



MILLERTON
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Arraigned and released

Former hostage taker arrested on gun charges

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
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PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains community was distressed to learn about the arrest of Christopher Craft on Wednesday, April 20, following a traffic stop in Hyde Park for a number of traffic violations.

Craft is the former Stanfordville resident who served seven years in state prison for holding former Stissing Mountain Middle School Principal Bob Hess hostage with a loaded shotgun in 2009.

Last week's arrest occurred after New York State Police (NYS) troopers pulled over Craft's 1994

Ford van over on Route 9 along the western edge of the county.

Troopers from the Rhinebeck Troop K barracks discovered Craft, 55, and his son, Jeremy Craft, 32, both of whom now live in Rhinebeck, with a loaded Mossberg 500A 12-gauge shotgun. That's "despite both being convicted of crimes barring them from possessing a firearm," according to the NYSP.

The vehicle, in addition to containing the loaded firearm, was also carrying an unrestrained child in the front seat, noted the NYSP.

"During the arrest, Christopher

See **GUN CHARGES, A8**

Pine Plains pharmacist and nurse honored for initiative

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Week after week during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Pine Plains Pharmacy owner Nasir Mahmood and retired registered nurse Kathy Bartles made sure residents in the region got tested and vaccinated.

The pharmacist and nurse helped bolster the overall wellness of their community and were rewarded for their efforts on Thursday, April 7, by the Dutchess County Board of Health (DCBOH). Both were honored with the 2022 Public Health Partnership Award. Mahmood learned of the honor in a letter from the DCBOH on March 25. It said the award is given each year during Public Health Week (April 4 to April 10) to "an individual and/or agency performing essential public health services in recognition for their contributions to the health of the community."

Mahmood and Bartles were both selected to receive the honor as they coordinated the Pine Plains Pandemic Initiative.

A press release from the

See **AWARD, A8**

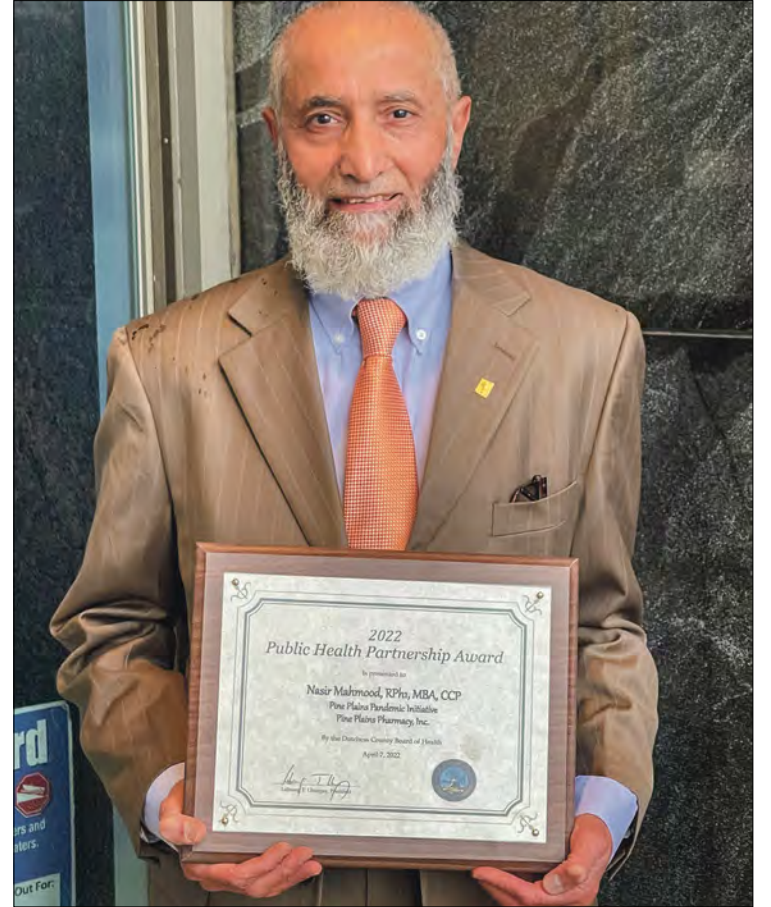


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Along with retired nurse Kathy Bartles (not pictured), Pine Plains Pharmacy owner and pharmacist Nasir Mahmood was this year's recipient of the Public Health Partnership Award for his work in coordinating the Pine Plains Pandemic Initiative.

Hearing to abolish MPD gets fiery

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — "Community" was a persistent concern echoed throughout the Millerton Village Board's public hearing on the proposed local law to abolish the Millerton Police Department (MPD) on Wednesday, April 20. Village residents were encouraged to make their thoughts and concerns known that evening.

A copy of the proposed local may be found online, at www.villageofmillerton.net, as may a link to a video of the hearing.

Village trustees said they were gratified more than 30 people attended the 6 p.m. hearing in the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex. Before opening the floor for public comments, Village Clerk Kelly Kilmer read aloud two submitted written statements.

There were mixed concerns raised from Millerton residents as well as MPD officers, business owners and other community members. People shared positive and poor interactions they've had with MPD officers through the years as well as their observations of the MPD's work in the community.

Questions were asked about

"Be it the Millerton police or be it the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, one thing I do not feel is a sense of community."

Stacey Moore, resident and businesswoman

cost and liability to the village and to taxpayers, and how much would be saved if the village instead contracts with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office (DCSO).

There were those who favored contracting with the DCSO for police services — which is what the Village Board has proposed for police services inside the village if it disbands the MPD — and those who want to keep the MPD as is.

Several residents urged the board to put the local law to a public vote during this year's village election and budget vote in June — a suggestion made by former Mayor Debbie Middlebrook.

Mayor Jenn Najdek did mention after the March 29 village workshop with DCSO Acting Sheriff Kirk Imperati, that if the board approves the local law it would

See **MPD A8**

Amenia murder suspect 'lacks capacity' for trial

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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POUGHKEEPSIE — After a thorough evaluation by three doctors to determine his mental capacity, Wassaic resident and murder suspect David A. Trotta was officially declared unfit for trial. The 26-year-old defendant was supposed to proceed with his criminal case on Tuesday, April 19. Instead, an order will be signed sending him to a psychiatric hospital until he is deemed fit to proceed with trial.

On Sunday, Jan. 16, Trotta was arrested on the scene and charged with fatally stabbing his neighbor, 45-year-old Juan Carlos Cedillo.

Both Trotta and Cedillo resided on the first floor of an

apartment house at 173 South Amenia Road in Wassaic. Trotta lived in one of the first-floor apartments with his mother while Cedillo lived with his wife in the other first-floor apartment.

Trotta was arraigned in Amenia Town Court and charged with Murder in the Second Degree, a class A-1 felony, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 4th degree, a class A misdemeanor that day.

He was remanded by Amenia Town Justice Christopher Klingner to the Dutchess County Jail in Poughkeepsie without bail.

On Tuesday, March 1, Trotta appeared in Dutchess County

See **TROTTA A8**

Don't miss report on State of the County '22

PINE PLAINS — Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro delivered the 2022 State of the County Address in person at The Stissing Center in Pine Plains this year, on Saturday, April 23.

He spoke of his leadership during the past decade, and gave a look toward the county's future, addressing its many priorities in terms of ensuring safety, affordability and housing.

To learn more about what Molinaro had to say about what to expect in 2022, turn to Page B5.

— *Kaitlin Lyle*



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MILLERTON



Engaging with their community, students from the Webutuck National Honor Society offered biodegradable sunflower seedling pots at Millerton's Earth Day Festival.



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, Deborah Maier demonstrated how materials like the recycled oil containers from Golden Wok can be repurposed as clothes to protect plants against pests and frosts, while Jocelyn Reyes, dressed as the Bag Monster, demonstrated how plastic use builds up over time.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Tasked with organizing this year's Earth Day Festival in Millerton, Christopher Virtuoso was pleased to welcome gorgeous spring weather and a good dozen participants to this year's Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 23.



New York-based green consultant Jennifer Prescott, founder of green design GOODS, displayed a variety of zero-waste items from her business at the Millerton Earth Day Festival, including reusable food wraps, bamboo utensil sets and solid organic dish soap.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

After performing at a special Earth Day Millerton Farmers Market, musicians traveled from Veterans Park to the Great Lawn of the Millerton Inn to provide live music at Saturday's festival.

Millerton supports the planet's well being at Earth Day festival

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILLERTON — The village of Millerton went green on Saturday, April 23, as it embraced the return of its in-person community-wide Earth Day festival. Adopting "Invest in our Planet" as this year's theme, the festival itself ran from noon to 5 p.m. on the front lawn of The Millerton Inn, though the village offered a few other Earth Day activities at nearby locations.

Between 9 and 11 a.m., the North East Community Center (NECC) invited community members to help revitalize its grounds with a community clean-up on South Center Street. NECC's Millerton Farmers Market hosted a special Earth Day market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Veterans Park, just a few blocks away.

Also at 10 a.m., the North-East-Millerton Library (NEML) contributed to the celebration with a medley of activities, including a Seed Giveaway, a Pollinator Garden Clean-Up and Planting Program and a Make Your Own Beeswax Wraps Program.

Millerton's very own Moviehouse offered a free screening of "March of the Penguins" at 11:30 a.m., perfectly timed with the start of the festival.

By the time families stepped

out of the theater on Main Street, the festival tables were set up on the inn's Great Lawn across the street.

NECC's Farmers Market, at the corner of Main Street and Dutchess Avenue, also drew visitors to the festival. Once shoppers finished browsing through the local produce, fresh baked goods and other wares, they couldn't resist stepping over the grass to the festivities next door.

Pleased Mother Nature provided such a beautiful day, festival organizer Christopher Virtuoso counted at least a dozen organizations, groups and other vendors spread across the inn's grounds.

Stationed in front of its front porch, the North East/Millerton Climate Smart Task Force (CSTF) had a tent offering valuable information about home efficiencies. One could learn about do-it-yourself heat leak checks, home energy audits and thermal energy cameras (now available at NEML) to identify where homeowners need insulation.

Associated Lightning Rod and Central Hudson also supplied information on home efficiencies, while the nonprofit Homegrown National Park shared details on its mission to plant native species to regenerate biodiversity and ecosystem function.

"We're happy to be out and

seeing people," CSTF Advisory Council Chair Rich Stalzer said. "I think we had a great selection of virtual events last year, but they weren't interactive."

