Reign of King James

Sports Illustrated writer Jeff Benedict has an eye for the greats, or as they're commonly referred to by fans, G.O.A.T.s — the greatest of all time. His biography, "Tiger Woods" was the basis for a two-part docu-series on HBO, and his book "Dynasty," covering the unbeatable New England Patriots team led by Tom Brady and coach Bill Belichick has been ordered as an upcoming series for Hulu. His latest biography of an American superstar is "LeBron." Known as King James to his NBA fans, LeBron James is undeniably one of the greatest to ever play the game. I spoke with Benedict ahead of a talk he'll give at House of Books in Kent, Conn., on Friday, May 5, at 6 p.m.

Alexander Wilburn: When we talk about these larger-than-life sports figures you've written about — Tiger Woods, Tom Brady, and now LeBron James — who almost transcend their role as just athletes to become pillars in the culture, what makes an icon?

Jeff Benedict: To me, those three are the transcendent athletes of the 21st century. I'd add a fourth in Serena Williams. The reason I wanted to write about Tom, Tiger, and LeBron is that they're not just athletes, they're global figures. In order to be interesting enough to write a book about someone they have to be more than just a great athlete. Tiger and LeBron were certainly helped by being

the two global spokesmen for Nike — Michael Jordan was in the '80s and '90s — Tom was helped by leading the greatest sports team that we've seen in this century. There have obviously been a lot of endorsements and business opportunities. Tom Brady has built a brand as a businessman. That's also what separates them, they built businesses while they were playing at the peak of their careers. Traditionally most athletes have waited until they retired to try and start a business.

AW: The movie "Air" directed by Ben Affleck is out now about the creation of the Air Jordan. Nike and Michael Jordan teamed up to create a cultural legacy that's still relevant 30 years later. Why hasn't LeBron captured that?

JB: Jordan was first. Whenever you're first, that's the legacy that lasts, and it should. When he joined Nike it was a low-grade sneaker company. People only bought Nikes if they were going jogging. He was really responsible for catapulting Nike into a global company. In LeBron's case, he came second, the baton was passed to him from Michael. What LeBron did differently is he really is responsible for opening up China. He has gone to China every single year since he's been in the NBA, he's really opened up the foreign markets for Nike. People in America really underestimate the significance of that. We're so insular here, most Amer-

"The reason I wanted to write about Tom, Tiger, and LeBron is that they're not just athletes, they're global figures."

icans don't really recognize how much impact LeBron has had with Nike in markets that we don't pay attention to. But China is the biggest market in the world, and LeBron James is the most recognized athlete in China. Michael Jordan was a ground breaker and a trailblazer and the Air Jordan brand is never going to be eclipsed because it is so intricately married to Nike, and "Air," which I loved, did a good job of showing that. LeBron, he's more than just Nike. He's in movies and TV and HBO comedies. He owns a piece of the Boston Red Sox. His portfolio is more diverse.

AW: Just this year LeBron James broke the scoring record previously held by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. Is that bittersweet?

JB: We're talking about a handful of players who become the all-time leading scorer, hit the most home runs, and won the most Super Bowls...we can count those players on one hand. When you set a record like that, you'd love for that record to stand forever. But players also realize they're always going to be someone who's going to come along and threaten the record. I thought Kareem was gracious. These records are so rarely broken, the person who previously held them usually isn't alive. So it's actually neat that Kareem was here to see that happen. That record that LeBron just broke — that record just

stood for a long time.
AW: Thinking about his legacy: Jordan was a Bull, Kareem was a Laker, Larry Bird was a Celtic — who will claim LeBron?

JB: By the way, people dismiss the fact that Kareem spent a huge swath of his career as a Buck and he didn't win there. He didn't win any championships until he went to the Lakers and paired up with Magic Johnson.

AW: But we think of him as a Laker.

JB: No, that is how we think about him, and you're absolutely right. LeBron is different from them, and different from all of the great players who came before. He's "The World Traveler." He's been to four cities and he has delivered a championship to every team he's played on. That's what distinguishes him. I wasn't knocking Kareem when I said he played for the Bucks, but he only won championships with one team [Editor's note: Abdul-Jabbar did win one championship with the Bucks in 1971]. Same with Jordan, same with Bird. There's no other journeyman, no other greatest of all time, who's in the conversation, who was able to go to all these teams and deliver.

AW: When the topic of The GOAT comes up — the greatest of all time — it's likely you'll get a different answer depending on the generation of the basketball fan. Is it actually worth trying to rank Kareem, Jordan, and LeBron, or should we let the different generation have their own

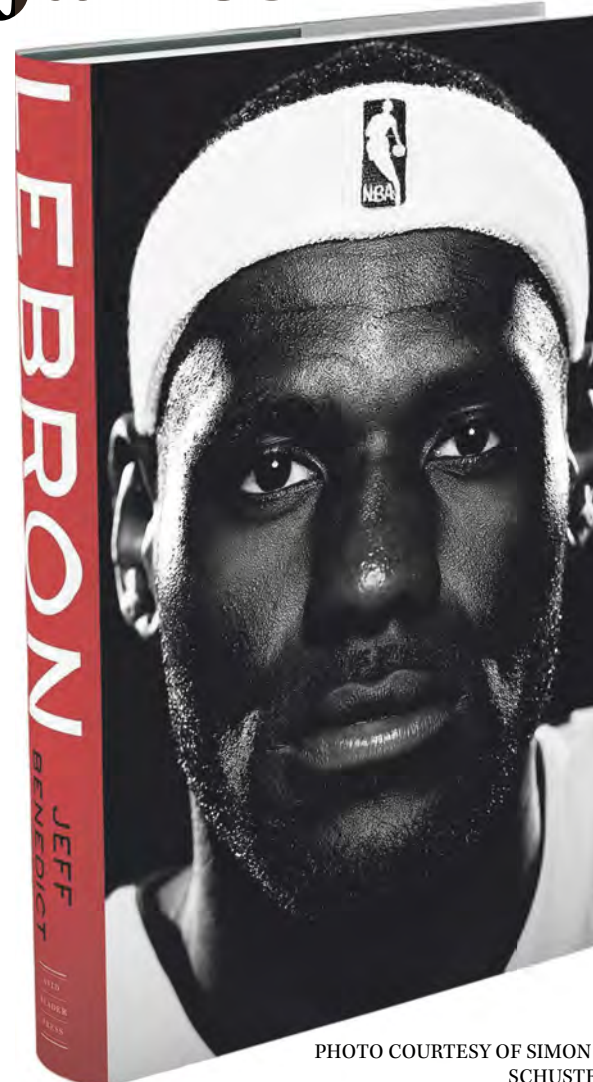


PHOTO COURTESY OF SIMON & SCHUSTER

LeBron by Jeff Benedict

GOATs and appreciate the players on their own?

JB: It's great discussion material for sports talk radio, but to me, I don't ever weigh in on that. The only people I think can really weigh in with authority are those players themselves. When you look at Michael Jordan, I like what Michael said at the pinnacle of his career and being compared to Bill Russell. He said he thought it was inappropriate to compare, because they played in different eras, and the game was very different in those eras. To me, that makes a lot of sense

with Michael and LeBron as well. Michael played his last game as LeBron was being drafted. Literally, one era closed and another opened in the same summer. Sometimes history had a beautifully poetic way of unfolding. I think in the end, LeBron will be remembered for a lot of things besides his talent in basketball. That's not a knock on Michael, he was a world-class entertainer who happened to be an athlete. LeBron has branched out into areas that Michael purposefully stayed away from, like politics and social activism. That is another form of legacy.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR



PHOTO COURTESY THE ARTIST

Untitled #3 by Alexis England

Alexis England at Troutbeck

Arts in Troutbeck in Amenia, N.Y, will present "Florescence," exhibiting the new neon-tinted floral series by abstract painter Alexis England, curated by artist John-Paul Phillipe of Sharon, Conn. An opening reception will be held on Friday, May 5, at 5 p.m. For more go to www.troutbeck.com

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PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

Janis Stemmermann's solo show in Falls Village.