"We've just been waiting to get together as a community," added CSTF Coordinator Kathy Chow. "I think there's also been a tipping point that people are noticing climate change more than ever."

Given the extreme weather the region has faced in recent weeks — and the world has faced in recent years — Chow said, "It just increases the urgency and the need to do what we can."

On the inn's front lawn, as a continuation of their efforts to have trees planted in the Millerton Community Park (formerly Eddie Collins Park), Millerton merchants displayed a selection of locally-sourced prizes in a raffle.

Equipped with a box stuffed with seasonal seed packets, NECC encouraged folks, especially gardening enthusiasts,

to grow a single row of fresh produce to donate to NECC's Fresh Food Pantry.

Members of the Webutuck National Honor Society offered biodegradable sunflower seedling pots while the Webutuck Student Council invited children to "Save the World" with a new take on the game of cornhole.

As lunchtime approached, many satisfied their hunger with burgers, hot dogs, kebabs and souvlaki cooked by Four Brothers and supported their local Girl Scout troop by buying (and eating) boxes of cookies.

A first-time participant at Millerton's Earth Day celebration, local resident and Climate Smart Community member Deborah Maier said, "I like the idea that there are people working on disparate projects and there's something for everyone. Everybody's very committed and they're realistic, I think. They know we can't change this overnight, but they know they can start somewhere."

Dems and GOP set caucuses

Village Board adopts 2022-23 budget

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Returning to work after the Easter and Jewish holidays, the Village Board adopted the proposed 2022-23 budget on Monday, April 18.

Trustees gathered with the mayor at Village Hall for the 6 p.m. meeting.

June elections set

The board established this year's election will be held on Tuesday, June 21. The polls will open at Village Hall at 5933 North Elm Ave., from noon to 9 p.m.

May caucuses set

The Democratic Caucus will be at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3, and the Republican Caucus will follow at 7 p.m. that same night. Both caucuses will be held at Village Hall.

Budget adopted


Village Clerk and Treasurer Kelly Kilmer presented the proposed 2022-23 budget. She said it hasn't changed since it was first posted on the village website earlier this spring, or since the Village Board held its required public hearing on the budget on Monday, April 4. At that time, the village's

expenses were calculated at \$811,644.43 while revenue other than taxes came to \$366,943; the amount to be raised by taxes came to \$443,631.23 and the village's tax rate came to 0.00465893.

This is the first year Millerton will exceed the state's tax cap.


After some discussion, the board approved the proposed budget for general and water with a majority vote.

For a complete look at the village's fiscal plan, go to www.villageofmillerton.net.



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THE OVERDUE RECKONING
OF RACE AND WEALTH**




Thomas Shapiro
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Celebrating Our 125th Anniversary

A PHOTO FROM 52 YEARS AGO



Country Cooks
By Ruth SoRelle

MRS. BERTHA FOWLKES, LAKEVILLE
Oatmeal Cake

AS IT RAN ON APRIL 2, 1970

Over the years, we've shared favorite recipes. Because food is community. Bertha Fowlkes, above, one of our Country Cooks, was a beloved member of the community and passed just last year at the age of 98. She was married to William Fowlkes, not Ray Fowlkes, as was incorrectly printed in this space last week. Our apologies for the error. We hope Ray, William and Bertha are all somewhere discussing the latest error in The Lakeville Journal. We are sorry and miss you all.

- Janet Manko, Publisher

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AMENIA/DOVER



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, Sareina Masiero and Susan Iannucci from the Waterman Bird Club proudly displayed images of diverse bird species and examples of bird nests at their Earth Day table at Dover Middle School.



Representing the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasion Species Management (PRISM), New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Conservation Dogs Program Coordinator Arden Blumenthal outlined Lower Hudson PRISM's mission to manage and detect invasive species found in the region.



From left, Master Gardener Michelle Lane and Dover Conservation Advisory Council member Jane Pickering outlined the Dover Pollinator Pathway's outreach efforts at the Dover Earth Day Fair.

Dover celebrates the return of Earth Day Fair

By KAITLIN LYLE
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DOVER — Celebrating Earth Day as a community, the Dover Union Free School District was effervescent with the return of the Earth Day Fair on Friday, April 22.

Held in the Dover Middle School gymnasium from 9

a.m. to 1 p.m., this year's Earth Day Fair drew a lush variety of tables and booths set up by an equally vibrant variety of organizations and groups from throughout the region. The fair welcomed 27 vendors to speak to students about things having to do with the world they live in and ways to help protect it.

"This is amazing," Dover Middle School Assistant Principal Emily Krieger as she watched the fair unfold from the gym's sidelines. "This is my first time organizing and facilitating this, and to watch the kids interact with all these organizations and all these people in the community is phenomenal."

Praising this year's participants for the information and props they had brought to get students involved in Earth Day, Krieger added, "All the kids are walking out of the gym smiling."

Indeed, Dover students were seen grinning ear to ear as they circulated the gym, stopping by the different tables to converse with local environmental groups and advocates and learn more about their work preserving and protecting the region's natural resources.

Experts on hand took pride in answering questions about their programs and services and connecting students with resources in the county and state.

At one table, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service taught students about the value of the Great Thicket National Wildlife Refuge. At another table, members of the Dover Pollinator Pathway spoke of the importance of bringing back pollinators through sensible landscaping and gar-

dening. Examples of sensible gardening, according to Dover Conservation Advisory Council member Janet Pickering, include not using pesticides, planting native plants and removing invasive, non-native plants.

"I don't think people in the town know how special Dover is in terms of biological diversity," Pickering said, "so I think it's important to let people know so they can protect and build on Dover's reputation for biological diversity."

Officer Charles Eyley III from the New York State Environmental Conservation Police displayed an assortment of animal hides as an example of the illegal wildlife sales his agency seizes, while Sareina Masiero and Susan Iannucci proudly displayed images of diverse bird species and bird nest samples protected in plastic containers.

"It's always a hit here in Dover," Masiero said in regard to the Earth Day Fair.

Representing the Lower Hudson Partnership for Re-

gional Invasion Species Management (PRISM), New York-New Jersey Trail Conference Conservation Dogs Program Coordinator Arden Blumenthal outlined its mission to manage and detect invasive species in the area as well as the agency's Conservation Dogs Program. The program utilizes dogs to detect the invasive plant species humans might otherwise miss.

Along with opportunities to learn more about the community's resources, volunteer openings were also plentiful at the fair, including with the Friends of the Great Swamp (FrOGS), which invited community members to help preserve and protect the Great Swamp Watershed.

Continuing the Earth Day celebration after school hours, students were also invited to take part in Dover Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 23, at 8 a.m. Meeting at the Boyce Park pavilion in Wingdale, volunteers helped collect trash along town roads to keep their community clean.



PHOTOS BY WICKI DOYLE

Local resident Margie O'Brien worked to clean up the dump site on Route 81 near the railroad overpass in Wassaic.



From left, Nathan Roy and Amenia Conservation Advisory Council Chair Michael Peek worked together to pick up trash at Borden Park in Wassaic.

Volunteers brighten Wassaic for Amenia's Clean Up Day

WASSAIC — Celebrating Earth Day among friends and neighbors, local residents volunteered to help keep their community clean at Amenia's Clean Up Day on Saturday, April 23.

This year's Clean Up Day

ran from 10 a.m. to noon and volunteers were given the choice to meet at either Fountain Square in Amenia or Borden Park in Wassaic.

Donning bright orange vests, volunteers worked together to pick up trash and

litter along the roadways and local trails. By the early afternoon, the town of Amenia and hamlet of Wassaic shone a little more brightly as a result of the volunteers' labors.

— Kaitlin Lyle

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WASSAIC IN BRIEF

The Wassaic Project's 2022 summer exhibition

The Wassaic Project's 2022 summer exhibition, "A Tournament of Lies," will open in the hamlet of Wassaic on Saturday, May 21. The opening will gather 46 artists in Wassaic in hopes of harnessing the infinite energy of the "life imitates art" dynamic. Block parties for the summer exhibition will be held on Saturday, July 23, and Saturday, Aug. 20, from noon to 10 p.m. at The Wassaic Project's Maxon Mills at 37 Furnace Bank Road. Following the opening, the exhibition will be on display free of charge on Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. from Saturday, May 21, to Saturday, Sept. 17. For more information, go to www.wassaicproject.org.

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Edward J. Shaughnessy

MILLBROOK — Edward J. Shaughnessy, Ph.D., longtime resident of the Village of Millbrook, died peacefully in his sleep on Saturday morning, April 2, 2022, in his favorite home library room, surrounded by family and after a 10-month battle with cancer and other complications. He was 87.



Edward was the younger of two children born to Edward J. Shaughnessy Sr., and Jane Walsh Shaughnessy in Brooklyn, N.Y., on Dec. 2, 1934.

He is most remembered for his broad smile, irrepressible wit, compulsive word play, instant recall of historical facts, and handyman extraordinaire. Ever evident was his love for family and friends, but most especially for "the gift of the grands."

Edward graduated from St. Augustine High School in Brooklyn and received his B.A. with honors from Catholic University in Washington, D.C., where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He continued his graduate education at Fordham University in European History, receiving a Master of Arts and was later awarded a Master's degree in Theology studies from Manhattan College.

He spent his early career during the late 1950s to early 1960s teaching in Harlem and later in Kenya, East Africa, helping to establish a health dispensary for the local Kikuyu tribe and college classes for future Nyeri elementary school teachers. In the process he became fluent in Swahili and Kikuyu languages, a skill he retained and used as recently as his summer 2021 hospital stay in Vermont.

His facility with languages was also evident during a Fulbright fellowship to Norway and experiences with various U.N. consulting assignments in Italy and the Netherlands and diverse travels over the years.

After receiving his Ph.D. from the New School for Social Research in NYC, in 1973, Edward began his university teaching career, specializing in sociology of law at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, where he served as Chairman of the Department and was awarded the Bramhill Faculty Exchange to England. He also maintained a joint appointment to the Graduate Center of CUNY where he is professor emeritus.

For many years, he lectured in the graduate public administration program at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. During that time, he founded Education and Justice Services, his consulting company servicing law and education entities. He was active in his scholarly disciplines both as a writer and speaker, concentrating on criminal justice reform.

Affectionately known as "Mr. Volunteer" among family and friends, Edward served his community over time as board

member and officer: 1st Lieutenant of the Millbrook Fire Department Rescue Squad; Chairman of the Church Alliance Building Committee; President of the Dutchess County Historical Society; Acting Village Justice for the Village of Millbrook, among many other public service commitments and committees.