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Green Room

The sleek white space of Furnace - Art on Paper Archive in Falls Village, Conn., is now striped in verdant swipes of paint as "Cut to Length" opened last weekend, featuring Janis



Hangout Hollow by Jimbo Blachly

Stemmermann's viridescent prints. The series by the Brooklyn-based artist, which blends rich broad strokes of green — from the warm hue of an avocado skin to sea glass emerald to a chilly British racing shade — takes printmaking from the flat surface of the canvas to three-dimensional ceramics. Her sculpted objects printed in the signature stripe are installed with heavy wooden stumps, showcasing both their strength and delicacy, and creating a little forest that gallery-goers wove through at the opening reception.

On view in Furnace's Vaulted Project Space are the graphic ink point landscapes by Jimbo Blachly, who finds arbor inspiration in Inwood Hill Park in Upper Manhattan, just above The Met Cloisters. His other series, prismatic works on linen canvases, with washes of oil paint colors, take on the mountainous, mysterious traits of fantasyland illustration — the swirling clouds and looming woods the mind might conjure reading Tolkien's "The Hobbit."

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Fred Hersch in Concert

Multi-Grammy-nominated jazz pianist and composer Fred Hersch will perform in concert at The Stissing Center in Pine Plains, N.Y., on Saturday, May 6, at 6 p.m. Tickets are available at www.thestissing-center.org for \$50, with a limited number of premium tickets available at \$100, which includes a special reception with Fred Hersch. Proceeds will benefit The New Pine Plains Herald.

Wassaic Project Summer Exhibition

The summer exhibition, "Counting the Seconds Between Lightning and Thunder," will open at The Wassaic Project in Wassaic, N.Y., on Saturday, May 20, at 4 p.m., featuring 40 artists throughout all seven floors of Maxon Mills. Curated by Eve Biddle, Bowie Zunino, Jeff Barnett-Winsby, and Will Hutnick, the show will be on view through September 16. For more go to www.wassaicproject.org

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

Fairyland Here on Earth

The garden in the mind of photographer and artist Anastasia Traina is alive with curious characters — fairy folk congregate with beetle and butterfly in a secret world of what Shakespeare might have called "the merry wanderers of the night." Based in Chatham, N.Y., with her husband, actor Scott Cohen, known for his roles on "Gilmore Girls," and, fittingly, the fairytale cult-classic miniseries "The 10th Kingdom," Traina spoke with me ahead of her solo art exhibit, "Alchemy and Innocent," which will open at The Berkshire Botanical Garden in Stockbridge, Mass., on Friday, May 5.

Alexander Wilburn: Previously you were living in New York City, has living upstate had an effect on your art?

Anastasia Traina: It's here that I discovered a new language to tell my stories. Previously I was a playwright and a screenwriter, but I found myself at a crossroads. I wanted to tell stories in a different way. I found myself at Berkshire Botanical Garden one day and found out they had classes for botanical art. I slowly became enchanted with visual storytelling, and I ventured down to the New York Botanical Garden's program for art and illustration. From there I developed the technical ability to tell my stories about the natural world.

AW: I didn't know the Botanical Garden in New York had an art program.

AT: It's actually a very prestigious program



PHOTOS COURTESY THE ARTIST

Onna-Bug-eisha and Her Leaf Cutting Factory by Anastasia Traina

*"She slept beneath a tree
Remembered but by me.
I touched her cradle mute;
She recognized the foot,
Put on her carmine suit,
And see!"*

The Tulip
by Emily Dickinson

and it really is like going to art school, you learn from the very best. They take you through every single medium, watercolor, colored pencil, silverpoint...it's a very classical education.

AW: We see a lot of floral paintings here in the country, but yours are decidedly different. How would you describe your approach?

AT: I find a floral specimen that I love, in the forest or in a garden — recently I ventured to Emily Dickinson's garden. The house was closed and in the garden, which was being very well taken care of, was a tulip that was half alive, but it was so vibrant still, and it had this little dozing bumble bee on it. I thought this is where Emily got her inspiration. The garden was so small, and her literary world is so huge in its depth. I sat there and sketched the tulip and the bumble bee, and later at home started re-



Wait For Me

searching Emily's poems on tulips and what the colors of different tulips mean. I feel like a flower's life reflects ours in a way. They're beautiful living creatures, their lives are so brief, but they're so full of lessons and poetry.