Ed's genealogical research interests led him to join the Sons of Union Veterans upon discovering two great-grandparents who served as Marines for the Union in the Civil War. He became an active member and officer of the international O'Shaughnessy Society when he traced his family's immigration from Gort, Ireland, in 1834 to Brooklyn, N.Y. He persevered researching into obscure archives to authenticate his Quaker built 18c home in the Village of Millbrook.

Edward enjoyed writing and illustrating story books for his grandchildren, designing, cutting and soldering stained glass chess sets, and fixing old clocks. His repertoire of old songs and show tunes delighted many and he sang for over a decade in Millbrook's St. Joseph's Church choir.

He had a number of surreptitious local appearances as Santa and a few acting parts in June Kaufman's theatre productions at the Thorne Building in Millbrook. For three sequential years, he won first place in the triathlon events for those aged over 60 at John Jay College, CUNY.

Edward is survived by his loving wife of 52 years, Mary Ann Keelan, of Millbrook; his beloved children, Celia Jane Shaughnessy (Jeremiah Wille) of Grafton, Wisconsin, and John Edward Shaughnessy (Autumn Cruger) of Millbrook; the gift of four grandchildren, Julia, Madeline and Claire Shaughnessy-Wille, all of Grafton, Wisconsin, and Logan Patrick Shaughnessy, of Millbrook. He leaves his nephew Daniel Walsh (Larissa), niece Dorothy Walsh Gay (Bruce), in-laws Donald and Verrall Keelan and Kevin and Elizabeth Keelan; and many cousins, nieces, nephews, colleagues and faithful friends. His parents and older sister, Genevieve Shaughnessy Walsh, predeceased him as did his brother-in-law Thomas Keelan.

The Shaughnessy Family extends a special thank you to Hudson Valley Hospice for their care and compassion extended to Edward and his family on his return from his Vermont hospital stay to his Millbrook home in late August 2021. Friends will be received Thursday, April 28, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Allen Funeral Home, 3270 Franklin Ave. in Millbrook, and then proceed to St. Joseph's RC Church where at 1 p.m. a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated. Interment will follow in the St. Joseph's Parish Cemetery, Millbrook.

OBITUARIES

Peter D. Bull

was an inspiration to all.

The true meaning in Peter's life came from the love of his life, Jeanne Curtis. Their love story began when they met early in their law careers. They were married in July 1996, living in New York City, and spending most weekends in Kent. Peter and Jeanne shared passions for travel, food, the arts (particularly theater, music, and literature), horseback riding, animal rescue work, and spending time with family and friends. Over the years, Peter cultivated these interests with vigor and no more so than when Jeanne entered his life.



Peter and Jeanne's thirst for travel led to them to take journeys throughout the United States, Central America, South America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Northern Europe, the United Kingdom, and Ireland, always hiring docents so that they could take deep dives into subjects of interest. They made friends and spent time with a broad spectrum of people they met along the way. Peter savored the conversations they had with their new friends and was always eager for more.

In 2013, Peter and Jeanne decided to step back from their professional pursuits to follow their dream of extended travel, with the opportunity to become a part of the fabric of the communities they visited. They spent chunks of time in a variety of locales; their favorite spots were Barcelona, Krakow, Berlin, Stockholm, and Dingle (Ireland). Throughout their travels and particularly in Dingle, Peter and Jeanne explored their new surroundings on horseback. For Peter, there was little better than feeling the wind as he galloped along the beaches of the Dingle peninsula.

Peter was devoted to his dogs Norma, Jax, and Hank; they were never far from him and even as his illness progressed, his eyes would light up with joy when hearing what they had been doing during the few moments of the day when they were not at his side. Peter's kindness and compassion were demonstrated in abundance not only with his own rescue dogs, but with all the rescue animals he rallied around. Even during his illness, Peter continued ac-

tively helping other animals in need.

Peter epitomized the best of personhood: intellect, humor, courage, integrity, kindness, and goodness to the core. He was that and much, much more.

In addition to Jeanne, Peter is survived by his mother Ann Bull, his siblings Robert, Catherine, and Stephen Bull; his mother-in-law, Barbara Curtis; his sisters- and brothers-in-law Lawrence and Brenda Curtis, Mark and Karen Curtis, Stephen and Angela Curtis, Mary and Michael Stein, Paul and Celia Curtis, Julie Curtis and Bruce Petryshin, and Denise and Michael McDermott; his nieces and nephews Heather and Carlos Amaya, Caitlin Bull, Kyle Bull, Lauren

and Jeremy Stimson, Morgan Curtis, Andrew Curtis, Heather Curtis, Eric Curtis, Justin Curtis, Kerianne and Christopher Brewer; Kimberly Stein, Mollie Stein, Diana Curtis, Kelly Curtis, Sarah Curtis, Christopher and Hillary Petryshin, Timothy Petryshin, Ryan and Alana McDermott, Paige McDermott, and Tyler McDermott; grandnieces and nephews Hannah Amaya, Lucas Petryshin, and Eimile Petryshin. He is also survived by many cousins, particularly the Costa, Shea, Bull, Vesich, and Schultz families. He was predeceased by his father, Robert B. Bull, and his father-in-law, Ernest F. Curtis, Jr.

A private celebration of life was held for Peter. Family and friends came together and shared stories of Peter while enjoying great food, music, and many laughs, just as Peter wanted.

Worship Services

Week of May 1, 2022

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

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www.christchurchsharon.org

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
40 Leedsville Road
Amenia Union, NY
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sharonumc5634@att.net

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SUNDAY MASSES 8 AM - St. Bernard 10 AM - Sacred Heart
WEEKDAY MASSES Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & First Friday 9 AM - Sacred Heart

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Immaculate Conception, 4 North Street, Norfolk
St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan
St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville
MASS SCHEDULE
Saturday Vigil 5 pm, St. Joseph Church
Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary
Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church
DAILY MASS SCHEDULE
Wednesday 6pm
St. Joseph Chapel or Church
Thursday 8am
Immaculate Conception Church
Friday 8am
Church of St. Mary
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Email Rev. Mary Gates at: mngates125@gmail.com
for an invitation to the Zoom service
If you don't have a computer you can participate via phone.

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6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812
Millerton, NY 12546
Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M.
518-789-3138

Canaan United Methodist Church
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"Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors"
Rev. Lee Gangaware
860-824-5534
canaanct-umc.com
canaanctumc@gmail.com
We hope you will join us!

For more obituaries, see Page A6

In Loving Memory of J.C. & Gloryann Webb

Please Join Us for a Memorial Service and Celebration of Life

Saturday, April 30th 2022

1:00 P.M.

at The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
656 Smithfield Valley Road
Amenia, New York

Lunch Reception to follow

Service will also be virtual via Zoom
contact: swehb00@optimum.net
718-473-4623

Email obituaries to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

In Loving Memory of our Mom
Lois G. Shaffer
2/19/1926 - 4/28/2007

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Update in Ancram

Attorney presents report to Town Board on disrespectful behavior

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

ANCRAM — The attorney hired to investigate allegations of disrespectful behavior within the Ancram Town Hall and among its various boards and committees presented her findings at the Town Board meeting on Thursday, April 21.

The 7 p.m. board meeting was held via Zoom only, rather than in person due to an “increasing risk of COVID spread,” according to town Supervisor Art Bassin’s Ancramemail reminder of the meeting on April 19.

Bassin said the meeting “went quite well,” adding “there are two sides to this story and both were probably accurate.”

The town supervisor posted video of the attorney presenting her report and the report itself on Sunday morning, April 24.

“The attorney’s report went through all her findings and gave us an awful lot of recommendations on how to improve the situation in town,” said Bassin.

Attorney Elena DeFio Kean, of the Albany law firm Hinman Straub, interviewed roughly 20 men and women who had either complained of being mistreated or who said they had witnessed people being mistreated while either working or volunteering for the town or while going to the Town Hall for services.

“She absolutely confirmed there was a problem,” said town Councilwoman Bonnie Hundt, who added she thought Kean “did a thorough job in investigating what was asked of her.”

The issue was first brought to light by Ancram Ethics Board Chairman Jack Lindsey.

Lindsey informed the Town Board at its Jan. 20 meeting he had received 15 calls in the past year-and-a-half with complaints from

residents of both sexes about the problem.

Now that Kean’s report has been presented, Lindsey told this newspaper that he feels he fulfilled his duties. He did not attend the meeting on the 21st.

“I purposely did not attend because my job was done,” he said on Friday, April 22. “I do know that the town is planning on distributing [the report] town wide... So I haven’t seen it [yet], but obviously, of course, I’ll read it.”

Lindsey said he went to the Town Board because he wanted to make sure if people felt they had been mistreated, he wanted the issue to be brought to light.

“The whole purpose of what I did was to get the town aware of what was going on and the experience of a lot of women and men who support them, and that indeed seems to be what has happened,” said Lindsey. “There were voices who weren’t comfortable to come to the Town Board directly, so I hope this serves good purpose.”

Bassin and Hundt said it did, as now the Town Board is leaning toward creating a committee to revamp its Code of Conduct and to provide a means for people who want to file complaints.

Hundt said the new Code of Conduct will likely be added to the town’s employee manual handbook.

One of the attorney’s takeaways from her investigation was that much of the poor treatment the women in Ancram had complained about was not based on gender, but rather on opposing beliefs.

“Although it is clear that some individuals reasonably felt dismissed or treated disrespectfully, it also clear that the actions of many were not intending to be rude or disrespectful and are clearly a result of a lack of communication,” wrote Kean in her conclusion. “Further, several of the issues at hand do not appear to be gender based but

may be driven, intentionally or unintentionally, by political ideology.”

While Hundt acknowledged the differences in ideology among public servants, elected officials and volunteers in town causing friction “is true,” she added there have been women who have complained of being mistreated for years. She said there was also an instance “with a person who was transgender and was targeted.”

Hundt also referred to a section in the report that specifically mentioned Lindsey, in which he said a town volunteer had made “past inappropriate misogynist comments which led to a court case costing the town significant legal fees...”

Kean wrote “there was no court case and there was only ‘one comment,’” and later recommended in a bulleted section the town should “stop responding and/or proceeding forward on complaints received from a town resident and treating it as ‘gospel’; rather, look into things before responding.”

Hundt defended Lindsey for coming forward with the complaints he received, and said the town is better off for his actions.

“I think he did us a favor by coming forward and finally getting us to acknowledge it and talk about it,” she said.

The councilwoman said she also “felt they were shooting the messenger a little bit,” in terms of how the report treated Lindsey, but overall she was optimistic that Ancram would be able to move forward.

“I think right now we have a really positive moment for us, not that the problem has been addressed, but everyone has been put on notice and we can now move ahead with the policy we’re coming up with and if this happens in the future, people who feel they’re the victim of disrespectful behavior can feel they have a

place to go to file a complaint and have it dealt with, with real clear policies and procedures,” said Hundt. “All we had before and still have really is the ethics law, but that doesn’t deal with this. It only really deals with conflicts of interest, which is a different thing.”

One board member proposed a resolution to create a committee on respectful behavior at last week’s meeting, which Bassin said the Town Board will “consider” at its May meeting.

Kean summarized her findings with the following:

“The Town Board of Ancram should be applauded for examining this issue and affording this exploration with no impingement on the investigation,” she wrote. “While there was no finding of a violation of law or ethics, the investigation did reveal areas for potential improvement and consideration.”

To view the report and the presentation in its entirety, go

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com



PHOTO BY TIA MAGGIO

Under the tutelage of resident artist and Roe Jan Library children’s librarian Tia Maggio, area residents of all ages felt confident exploring how different colors may be used to express their creativity at the first of three “Exploring Color with Tia” workshops, on Thursday, April 21.

Learning the lively language of color

COPAKE — Roeliff Jansen Community Library Children’s and Youth Services Associate and resident artist Tia Maggio helped patrons add a little extra color to their lives by inviting them to three-part art workshop series centered around the language of color.

The first of the series began on Thursday, April 21.

Maggio could be found guiding workshop participants at the Roe Jan Library last Thursday in how to speak the language of color, giving tips on using different art mediums and techniques.

As well as learning how

colors can be used, arranged, coordinated and blended with one another, participants gained greater confidence in creating artwork alongside their friends and neighbors.

It was all part of the “Exploring Color with Tia” workshop, which is being held on Thursday evenings through May 6, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Roeliff Jansen Community Library at 9091 Route 22 in Copake.

To register for the remaining workshops, email youth@roejanlibrary.org.

— Kaitlin Lyle

‘Tales of Twain’ at Stanford Grange and Stissing Center

STANFORDVILLE — In celebration of the founding of Dutchess County’s Pomona Grange 125 years ago, two performances by actor and writer Joe Baer will take place at the Stanford Grange Hall in Stanfordville on Friday, May 6, and on Saturday, May 8.

Baer will perform in “Samuel Clemons: Tales of Mark Twain.”

Baer promises to take the audience on a trip through the life of Twain, reflecting on how the author’s life and stories became one.

The performance on the 6th will be at 7 p.m. and the performance on the 8th will be at 2 p.m.

Tickets for both shows are \$15 per person.

Proceeds from the performance for the Pomona Grange #32 will go toward the Grange’s annual scholarship fund enabling Dutchess County residents to pursue a higher education, focusing especially on the fields of agriculture and education.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or through www.eventbrite.com/e/samuel-clemons-tales-of-mark-twain-tickets-249858803407, or call Ryan Orton at 845-868-7869 or go to www.baer-handstheater.com.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Joe Baer, seen above in character as one of this country’s most beloved authors, will perform in “Samuel Clemons: Tales of Mark Twain,” at the Stanford Grange Hall in Stanfordville on Friday, May 6, and on Saturday, May 8, as well as at The Stissing Center in Pine Plains on Saturday, May 21, and Sunday, May 22.

The Stanford Grange is located at 6043 Route 82 in Stanfordville.

Baer will also be performing his “Tales of Mark Twain” at The Stissing Center, located at 2950 Church St. in Pine Plains on Saturday, May 21,

at 7 p.m. and on Sunday, May 22, at 2 p.m.

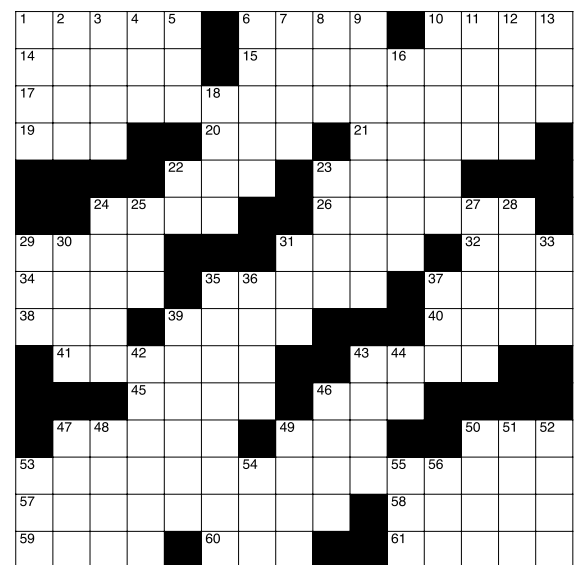
Call 518-771-3339, email tickets@TheStissingCenter.org or go to www.thestissing-center.org for tickets or more information.

— Judith O’Hara Balfe

Brain Teasers

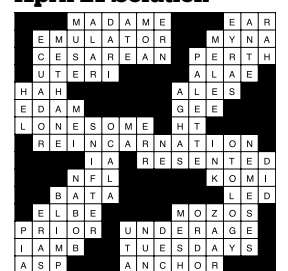
CLUES ACROSS

1. North American people
6. Chinese surname
10. Fit in at the last minute
14. “Very” in musical terminology
15. Underwater displays
17. Crosby’s bandmates
19. Belong to he
20. Informed about the latest trends (archaic)
21. Sequences of alternating turns
22. Genus of grasses
23. Satisfy
24. Petty quarrel
26. Made level
29. Ruler of Iran
31. Historical region of Syria
32. Food suitable for babies
34. Something to lend
35. Zone of oceanic trenches
37. Philippine island
38. Domesticated animal
39. Plant of the lily family
40. Bluish green
41. ___ Tomei, actress
43. Without (French)
45. Lilly and Manning are two
46. Apply pressure to
47. Divide in half
49. Bad deed
50. Don’t know when yet
53. Hollywood’s greatest honor
57. Aiming to exhort
58. Faked
59. A way to pierce
60. Midway between northeast and east
61. Points

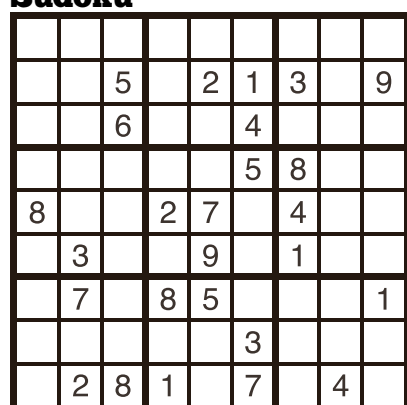


16. Established rules and methods
18. Injection
22. Father
23. Protein-rich liquids
24. He delivers gifts
25. Advanced degree
27. Fencing swords
28. Chinese mountain range
29. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
30. Precursor to hemoglobin
31. Much ___ about nothing
33. Compound fabric (abbr.)
35. A way to act slowly on
36. Ottoman military commanders
37. Popular kids’ network
39. Hard compound
42. Sympathize with
43. Northeast college
44. Blood group
46. Frosted
47. Turn away
48. Benefit
49. Dry or withered
50. Bangladeshi monetary unit
51. Reproduced
52. Contributes
53. Thrust horse power (abbr.)
54. Wear
55. Promotes retention of water (abbr.)
56. Very small

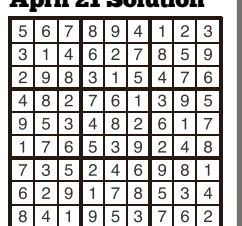
April 21 Solution



Sudoku



April 21 Solution



Level: Intermediate



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OBITUARIES

Kathy Ann (Marin) Lyon

CORNWALL — Kathy Ann (Marin) Lyon, age 69, of Cornwall, loving wife and educator, passed away unexpectedly at her home on Friday, April 15, 2022. She was the beloved wife of William H. Lyon.



Kathy was born on December 30, 1952 in Norwalk, a daughter of the late James and Frances (Platek) Marin. She was a graduate of Norwalk High School. She earned her bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Connecticut and received her master's degrees in nursing, education and special education. Kathy worked as a registered nurse until the 1990's and after she got her master's degree in special education, she taught at several schools with her last full-time position being with Torrington Public Schools. After she retired, she tutored and did substitute teaching in Torrington, Cornwall and Falls Village. Teaching was her passion. She and her husband, William, also enjoyed volunteering for the CT Special Olympics and hiking.

Kathy enjoyed music. She was the guitarist and singer for The Home-grown Band and was a member of the West Hartford Women's Choral. She was active in local politics and was also a member of the Humanists Association of Connecticut. She was an active member of the United Church of Christ in Cornwall.

Besides her husband of Cornwall, Kathy leaves her step daughters, Bobbi Lyon and her husband, Steve Twitchell of Bethel, and Bethany Lyon of Trumbull.

Arrangements: A Celebration of Kathy's Life will be held on a date and time to be announced. Brookside Memorial/The Albini Family Funeral Home, 200 Benson Rd., Middlebury, CT, has been entrusted with her arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to: My Friend Abby at myfriendabby.org.

For more information or to send an on-line condolence, please go to www.brooksidememorial.com.

Michael Joseph Pierce

CORNWALL — Michael Joseph Pierce, 71, of 15 Jewell St., died Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at his home surrounded by his family after a battle with cancer. He was the husband of MaryAnn (Taylor) Packard. Michael was born in Pittsfield on September 4, 1950, son of the late Walter and MaryAnn (Sibbio) Pierce.

Michael worked as an independent contractor in the landscape and gardening industry. Prior to that he had owned and operated Rachel's Restaurant in Pittsfield and was the head of operations at Camp Eisner in Great Barrington.

Michael loved sports. He was an avid golfer and Dallas Cowboy fan. He especially enjoyed following the UCONN Women's Basketball team and coaching youth basketball. Michael coached at the Cornwall Consolidated School for 10 years. He coached his three boys, and shared coaching duties with his son Damien and daughter Amelia.

Michael also found time to volunteer for 15 years as the Community Health and Wellness Clinic in Torrington. He served as vice president and as a member of the clinic's board of directors. However, there was nothing that made Michael more proud than spending time with his four grandchildren.