AW: When I was looking at your work I was thinking about the Victorian illustrator Richard Dadd who was known for his supernatural illustrations of fairies.

AT: I love him, his paintings are so beautiful and intense, and so intricate in their details.

AW: The similarities I see are that your fairies and little creatures

are so well blended into nature, you have to take a second or third look to find all the little details in your work.

AT: A lot of the time in my work I'm inspired not just by the single flower but by all the dirt and little microbes and fungi around it. You can find so many things that are alive in a handful of terra. It's magical to see what's alive in the soil. Everything is so interconnected. In my art, I take a little patch of soil with mushrooms and little creatures on it, and it's my way of making it important and saying you should take care of the Earth.



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Recent property sales in the towns of Stanford and Clinton

The Millerton News will periodically publish a listing of residential real estate sales in eastern Dutchess County. Below is a listing of residential real estate sales in the towns of Stanford and Clinton during March 2023. Straddling the Taconic Parkway, both towns have easy access to New York City, Rhinebeck and Millbrook. Clinton includes the hamlets of Clinton Corners, Bulls Head, Clinton Hollow, Frost Mills, Hibernia, Pleasant Plains and Schultsville. Stanford has even more hamlets: Attlebury, Bangall, Bear Market, Lenihan, McIntyre, Stanfordville, Stissing and Willow Brook.

- Town of Stanford**
March 2023
 39 Wendover Road for \$380,000, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, on March 20
 97 Knight Road for \$995,000 on 5.7 acres, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, on March 23
- Town of Clinton**
March 202
 234 East Fishkill for \$910,000, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, on March 1
 111 Longview Road for \$475,000, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, on March 7
 866 Hollow Road for \$390,000, 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, on March 9
- Town of Stanford and Clinton residential sales closed



PHOTO BY CHRISTINE BATES

The house at 866 Hollow Hill Road was built in 1760 and sold at under \$140 a square foot. It includes a 1900 barn and an 1860 kitchen building, and was listed at \$399,000 in November.

during March 2023 sourced with William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, Licensed in CT and NY.
 Compiled by Christine Bates, Real Estate Salesperson

SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for April 13-20.

April 24 — Deputies responded to Pleasant Ridge Road in the Town of Dover for a possible Order of Protection Violation. Both parties who have Order of Protections against each other claimed that the other had violated the Order. Matter investigated without further police intervention.

April 26 — Deputies responded to Old Route 22 in North East for a fraud complaint. Unknown subject charged over \$2,400 on caller's credit and debit cards. Investigation pending.

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.

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice
SECTION 000200—
INVITATION TO BID
RECEIPT OF BIDS:
 Separate sealed Bids on forms prepared by the Engineer will be received by the Town Board, Town of Amenia until 11:00 a.m. (local time) on Thursday, May 18, 2023 for the Tower Hill Road Paving project. Specifications and documents were prepared by the Office of Rohde, Soyka & Andrews Consulting Engineers, P.C., 40 Garden Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the aforementioned time and date at the Town Hall, Town of Amenia, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY.

The information for Bidders, Specifications and other Contract Documents may be reviewed and obtained at the Office of the Town Clerk, Town of Amenia, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, New York 12501 starting at 12 noon on Thursday, May 4, 2023.

The proposed work includes but is not necessarily limited to paving approximately 10,220 linear feet (1.9 miles) of Tower Hill Road a Town of Amenia Road, beginning at/about the Tower Hill Road /Route 22 intersection, and continuing along Tower Hill Road to the Town of Amenia/Town of Washington Town line. The work includes furnishing and installing a 2.0-inch compacted thickness asphalt top course with tack coat at an average width of 17 feet over the paved section, 1820 linear feet and a 3.5-inch compacted thickness asphalt binder at an average width of 19 feet along the unpaved section, 8400 linear feet. The existing subbase consists of compacted NYSDOT Subbase Course, Type 2 prepared by the Town of Amenia Highway Department. Work further includes milling for road and driveway matches, filling, grading, and stabilizing the shoulder area in order to back up the installed pavement. All traffic control and management during the paving will be handled by the Town of Amenia Highway Department.

A Prebid meeting for the Project will be held on Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 1:00 PM at the intersection of NYS Route 22 and Tower Hill Road, Town of Amenia. Attendance by bidders is recommended but not required for submitting a bid.