For more obituaries, see Page A4

Send obituaries to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com

In addition to his wife Michael is survived by his children: Jonathan Pierce and Jason Pierce, both of Pittsfield; Rachel Pierce Fisher of Colorado; Damien Davis and his partner Katy of West Cornwall; Aaron Packard of North Providence, R.I., and Amelia Packard of Cornwall. He is also survived by his grandchildren: Alex and Max Pierce of Pittsfield, Logan Hern of Cornwall and Jasmine Bright of West Cornwall.

A Celebration of Michael's life will be held on Saturday, May 14 at 1:00 p.m. in the United Church of Christ in Cornwall, Congregational, 8 Bolton Hill Road, Cornwall. There are no calling hours. Memorial donations may be made to the World Central Kitchen, 200 Massachusetts Ave. NW, 7th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20001. Its website also accepts donations. Go to www.wck.org. Arrangements are under the care of the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home, 118 Main St., Canaan.

SPORTS



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Totaling 74 ball players between the ages of 3 and 12, players in the Webutuck Little League gathered at home plate in Beekman Park for an Opening Day photo for the league's inaugural season on Saturday, April 23.

Webutuck Little League's first season, 'A time to play... to learn'

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — There's no doubt that the Harlem Valley loves baseball, which is why those living in Amenia and Millerton are grateful their children can play ball thanks to the Webutuck Little League program. Players prepared themselves for an exciting season of America's favorite pastime at the league's Opening Day on Saturday, April 23.

Comprised of ballplayers from both Amenia and Millerton, the idea for the Webutuck Little League sparked this February when Millerton Youth Baseball representatives discussed combining the Amenia Baseball and Millerton Youth Baseball programs into one with the Amenia Recreation Board.

By March, the resulting program was sanctioned as an official Little League team. On Thursday, April 7, the Amenia Town Board signed a service agreement with the Webutuck Little League to provide a 2022 baseball season for children in the region.

Originally scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday morning, the Webutuck Little League's inaugural Opening Day ceremony was postponed until 4 p.m. due to last-minute game schedule changes.

Providing its players time on the field, Amiee Duncan, treasurer of the Amenia Baseball program who is also involved with the Webutuck program, said the new Little League's Major team had an away game at Taconic at 11 a.m., while its two Minor



PHOTO BY AMIEE DUNCAN

Granted time on the playing field, the Webutuck Little League's two Minor teams kicked off the 2022 baseball season with a scrimmage against one another.

teams scrimmaged at Beekman Park in Amenia at 1 p.m.

The league's Farm and T-Ball teams came to Beekman Park later that day to gather their uniforms and partake in practice.

Gathering at Beekman Park to celebrate the creation of the new Little League team and the start of the 2022 baseball season, families turned their attention to the American flag while local resident Cassandra Whitehead gave a stirring performance of the National Anthem.

With the ceremony underway, Webutuck Little League Coaches DJ Reilly and John Lamb, former MLB player for the Pittsburgh Pirates, led players through the Little League Player Pledge and then administered the Little League Parent Pledge to the parents.

Offering words of en-

children, allow them to make mistakes."

Having extended his appreciation to all the sponsors, donors and individuals who made Opening Day and the Little League possible, Lamb delivered the ceremonial pitch. Winding back his arm, he threw the ball toward home plate where a player squatted with his glove open to receive the ball from a pro.

With 74 children ages of 3 and 12 registered, Webutuck Little League players took a bunch of team photos at home plate in an exuberant mass of green uniforms. Once they were cleared to go, they raced off the field toward the park pavilion where food was being served.

"I think it's great after the pandemic," Reilly said of the program's inception, "and I think the parents are so happy to have them outside playing — just to have the game of baseball, fair play, win or lose, to have fun."

"There's a time to play and win," Lamb said. "This is a time to play the sport, to learn."

AREA IN BRIEF

Silver Lake Camp open house May 15

SHARON, Conn. — The Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center in Sharon will hold an open house Sunday, May 15, from 1 to 5 p.m. Registration is open for the summer program online at www.silverlakect.org.

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ANNOUNCING

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Join us this summer for **125**, our month-long anniversary series of festivities — including our sensational first ticketed gala — that honor our history, our dedicated coverage of the area, and most of all, celebrate **you**, our readers.



August 13

SALISBURY ASSOCIATION

Life of A Community

The Lakeville Journal Celebrates 125 Years

Be our guest at the opening reception of Salisbury Association’s retrospective chronicling the history of the century-spanning Lakeville Journal.

August 14

ACADEMY STREET • SALISBURY SUMMER FAIR

The Lakeville Journal’s 125th Anniversary Day

Come one, come all to Academy Street in Salisbury as The Lakeville Journal takes you back to the old days with our classic summer fair to celebrate 125 years.

Aug 15-Sept 18

THE MOVIEHOUSE FILM SERIES

Movies Make The News, News Makes The Movies

Grab a front row seat with us at The Moviehouse in Millerton for a series of our favorite newsroom films that continue to captivate journalists and readers alike.

September 9

THE SALISBURY FORUM

The Future of American Journalism

The Salisbury Forum and Lakeville Journal Foundation present a compelling discussion with distinguished media professionals on where newspapers are headed next, moderated by Foundation board member and investigative journalist Brian Ross.

Stay tuned as more of the celebration is announced, including an event at the Sharon Playhouse.

September 17

The Newsprint Jubilee

The closing night you won’t want to miss — you are invited to our first gala event. Save the date for an end of summer affair to remember. Tickets available soon.

Follow @lakevillejournal125 on Instagram

GUN CHARGES *Continued from Page A1*

Craft refused to comply with lawful orders," according to the police report.

The father and son were charged with Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 4th degree; Endangering the Welfare of a Child, both class A misdemeanors; and Possession of a Loaded Firearm in a Motor Vehicle, an unclassified misdemeanor.

Christopher Craft was additionally arrested for Obstruction of Governmental Administration, a class A misdemeanor.

The Crafts were arraigned before the town of Hyde Park Court and released on their own recognizance to reappear in court on Monday, May 9.

Chair of the Dutchess County Legislature Gregg Pulver (R-19) remembers when Craft took Hess hostage in 2009 "as if it was yesterday," he said. He was the Pine Plains town supervisor at the time.

"That situation was the toughest point of my career in public service," posted Pulver on his Facebook page on Friday, April 22, calling for changes to the state's controversial bail reform laws. "Now, to see this man was arrested again for weapons charges and subsequently released [with tickets] is beyond explanation."

New York State Police Public Information Officer A.J. Hicks of Troop K in Salt Point addressed Pulver's concern.

"They were arraigned and released on their own recognizance," said Hicks. "It's not like they were given appearance tickets. The Crafts were arraigned before the judge and he made them understand the charges, I don't know if that counts in legal term as getting tickets."

On Tuesday, April 26, Pulver said the Crafts being released at all speaks to what's wrong with New York laws.

"He's a felon, so he can't have a weapon, and he had a loaded weapon in his vehicle... The shocking thing is not so much he's in trouble with the law, the shocking thing is someone with this record is still released without bail," said Pulver. "This is a guy who held up the school and caused emotional harm to hundreds of people: kids, parents, teachers... Judges need more tools, that's all I'm saying... Certainly people are held waiting on bail who shouldn't have been, but in this case bail was appropriate and should have been a tool for the judge to use."

Pulver added someone like Craft, with a long criminal history that includes repeated violations of various gun laws, needs to get treatment, as well as be behind bars.

"He obviously has some psychological issues here, but they just released him. There has to be more done," said Pulver. "The sad thing is these things perpetuate. Here's the case of someone not getting the help they need mentally, and bringing the next generation down with them. We have to end that cycle one way or another."

Hostage history

Back in 2009, Christopher Craft had threatened to kill Principal Hess in order to force school officials and police to talk with the media about the "wrongful treatment of United States Military personnel," according to court documents at the time.

When the incident occurred, Jeremy told the media his father was upset because of how his brother, Christopher, was treated in the military. Christopher Craft Jr. was a

motor transportation operator who was injured while serving in the Army between December 2006 through June 2009; he reportedly had difficulty getting social services upon his return.

Craft had two sons attending the Pine Plains Central School District in 2009, but school officials then said neither was enrolled when he restrained Hess in an inner office.

Craft had a criminal history dating back 10 years before the 2009 stand-off. Those crimes included burglary, petty larceny, resisting arrest, possession of stolen property, disobeying a court order and criminal mischief.

During the hostage situation, the school went into lockdown while SWAT teams and hundreds of police officers responded to the scene. Two hours later, Craft surrendered to authorities.

The senior assistant district attorney (ADA), Edward Whitesell, who tried the case in Dutchess County Court asked Judge Gerald Hayes to sentence Craft to the maximum prison term of 15 years. Whitesell argued Craft had a pattern of reacting adversely when upset, with escalating anger. The ADA was also reported to have argued that Craft might have had just three prior misdemeanor convictions at the time, but had been arrested 26 times by then.

Whitesell was also quoted in a 2010 Daily Freeman calling Craft a "narcissist bully" during his sentencing.

Many residents living in and around Pine Plains took to Facebook last week following Craft's arrest expressing concern, both of his recent behavior and of gun and bail reform laws in New York State.

Some referred to the former gunman as a "loose cannon," while others said "We need gun reform. Period."

Others praised Pulver for speaking out about his not agreeing with Craft's release due to his long criminal history and what he put the town of Pine Plains and its school district through back in 2009.

TROTTA *Continued from Page A1*

Court before the Honorable Jessica Segal. He was represented by Attorneys Robert Demono and Brad White from the Dutchess County Public Defender's Office.

Dutchess County Assistant District Attorneys (ADAs) Sarah Thompson and David Kunca are prosecuting the case.

Trotta was presented to the Grand Jury and arraigned on the indictment for stabbing Cedillo as part of the County Court proceedings.

A hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, March 16, to evaluate Trotta's capacity and mental fitness to proceed with the case. If he was found incapacitated, his case would have proceeded with motion practice, hearings and a trial.

If not, Trotta was to be remanded to the Commissioner of Mental Health and sent to a psychiatric hospital until deemed fit to proceed.

Trotta appeared before Judge Segal again for last month's hearing, during which time two doctors performed an initial evaluation and found Trotta lacked the capacity to understand the proceedings. They determined he was unfit to proceed with the court case at the present time.

AWARD *Continued from Page A1*

Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DCDBCH) explained the initiative was designed in early 2021 as "a civic cooperative effort in response to the shortage of COVID-19 vaccine opportunities in the rural eastern and northern sections of Dutchess County."