Each bid shall be accompanied by an acceptable form of Bid Deposit Guarantee in an

amount equal to at least five (5) percent of the amount of the base Bid payable to the Town of Amenia as a guarantee that if the Bid is accepted, the Bidder will execute the Contract and file acceptable Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bonds as soon as possible but no later than the date of execution of the awarded Contract.

THE BID DEPOSIT shall be in Certified Check of the bidder or Bid Bond on the form of bid bond attached hereto and drawn payable to the Town of Amenia.

OWNERS RIGHTS RESERVED: The Town of Amenia, hereinafter called the Owner, reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any formality or technicality in any Bid in the interest of the Owner.

STATEMENT OF NON-COLLUSION: Bidders on the Contracts are required to execute the non-collusion bidding certificate attached hereto pursuant to Section 103d of the General Municipal Law of the State of New York.

Bidders are also required to comply with the provision of Section 291-299 of the Executive Law of the State of New York.

The Town of Amenia hereby notifies all Bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in regard to any Contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for any award. The Town of Amenia is a sales tax-exempt agency. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER.

DATED: April 2023.
 Town Board
 Tower Hill Road Paving
 Town of Amenia
 05-04-23

NOTICE OF ANNUAL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE BUDGET, ANNUAL MEETING, SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTION AND VOTE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Education of the Northeast Central School District, Dutchess and Columbia Counties, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on the Budget in the High School Library at the Webutuck High School Building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 7:00 P.M., for the purpose of presenting the

budget document for the 2023-2024 School Year.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that a copy of the statement of the amount of money which will be required to fund the budget for the 2023-2024 school year, exclusive of public monies, may be obtained by any resident of the District during business hours, between 9:00 A.M. and 3:00 P.M., prevailing time, at the Webutuck Elementary School, Eugene Brooks Intermediate School, Webutuck High School and at the District Administrative Office between 9:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, effective May 2, 2023, except Saturday, Sunday or holidays. Copies of the Budget will also be available at the Northeast-Millerton Library and the Amenia Free Library.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the Annual Meeting, Election of Members of the Board of Education and Vote on the Budget of the qualified voters of the Northeast Central School District, will be held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at the Webutuck High School gym, Haight Road, Amenia, New York, between the hours of 12:00 P.M. and 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, when the polls will be open for the purpose of voting by voting machine:

A. To elect four (4) members to the Board of Education: two seats are for three-year terms commencing July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2026 to fill the vacant seats of incumbent board members Judy Moran and Rick Keller Coffey, one (1) seat to fill the vacant seat occupied by Chris Mayville (from the resignation of Chris Lounsbury) commencing on May 17, 2023 and ending June 30, 2026, and one (1) seat to fill the vacant seat occupied by Aimee Wesley (from the resignation of Jessica Deister) commencing on May 17, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

B. PROPOSITION I: 2023-2024 Northeast (Webutuck) CSD Budget SHALL the 2023-2024 Budget as adopted by the Board of Education in the amount of \$25,972,698, with anticipated revenue exclusive of taxes in the amount of \$8,328,538 and the amount to be raised through taxes of \$17,644,160 be approved?

C. PROPOSITION II: 2023-2024 Transportation Vehicle Purchase

SHALL the Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District be authorized to: (1) acquire

two (2) school buses at a maximum aggregate cost not to exceed \$293,164; (2) expend such sum for such purpose; (3) levy the necessary tax therefore, to be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education taking into account state aid; and (4) in anticipation of the collection of such tax, issue bonds and notes of the District and/or enter into installment purchase agreements at one time or from time to time in the principal amount not to exceed \$293,164, and levy a tax to pay the interest on said obligations when due?

D. PROPOSITION III: Construction Capital Reserve Fund

SHALL the Board of Education of the Webutuck Central School District be authorized to (1) create a Construction Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of financing the construction of, and general improvements, reconstruction, renovations or additions to, the District's buildings and grounds, including site work and the acquisition of original furnishings, equipment, machinery or apparatus required for the purpose for which such buildings and grounds are to be used; (2) fund said reserve to the ultimate amount of \$10,000,000; and (3) annually deposit into the Capital Reserve Fund such portion of the General Fund, unallocated fund balance and/or transfer from other funds, as determined by the Board of Education.