Right from the start, Mahmood said he and his staff at the Pine Plains Pharmacy on East Church Street (Route 199) realized the difficulty getting vaccines was a critical issue, especially as there was a vaccine supply shortage.

With Bartles, the DCBOH and the New York State Board of Health, he called the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) every week to constantly get updated information on the vaccine approval process and which vaccines were actually approved.

"We educated ourselves on those issues and I think that helped a lot," Mahmood said.

Mahmood also said they developed relationships with county and state health departments and state and fed-

eral programs, which he said also helped them get COVID-19 vaccines quickly so they could turn around and provide shots to local residents.

Before long, he said people were coming to Pine Plains from different states to get the vaccine, including Connecticut, New Jersey and even as far as Maryland. As for COVID-19 testing, Mahmood said his pharmacy offers curbside testing by appointment on a near daily basis.

Reflecting on the amount of coordination it took to make all of this happen, Mahmood said it was a difficult task, but with the help of his son Rehen and his dedicated staff, they were able to pull it together.

He also said he had the support of the Pine Plains community in coordinating testing and vaccination efforts, from local government officials to those at the Pine Plains Free Library to the group of local nurses who volunteered to administer vaccines.

The DCDBCH also praised

Bartles for mobilizing professional nursing colleagues and citizen volunteers to staff pop-up vaccine clinics, and for educating the public about immunizations.

It stated former town Supervisor Darrah Cloud supported both Bartles and Mahmood and helped keep the public informed about the pop-up clinics and volunteer opportunities via social media and her weekly newsletters.

The Pine Plains Fire Company also lent a hand to the initiative by letting the pharmacy host vaccine clinics at its firehouse, as did the Pine Plains Central School District. Clinics are still being held at Stissing Mountain High School's gymnasium.

"Everybody chipped in — it was such a wonderful example of just one call brings everybody together," Mahmood said. "It was a very rewarding experience."

By the DCDBCH's count, a total of 4,500 adults and children received COVID-19 vaccines, thanks to the Pine Plains Pandemic Initiative.

Mahmood and Bartles were presented with the Public Health Partnership Award at a Dutchess County Legislature meeting on Thursday, April 7, at 5:30 p.m.

"It was very nice to be recognized," Bartles said on being a recipient of this year's Public Health Partnership Award.

Accepting the award on behalf of his staff, son, community and all other independent pharmacists, Mahmood said, "We are really humbled by this gesture and we're proud we could work together with them."

Bartles later noted that Mahmood also accepted the award on behalf of the Medical Reserves Corp (MCR) volunteers who arranged COVID-19 clinics for Dutchess County residents at the JCPenney site in Poughkeepsie and at the Dover Union Free School District.

A Public Health Partnership Award also went to the MCR Coordinator Joseph Ryan for his leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

MPD *Continued from Page A1*

ultimately be dependent on the public's say. Village voters would have to head to the ballots to approve the local law through a permissive referendum, said Najdek.

Wanting to make sure the community has its say, Middlebrook asked the board at the hearing to put the local law on the June ballot to make it "a vote by the people for the people."

Stepping up to the podium at the hearing, MPD Officer-in-Charge Mike Veeder said, "I want to start by saying how disappointed I am that we are entertaining this decision."

While he spoke highly of the DCSO as a valuable asset to the MPD and of the working relationship between the two agencies, Veeder said the MPD already institutes many of the practices the DCSO offers while it's been working

toward its accreditation.

"I think this board needs to slow down and try not to push this through," Veeder said, and he left the podium with applause resonating in the Annex.

MPD Officer Dave Rudin elaborated on what would happen in the event Millerton's police force was disbanded. He highlighted all the MPD does for the local community.

Resident Nuno Ramos raised the idea of not having a police department at all and asked how race-related issues might be addressed in the future. This idea was asked by a few others who showed interest in having a community task force and using funds from the village's police budget for social services instead.

Raising her two children in Millerton, resident Rebekah

Blu said she's personally had nothing but positive experiences with the MPD and commented on their "miraculous" response time. Though she felt it's "extremely important that this be a vote for the community and for the village of Millerton," she said she felt it best keep the MPD and thanked the department for keeping her family safe.

Appalled by the small amount the MPD is paid, resident Emma Jenks said the community should be more appreciative of the Millerton officers who put their lives on the line for the pittance the village pays them.

"There's two sides to this: We have to be welcoming to the police force for them to be welcoming to us," Jenks said. "I think our best bet as a community that works together is the Millerton Police Department."

Praising Millerton for its amazing police force, Officer Mike Beliveau from the Pine Plains Police Department spoke of the countless times Pine Plains has had to lean on Millerton for being its closest police backup.

Having attended joint village and town police meetings, North East resident Bill Kish said it's become apparent to him there's no desire or wherewithal on either the town or village to manage a police force.

Given how frequently the idea of "community" had sur-

passed that evening, resident and businesswoman Stacey Moore said, "Be it the Millerton police or be it the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, one thing I do not feel is a sense of community."

Returning to the podium, Veeder expressed the MPD's desire to improve its community policing.

Raising incidents involving the MPD, the mayor and her family that were previously treated with police discretion, he charged the move to dissolve the police force and pass the local law was retaliation for those incidents.

"I can't believe what I just heard," Kish said. "That was the most disqualifying set of statements... you should resign from your post."

An argument was provoked among attendees who claimed the information Veeder shared was public knowledge. A pair of residents stormed out of the Annex to confront Veeder.

Najdek said Veeder's charges spoke to his lack of respect, communication and accountability, reflected among those serving in the MPD.

As public comment dwindled, Rudin returned to the podium and shared his email.

"Please make the right decision," Rudin said, adding the MPD would circulate a petition in the village to fight passage of the local law.

By 7:46 p.m., the hearing closed; the board will discuss the issue at its next meeting.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

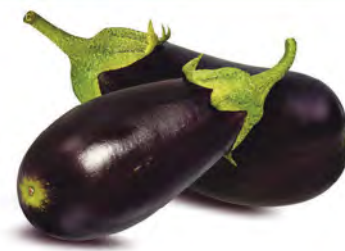
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With the arrival of spring, pools are being opened which is wonderful for people, not so great for animals and amphibians. While people can easily get out of a pool, everything else cannot and end up drowning. There are some easy solutions available so that everyone wins, here are a few options: Critter Skimmer replaces your existing skimmer cap and allows for an escape hatch, their web site is: <https://critterskimmer.com/>. Another wonderful option is the Frog Log which provides an escape ladder from the pool, their web site is <https://froglog.us/>. Finally, for larger animals and family pets, there is the Skamper-Ramp, found at <https://www.skamper-ramp-store.com/>. These products will ensure that everyone, including our wildlife, will have a safe spring and summer.



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

NATURE: DEE SALOMON

Taking Back the Landscape From Thorny Invaders

“Barberrians at the Gate!” declared Fred Balling as a group of 30 fellow Cornwallians, some gloved and armed with bypass loppers, met in front of a residential property to learn about the methods to identify and remove *Berberis Thunbergii*, or invasive barberry.

Organized by the Garden Club in Cornwall, Conn., with the support of the Cornwall Conservation Trust and the Cornwall Conservation Commission, the talk and demonstration were led by two Garden Club members: Heidi Cunnick and myself, Dee Salomon.

“Our Garden Club events usually center around what to put into the ground,” I said as I introduced the event. “But today we are going to talk about what to take out of the ground.”

We tried to impart a sense of urgency around barberry removal in the talk that preceded the hands-on demonstration.

Barberry not only prevents people from accessing the woods due to its needle-sharp thorns — but those thorns also act as a protective dwelling for mice from predators.

As mice proliferate so do Lyme-carrying ticks. Barberry elimination reduces tick populations by as much as 60%.

Heidi provided another statistic that appeared to make an impression amongst the attendees: Researchers have found 82% fewer native tree recruitments (the establishment of seedling trees) in barberry-infested forests.

Given the demise of native



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

tree species such as chestnut and elm, as well as current risks to beech, hemlock and ash, we could end up with fields of barberry where there was once a forest.

And with that, Heidi identified barberry, along with bitersweet vine, burning bush and Japanese honeysuckle as stealthy invaders of a front yard garden. The group then walked into the woods, inspired to tackle the barberry on the site.

WEAPONS FOR OUR WAR ON INVASIVES

Heidi brought a heat flame tool (Weed Dragon Propane Torch, approved by the Garden Club of America for home use), a weed-whacker with a brush cutter attachment (Ryobi) and a weed wrench. The latter was demonstrated on a burning bush, as the multi-stemmed barberry is not well-suited for the wrench.

Of all the tools, the most practical and least costly is a simple pair of long-handled clippers or bypass loppers. There were enough loppers, and enough barberry, for many to participate by cutting the stems of the barberry about 2 inches above the soil.

WHY GLYPHOSATE WORKS

The bright yellow color of the barberry stem interior is a hallmark of its identity and made the next step of the process — the careful application of a dab of glyphosate herbicide — easier to demonstrate. Tinted blue, the yellow tips turned a bright blue-green

after the application of the herbicide.

Heidi stressed the importance of understanding the risks and proper use of glyphosate. She had information sheets to hand out along with a few of the applicators, called “buckthorn blasters” that were ordered from NA-ISMA, the North American Invasive Species Management Association.

“Dee and I have been talking for over a year about how to motivate people to take responsibility for eradicating invasives on their

property,” Heidi said. “People often don’t realize the extent of devastation that a handful of invading plants can cause.”

“The invasives that harbor ticks have health implications for ourselves and can drive down property values. We want people to access their land and enjoy the beauty that comes from being stewards of their woodlands.”

For information on identification and eradication of local invasives, go to the Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group <https://cipwg.uconn.edu>.

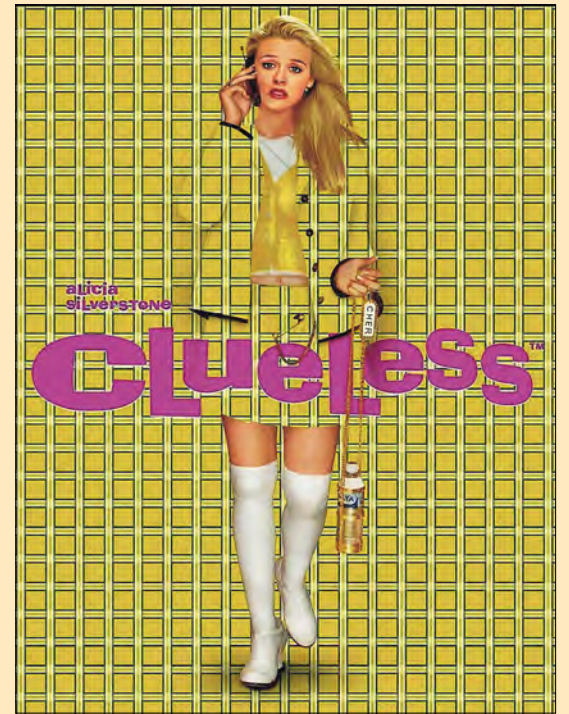
AUDITION FOR ‘INVASION!’ AT ANCRAM OPERA HOUSE

Ancram Opera House in Ancram, N.Y., is accepting head shots and resumes from actors for casting consideration for its August 2022 production of “INVASION!” by Jonas Hassen Khemiri, translated by Rachel Wilson-Broyles. Professional performers (union and non-union) and non-professional community members are invited to submit audition materials to casting@ancramoperahouse.org. Auditions will take place on or around May 16.

“INVASION!” is a satirical comedy centered

on a name: Abulkasem. What is introduced as an amorphous word of many meanings spirals and shape-shifts into a kaleidoscopic range of identities. Abulkasem is an uncle visiting from Lebanon, a renowned theater director, an asylum-seeking apple picker, the world’s most dangerous terrorist. In a whirlwind of interconnected vignettes, we search for the answer. Who is Abulkasem?

For additional audition information and submission guidelines, go to www.ancramoperahouse.org/auditions.



Alicia Silverstone is a modern-day Emma in Amy Heckerling’s “Clueless,” which will be the featured film of the Boondocks Film Society on Thursday, May 19.

GET ‘CLUELESS’ WITH THE BOONDOCKS FILM SOCIETY

Today it would probably be called “fan fiction” but back in 1995 when “Clueless” was released, it was just considered a hilariously funny modern film version of Jane Austen’s novel about a meddling matchmaker with a heart of gold, whose name was Emma.

“Clueless” is a wonderfully fluffy film that has become a cult favorite, thereby qualifying it to be a Boondocks Film Society feature.

It will be screened at the Four Brothers Drive-In in Amenia, N.Y., on Thursday, May 19.

As always with Boondocks events, there will be a pre-screening party at 6:30 p.m. with music, food and craft cocktails. The screening begins at dusk.

Live music will be performed by Brass-kill, described as a

“raucous party band” that will play film-inspired tunes.

For those who haven’t seen it yet, “Clueless” brings Jane Austen’s sharp observations about women, friends and dating into the Valley in Southern California in the 1990s. Spoiled socialite Cher seems clueless as she meddles

in the lives of her friends; but it turns out (surprise) that she’s actually got a big heart and maybe even a high IQ.

It was directed by that savant of teen life, Amy Heckerling, who also brought us the iconic teen film “Fast Times at Ridgemont High.”

Tickets are \$20 per person (there is not a per-car rate). Go to <https://boondocksfilmsociety.org/> for information.

— Cynthia Hochswender

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PHOTOS FROM "KENT SCHOOL BOAT CLUB: THE FIRST 100 YEARS"

Peter Davis Mallory's history of the Kent School championship rowing team includes portraits of every team, including many that are charming trips back in time, such as this one from 1928.

SPORTS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

A Lovely Way To Spend A Day on the Water

When you stand on the sidelines of a prep school sporting event, it's fun and beautiful and traditional in a way that's not that different from reading an F. Scott Fitzgerald short story or watching an old film or television show.

Prep school sports are different from, say, Big 10 sports or even large high school football games. For one thing, the settings are intimate and almost always lovely. The parents and athletes and even the coaches seem timeless. Spectators dress neatly. They bring their well-behaved lovely dogs. It's all picturesque.

And in fact the sports action is often very good. In the Tri-state region there are a half dozen independent boarding schools, some of which have championship teams in ice hockey, basketball, baseball, golf, wrestling, swimming and diving, track and field and cross-country, tennis and soccer.

The regional high school in Falls Village also has some outstanding athletes and athletics (golf, girls basketball, tennis and cross-country in particular are worth watching).

Most matches in these sports are held outdoors and therefore, even with COVID restrictions in place, the public can come watch. The schools post their schedules on their websites.

Many of the most exciting sports are in autumn and winter. But in spring there is rowing. The Salisbury School in Salisbury, Conn., and the Kent School in Kent, Conn., have long and distinguished histories in this ultra-prep sport.

A DAY OUT ON THE WATER

With rowing, you don't get the fun of standing on the sidelines of a grassy field in autumn, wearing a toggle coat and cashmere sweater.

Instead, you get to

spend a beautiful spring day standing on the shore of a lake or river watching the young athletes power their small boats gracefully along the surface.

Anyone who's read and loved the nonfiction bestseller "The Boys in the Boat" understands that rowing has a long and glorious history in the U.S. and England.

For those who read that book and are thirsty for more knowledge, or for those who are just learning about rowing, a new book written by a Kent School alumnus (and rower) lays out the history and high points of the school's century-long commitment to rowing.

The book is called "Kent School Boat Club: The First 100 Years" and was published this

spring by Peter Davis Mallory, Class of 1963.

It is also a history of the school and its founder and headmaster, the Rev. Frederick Sill, who had been a coxswain on the Columbia rowing team in his youth. Students at Kent began to badger the headmaster to start a rowing program; it seemed logical, as the school is right on the Housatonic River, which is at its most powerful in spring.

Some rowing shells and equipment were found and off they went. The school is now co-educational and there is a strong women's team as well; and the school's deluxe boathouse sits proudly on the riverbank, with a six-person indoor rowing tank and displays showing the blazers and trophies worn and won

at past regattas in the U.S. and England.

If you can't or don't want to venture south to Kent (or north to Salisbury) to watch a live crew competition, this book is a decent substitute. It's full of photos that start off old and nostalgic and preppy and end up in gloriously modern full color.

"Kent School Boat Club: The First 100 Years" can be ordered from the Kent School store (call 860-927-6141).

The cost is \$150 for the two volume-set (1922 to 1982 and 1983 to 2021).



"Kent School Boat Club" has photos from the club's earliest days in the 1900s up to today.

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TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. All entries can be found in our full calendar at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar.

ART

Kent Memorial Library, 32 N. Main St., Kent, Conn. www.kentmemoriallibrary.org
An Exploration of Color by Kathleen L'Hommedieu and Her Students, through April 29.

MASS MoCA, 1320 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, Mass. www.massmoca.org
Taking Collective Action to Build Community and Fight Racism w/ Daniel Park & Deen Rawlins Harris, May 4, 6 to 9 p.m.

BOOKS

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. www.hotchkisslibrary.org
Poetry Reading Day, April 28.

Amenia Free Library, 3309 Route 343, Amenia, N.Y. www.amenialibrary.org
Monthly Book Club, May 4, 6 p.m.

DANCE

Fisher Center at Bard, Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y. fishercenter.bard.edu
Faculty Dance Concert, April 28 to 30.

KIDS

NorthEast-Millerton Library, 75 Main St., Millerton N.Y. www.nemillertonlibrary.org
Civics and Me for Tweens and Teens, May 1, 4 p.m. (online).

MISC.

Berkshire Botanical Garden, 5 West Stockbridge Road, Stockbridge, Mass. www.berkshirebotanical.org
Get Growing: School Gardens and Children's Gardens, April 30, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

MOVIES

The Moviehouse, 48 Main St., Millerton, N.Y. www.themoviehouse.net
NT Live: The Book of Dust - La Belle Sauvage, April 28, 7 p.m.; The Duke, opens May 6. Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness, opens May 6.

MUSIC

Close Encounters With Music, Great Barrington, Mass. www.cewm.org
SKYLARK A Cappella Vocalists: Hidden Symbols, Secret Codes, April 30, 6 to 7:45 p.m.

The Egremont Barn, 17 Main St., South Egremont, Mass. www.theegremontbarn.com
Richard Lloyd, April 28, 8 to 11 p.m.; The Mallett Brothers and Saints and Liars, April 29, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.; Jackson Whalan, April 30, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

THEATER

The Center for Performing Arts at Rhinebeck, 661 Route 308, Rhinebeck, N.Y. www.centerforperformingarts.org
Shakespeare in Love, April 22 to May 8.

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Millbrook Consignment Day Friday, May 13

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EDITORIAL

Heroes honored for COVID help

During the past two-plus years since the coronavirus hit our shores, there have been many people in our midst who have shown themselves to be stellar human beings. Certainly, here in our Harlem Valley community, there are more than a few shining examples.

Take, for instance, Pine Plains Pharmacy owner and pharmacist Nasir Mahmood and retired registered nurse Kathy Bartles, also of Pine Plains. The pair has worked together since the health crisis began to ensure countless local residents, and even those from farther afield, could be tested and vaccinated to keep our communities as healthy as possible.

Their nonstop work during the pandemic has been so impressive, it even caught the eye of Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro and the Dutchess County Board of Health (DCBOH).

On Thursday, April 7, the two health care professionals were recognized with the 2022 Public Health Partnership Award.

The DCBOH noted it bestows the coveted annual award during Public Health Week, which runs from April 4 to April 10, to “an individual and/or agency performing essential public health services in recognition for their contributions to the health of the community.”

Certainly that describes the actions of Mahmood and Bartles to a tee; their joint work was done under the moniker of the Pine Plains Pandemic Initiative.

Bartles coordinated efforts on the ground, working with registered nurses in Pine Plains and its environs who volunteered to get people tested and vaccinated.

So, too, did Mahmood, who opened up his pharmacy to those needing both tests and vaccines. With a support network that included Bartles, the DCBOH and the New York State Board of Health, he also tapped state and federal programs to ensure he had access to necessary supplies.

That support allowed him to call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) weekly for updates on vaccine approvals and access, which he said was essential when facing vaccine supply shortages during the early- and mid-stages of the pandemic.

Ultimately, all of their hard work paid off and Mahmood said his small independent pharmacy in our local, rural community was able to get the COVID-19 vaccines more quickly. That enabled the Pine Plains Pandemic Initiative to provide shots to those who opted to get vaccinated.

While some chose to exercise their right not to do so, others who did came from around the Hudson Valley to Pine Plains. Some even traveled from over the border in Connecticut as well as from far away as New Jersey and even Maryland, said Mahmood.