The probable duration of the Capital Reserve Fund is ten (10) years.

The election and budget vote shall be by machine or absentee ballot. The hours during which the poll shall be kept open shall be from 12:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M., prevailing time, or for as long thereafter as necessary to enable qualified voters who are in the polling place at 9:00 P.M. to cast their ballots.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the School District shall be entitled to vote in said annual vote and election. A qualified voter is one who is (1) a citizen of the United States of America, (2) eighteen (18) years of age or older, and (3) resident within the School District for a period of thirty (30) days preceding the annual vote and election. The School District may require all persons offering to vote at

the budget vote and election to provide one form of proof of residency pursuant to Education Law section 2018-c. Such form may include a driver's license, a non-driver identification card, a utility bill, or a voter registration card. Upon offer of proof of residency, the School District may also require all persons offering to vote to provide their signature, printed name and address.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that absentee ballots will be available for this Election and Vote. Applications for absentee ballots for the School District Election and Vote may be obtained at the Office of the District Clerk at the Webutuck High School building, Haight Road, Amenia, New York on school days during school hours, or on the district's website at www.webutuckschools.org beginning March 1, 2023. The application must be returned to the District Clerk by May 9, 2023 if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election, May 15, 2023, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. Absentee ballots must be received at the Office of the District Clerk no later than 5:00 P.M., prevailing time, on the day of the Election and Vote, May 16, 2023.

The Education Law makes special provisions for absentee voting by "permanently disabled" voters of the District and any questions regarding these should be directed to the District Clerk.

A list of all persons to whom absentee ballots shall have been issued will be available for inspection to qualified voters of the District at the said District Administrative Offices during regular office hours, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M., prevailing time, including the day of the Election and Vote. Any qualified voter may file a written challenge to the acceptance of the ballot of any person on such list, by making his/her challenge and reasons therefore known to the Inspector of Election before the close of the polls.

The Education Law also makes special provisions for absentee voting for "military" voters of the District. Specifically, the law provides a unique procedure for "military ballots" in school district votes. Whereas absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots must be received by the voter by mail, a military voter may elect to receive his/her absentee ballot application and absentee

ballot by mail, email or facsimile. The military voter must, however, return his/her original military ballot application and military ballot by mail or in person. The Clerk of the Board shall transmit the military voter's military ballot in accord with the military voter's preferred method of transmission, or if no preferred method is identified by mail, not later than twenty-five (25) days before the vote, May 2, 2023. The Clerk of the Board must then receive the military voter's military ballot by mail or in person not later than 5:00 P.M. on the day of the vote.

AND FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a rule adopted by the Board of Education in accordance with Education Law §§ 2035, 2008, any referenda or propositions to amend the budget, or otherwise to be submitted for voting at said election, must be filed with and directed to the District Clerk at the District Office, on or before April 17, 2023; must be typed or printed in the English language; must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District; and must state the name and residence of the candidate, and the name and residence of each signer. However, the Board of Education will not entertain or place before the voters any petition or any proposition if its purpose is beyond the power of the voters or is illegal, or any proposition requiring the expenditure of monies which fails to include specific appropriations for all such expenditures required by the proposition.

Therese M. Trotter
 Clerk of the Board
 Northeast (Webutuck)
 Central School District
 194 Haight Road,
 P.O. Box 405
 Amenia, NY 12501
 05-04-23

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.

05-04-23
 05-11-23
 05-18-23
 05-25-23
 06-01-23
 06-08-23

EDITORIAL

Real and positive

Monitoring the news these days on the national or international front requires a steady and determined attitude in the face of adversity. Or as Merriam-Webster would put it: a stiff upper lip. However, checking in on the local news this past week shines a light on some real and positive outcomes on important matters in Millerton and its surrounding county.

For one, the Village of Millerton and the Town of North East can be hopeful that Rep. Pat Ryan will succeed in his request for a \$2 million Community Project Funding grant to be used toward the village's proposed wastewater system project. The system would encompass the village's business district, commercial areas along Route 22 and the town's Boulevard District along Route 44 plus a few surrounding residential properties in the village. This project, in the works for at least seven years, appears to have momentum. Mayor Jenn Najdek and Town Supervisor Chris Kennan should be saluted for recognizing the importance of this initiative for Millerton.