Thanks to Bartles, Mahmood’s son, Rehen, his dedicated pharmacy staff and countless volunteers — including the local nurses who volunteered to administer vaccines — and Mahmood himself, the Pine Plains Pandemic Initiative was able to test and successfully inoculate many residents in the region. In doing so it helped keep COVID numbers relatively low in northeastern Dutchess County, he said.

The DCBOH also recognized a number of others for helping the Pine Plains Pandemic Initiative succeed, including former town Supervisor Darrah Cloud, who was so vital in spreading the word about testing and vaccination clinics in her weekly newsletter emails; the Pine Plains Fire Company, which hosted vaccine clinics at its firehouse; Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler and the Pine Plains Central School District, which hosted and continues to host clinics at Stissing Mountain High School; the Pine Plains Free Library; and all those in the community who have supported and continue to support the initiative.

Mahmood’s pharmacy continues to offer curb side testing and vaccinations by appointment on a regular basis.

For more information, call 518-398-5588 or go to www.pineplainspharmacy.com; the pharmacy is located at 2965 East Church St. (Route 199).



PHOTO BY WHITNEY JOSEPH

A place for quiet contemplation



Those little acts of kindness really count

They can make such a big difference in our everyday lives. Every day can be a new day if we lend a little kindness. In today’s troubled world anxiety and uncertainty are ever increasing, and individuals need a bright ray of sunshine to know someone cares. It doesn’t need to cost anything other than a few minutes of time.

In the military, our code of honor was to protect and look out for one another (having each other’s “sixes”).

The timely delivery of the COVID vaccine to states in mid-December was initially bobbled by many unprepared and disorganized state leaders. Distribution is now improving with supplies to local pharmacies, clinics, retail outlets, etc. Which injection should you take: Pfizer, Moderna or J & J? Answer: The first one available. They’re all close effective at preventing hospitalization and death.

The sooner we, the citizen army of this nation, get the juice in our arms, the sooner we defeat this invader and protect one another. And let’s keep the masks on in public.

Caring individuals are assisting others with getting them registered for their boosters and offering rides to injection sites.

This winter I noticed neighbors shoveling and plowing passage through snow for fellow neighbors. Many others

VETERAN’S CORNER

Larry Conklin

offered rides to medical visits, looked in on others and conversed with one another to insure their mutual welfare.

Individuals are helping people prepare their meals as well as buy their meals, and offering meal ingredients to make life easier for others.

Patriots are also flying our American flags, our symbol of freedom, and openly supporting our first responders. In these days, when so many politicians and institutions have failed us it’s encouraging to know that average folks in this country still care for one another. It’s also encouraging to see people create their own aura of optimism — they make their own sunshine.

Challenging times are not new, and we will overcome. Stick together, help one another when possible and look forward to a great rest of your spring and to an even better summer.

God bless you patriotic and caring readers, and your families.

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

Record centenarian numbers in county

By our count, we have a record number of Dutchess County older adults celebrating birthdays of 100 years or more this year, as well as a record number of married couples celebrating wedding anniversaries of 70 years or more. As of early April, 20 centenarians and 10 70-year couples are being honored in the Office for the Aging’s (OFA) summer newsletter.

If you know of a Dutchess County resident who is reaching either one (or both!) of these milestones at any time in 2022, please get in touch with OFA Outreach Coordinator Brian Jones at 845-486-2544 or bjones@dutchessny.gov. Publication deadline is Tuesday, May 10.

The oldest living Dutchess County resident in our most recent records is 108, but we’ve had at least three reach the supercentenarian milestone of 110 years. It’s an unprecedented indication that Dutchess County’s older adults are living not only longer but are also able to maintain their independence for longer, often well into a second century of life.

What’s their secret? It’s hard to say. We’ve asked more than 100 centenarians this question over the years, and their explanations run the gamut from 20

GOLDEN LIVING

Todd N. Tancredi

minutes a day on an exercise bike, to having a strong faith, to enjoying nine golden raisins soaked in gin at bedtime.

We looked into whether there was any science behind that last theory, and did find that some studies have indicated possible links to the anti-inflammatory properties of the juniper berries typically used to make gin, as well as the sulfur compounds used to preserve golden raisins. We don’t know of any studies specifically examining gin-soaked raisins.

The explanation that appeals most to us came from Mary Summa, a remarkable Dover resident who lived to 106 and passed away earlier this year. A few years ago, Mary told us “I don’t know why I’m still here, but I’m going to stick around until I find out!”

OFA newsletter renamed
After fielding dozens of readers’ suggestions, we’ve settled on a new title for the former Spotlight on Seniors newsletter. The summer OFA newsletter that’ll be published just after Memorial Day will be

Time to think global, not local

Have you ever wondered why prices suddenly rise, why gasoline and food have become a daily struggle? The price-rise puzzle that people face is that they are not properly informed, so they are surprised, then get angry at local politicians. If they knew it was coming, that it had nothing to do with local politicians, perhaps they could plan better.

Many folks think that what happens on the other side of the globe has little interest or relevance to their daily lives. And the evening and morning news feeds a continual stream of local interest items and sometimes what seems like national news.

There is no national news that is not impacted by events all across the globe and the sooner every citizen realizes that, and the sooner everyone gets better informed, the more likely people can regain control of their lives.

Here’s a little piece of information the evening and morning news didn’t cover: There’s a COVID continuing emergency in Shanghai. How bad is it? Right now, 80% of the factories in Shanghai are closed. And those factories supply 35% of all the electronics and components in the USA. All electronic equipment sold in the USA will have a price rise before the fall.

The Ukraine war has reduced the prospect of 22% of the world’s sunflower oil being harvested this year — at all!

Why does that matter? India is dependent on the oil for all its cooking needs, prices will rise, factories will close. There will likely be starvation and therefore political unrest in India.

India borders Pakistan, China, Bangladesh and Nepal. Bangladesh depends on cloth from Indian factories. Your sneakers, sports outfits and other apparel are made in India and Bangladesh. There will be a shortage and prices will rise.

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

entitled THRIVE60+, to represent the 60+ community OFA serves; “thrive” encompasses in one word what older adults can achieve as they age.

Golden Living is prepared by Dutchess County OFA Director

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

Millions of talented and educated people have fled Venezuela and are spread across northern South America and Central America, up-setting indigenous populations and changing economies — economies that produce 30% of all U.S. automotive components and produce a large part of the food bought in America.

What’s the outcome for you? Prices will rise.

Last year’s locust plague in East Africa decimated the flower crop. Florists in Europe reported a 40% rise in retail prices.

Ice shelf collapsing in Antarctica changes the ocean currents and salinity, the krill harvest and food availability for marine life is affected... industrial fishing shifts to adapt, harvest expectations are 10% down. Continuing drought in the desert Southwest of America has ranchers reducing cattle numbers, farmers planting cotton report water shortages and failing crops. Washington state rainfall floods ruin crop planting... all these global news items cause ripple and effect bouncing across the globe that always, always, comes home to roost on your budget.

That’s why you need to know what’s happening “over there” and not always focus your attention nearer to home.

How else can you begin to plan ahead? How else can you protect your family? Time to reach out, way beyond your local stations and radio, and collect information that U.S. advertisers (who control major media outlets in large part) have no interest in selling you. Your family deserves the truth; go find it.

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

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Official Newspaper of the Village of Millerton, Town of North East, Town of Washington, Town of Amenia, Town of Pine Plains, North East (Webutuck) Central School District and Millbrook Central School District
Published Weekly by The Lakeville Journal Company
Owned by The Lakeville Journal Foundation; Noreen Doyle, Chair
P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546
(860) 435-9873 ext. 608 • www.tricornersnews.com • editor@millertonnews.com

Volume 91, Number 14 Thursday, April 28, 2022

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The Lakeville Journal Company, Publishers of The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News
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The Lakeville Journal Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

Subscription Rates - One Year:

\$82.00 in Dutchess and Columbia Counties, \$98.00 Outside Counties
Known Office of Publication: Lakeville, CT 06039-1688. Periodical Postage Rate Paid at Millerton, NY 12546. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688.

Molinaro gives 2022 State of the County at The Stissing Center

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro outlined future county priorities at the 2022 State of the County address on Wednesday evening, April 20, at The Stissing Center in Pine Plains.

Calling the visit “a great honor,” Pine Plains town Supervisor Brian Walsh said residents from around Dutchess attended to see the presentation. Even as COVID-19 has shifted the economy and many

continue to struggle, Molinaro emphasized how much the county has overcome, meeting the moment “through smart fiscal decisions and 10 years of trying to make the right choices for the people we serve.”

He said the county rebuilt its fund balance to \$60 million, retiring nearly \$12.5 million in debt and creating \$4.5 million in savings for taxpayers.

Declaring county government “the stewards” of taxpayers’ hard-earned money, Molinaro shared its philosophy. “If we don’t need it, we won’t

take it,” noting such decisions has led to Dutchess County spending, taxing and borrowing less per capita than nearly every other county in the state.

As well as providing the largest property tax reduction in its history of \$5.5 million in the last decade, Molinaro said his office has been able to support 120 projects for municipalities throughout the region.

In addition to eliminating county tax on clothing and footwear up to \$110, he spoke of cutting and capping county taxes on gasoline.

Addressing safety, Molinaro highlighted investments in smart community policing and standing with victims of crime to ensure justice is served.

He spoke of efforts to launch a Veterans Treatment Court, establishing a Veterans Cemetery in Wappingers Falls and presenting a \$150,000 budget request to launch a micro-grant program for county veterans services organizations.

He also addressed the need for affordable housing in the Hudson Valley. With its recent 2022 Housing Needs Assess-

ment, Molinaro announced plans to dedicate \$20 million in American Rescue Plan (ARP) COVID funds for housing interventions and “to build a county-wide emergency housing facility” to transform its emergency housing response system.

“The state of the county is in great shape under County Executive Molinaro and Chairman [of the Dutchess County Legislature Gregg] Pulver [R-19],” Walsh said. “The county has given great help toward the surrounding towns in the

county as far as financial aid and projects that otherwise the towns would not be able to do, and it was just a great honor.”

“Grateful to have County Executive Marc Molinaro deliver the State of the County Address in Pine Plains,” posted Pulver, himself a Pine Plains resident, on his Facebook page. “Time and time again he has delivered for our rural communities. Great things from the county with more to come.”

To watch the State of the County Address, go to www.dutchessny.gov.

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