Another local news item: The Village gets a new police chief. Joseph Olenik was appointed to the part-time post after the village Board of Trustees in late March placed the Millerton police on paid leave, suspending their activities until a police chief was in place. Olenik comes to the job with close to a half century of experience in law enforcement, including years at the North Salem Police Department and at SUNY Purchase. He currently holds a full-time position as director of facilities, operations and support for Putnam Hospital in Carmel and Sharon Hospital, both part of Nuvance Health. The status of the Millerton Police Department remains a contentious topic, but village trustees are taking steps to provide more clarity. For his part, Olenik says he believes in community. An early riser, residents can expect to see him on patrol during morning hours. And it's a positive sign that the new chief has been walking around the village, meeting business owners and residents.

Last week's news also affirmed the mission of the Moviehouse — and equally that of Sharon Hospital — to connect with the community. A panel of physicians assembled on stage to offer advice on healthy aging. The keynote speaker was Chris Crowley, 90, a best-selling author who lives in Lakeville, and whose "Younger Next Year" series of books has sold more than 2 million copies. It should not go unnoticed that six doctors representing geriatrics, neurology, internal medicine and palliative care, primary care, obstetrics and gynecology and orthopedic surgery appeared on the Moviehouse stage to talk to the community and answer questions — and connect with the community. Hats off to those MDs, to Sharon Hospital and to nonagenarian Chris Crowley.

And lastly, in neighboring Columbia County, the late Charlotte Shutts, a longtime Hillsdale resident and supporter of the Roeliff Jansen Library in Copake, left a bequest to the library that will enable it to retire its mortgage and fund a new outdoor pavilion. Shutts, who died in December, was known to be shy, but volunteered at the front desk. This good deed deserves to be honored.

Real and positive outcomes are welcome news. No stiff upper lip required.

Fix the environment

In order to lead the world in fixing the environment, we have to realize that industry, Wall Street, and rich science-deniers have the upper hand currently. And if you are wondering what upper hand they have, it's all about handouts to politicians to keep their interests in control, make profit now and never, ever, take a long-term, pro-humanity view.

Roger Smith, then head of GM, made a statement back in the '80s that he felt the CAFÉ (fuel economy regulations) should be suspended

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

for the good of the economy. I talked with him at the U.N. and pointed out that his view was shortsighted. I asked him, "Who do you think you are going to sell cars to in 50 years when the environment is destroyed?" His response was simple, "That's not our problem right now." Ted Turner was not amused at the same



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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why do big banks still invest in fossil fuels?

Our community has been experiencing the effects of climate change, and I worry about the future and the climate extremes that coming generations will experience. April is "Earth Month," and the theme this year is "Invest in People and the Planet." So,

I wonder why big banks like Bank of America, Chase, Citibank, and Wells Fargo, are still investing in the expansion of dirty fossil fuels that are causing such climate destruction.

According to the report Banking on Climate Chaos,

these banks have invested more than \$1 trillion in fossil fuels since 2016! The recent IPCC report says that "feasible, effective, and low-cost solutions" are readily available but aren't being scaled-up at the necessary speed.

This Spring, the big banks

should adopt the pending shareholder resolutions on climate change at their annual meetings and commit to accelerating their investments in clean energy and divest from coal, oil, and gas.

Gregg Davis

Hillsdale, New York

COVID-19 coverage changes coming in May

The emergency phase of the nation's response to COVID-19 is set to end on Thursday, May 11. The Dutchess County Office for the Aging and Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) have been preparing to meet the needs of Dutchess County older adults beyond that date, so we all can anticipate the expected changes.

OFA will continue its offer of free vaccinations and boosters for COVID-19 and influenza to homebound older Dutchess County residents for the next several months. If you or someone for whom you care has been unable to travel to a traditional provider, OFA can arrange for trained providers to come to the residence of the homebound individual. Contact OFA at 845-486-2555 or ofa@dutchessny.gov to find out more.

GOLDEN LIVING

Todd N. Tancredi

DBCH commissioner Livia Santiago-Rosado, MD, FACEP, offers the following guidance to all Dutchess County residents, regardless of age or vaccination status:

"Although the COVID-19 state of emergency is coming to an end in May, the CDC recommends that anyone who has not yet had their updated shot get one. This bivalent vaccine induces antibodies against both the original virus and the Omicron variants, especially important among people who may be older or immunocompromised. We urge those more vulnerable populations to consider their risk, as they have been approved to re-

ceive another dose of the updated shot, even if they have already had one in those last few months."

What else changes after May 11? A full accounting of the changes would take up a good-sized book, so we'll cover the changes that will affect the most of us.

For one, COVID-19 vaccines and antivirals such as Paxlovid will remain free to everyone regardless of insurance status until the current federal stockpile runs out. Additionally, expanded telehealth covered by Medicare will also remain in place through December 2024 under federal spending legislation passed in December. After 2024, congressional action to extend telehealth coverage would be needed.

In New York state, flexibilities that have applied to physicians' assistants during the COVID emergency are scheduled to expire on May 11, barring any changes made as part of state budget talks that were ongoing as of this writing. The 2022-23 state budget permanently granted full

practice authority to nurse practitioners. NPs in New York can diagnose, evaluate, test, manage treatments and prescribe medicines without a previously required contract with a physician.

Meanwhile, New York's continuous Medicaid enrollment policy enacted during the pandemic expired on March 31. Since then, the state has been notifying Medicaid consumers about potential changes to coverage. For older adults covered by Medicare and/or Medicaid who are concerned about what the future holds, OFA is hosting a Medicare Savings Plan (MSP) Enrollment Forum on Friday, May 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at OFA offices at 114 Delafield St. in Poughkeepsie.

Space is limited; contact OFA during business hours at 845-486-2555 to save a spot to talk with a trained, non-sales-oriented OFA counselor.

Golden Living is prepared by the Dutchess County Office for the Aging, Todd N. Tancredi, director. Email him at ofa@dutchessny.gov.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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Mission Statement

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

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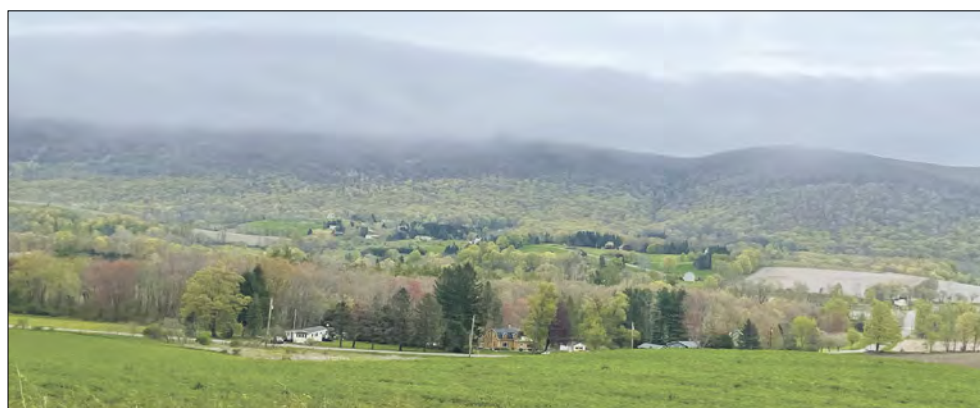


PHOTO BY DEBORAH MAIER

Late April fog over North East

Peter Riva, a former resident of Amenia Union, now lives in New Mexico.

To Place an Ad Call 860-435-9873 or visit www.tricornernews.com/classifieds

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TAG SALES

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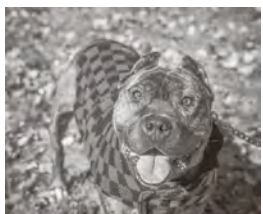
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REAL ESTATE

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The Lakeville Journal Company seeks an administrative assistant to provide support for the editorial team as well as its fundraising activities.

Support includes meeting scheduling, preparation, and follow up. This position assists with donor data management and staffs various fundraising events throughout the year.

For more information about salary and benefits, and to apply, please contact Susan Hassler at publisher@lakevillejournal.com

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