



MILLERTON
Owner Of Wine Shop Ready For A Summer Of Strong Sales **A2**



MILLBROOK
Local Author Pens Yet Another Book To Keep Readers Spellbound **B3**



Compass
Arts, Theater, Food, Fishing and Much More, Special Section, Inside

COMPASS Live
‘Tribute’ Shows; Famous Flea Markets; And More **B1-2**

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Amenia Strong to make a stand in the Republican Primary

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
editor@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — It’s always fascinating when a new political party enters the fray, and this year, in the town of Amenia, that’s exactly what has occurred. As an independent political party putting its own slate of candidates forward in the Tuesday, June 22, New York Republican Primary Election, the local Amenia Strong party has formed to elect three candidates to the Amenia Town Board in 2021: Julie Doran as

town supervisor and Jamie Vitiello and Brad Rebillard as town councilmen.

Because the three newcomers are also running as Republicans in the primary, they are guaranteed a spot in the November General Election, which is not the case for all of their opponents. Incumbent town Supervisor Victoria Perotti, who is seeking her fifth two-year term, is running on the Republican and the Conservative lines, so she will be guaranteed a spot on the November ballot. But incumbent Councilmembers James Morris

and Michele Somogyi, who are both seeking a second four-year term, are only running on the Republican party line. That means if they lose to their Amenia Strong opponents next week, they’re out of the race.

Amenia Strong, a closer look

So just what is Amenia Strong all about, and who are the candidates this new party has put forward to lead the town of Amenia? The creation of

See **AMENIA STRONG, A6**



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, Adam Eckstrom nabbed a cold drink and a hamburger hot off the grill to enjoy alongside his daughter Holiday, her friend Pickle Gutierrez and Pickle’s mother, Jeanne.

Pine Plains restaurant planning French cuisine stirs strife

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

PINE PLAINS — Whether they stood in full support or staunch opposition to a restaurant backed by local businessman and community advocate Jack Banning, owner of The Platter café; President of The Stissing Center Board of Directors; co-owner of Black Sheep Hill Farm (with his wife, Irene); and President of KTB Properties LLC; more than 40 people tuned in for a virtual Zoom Planning Board public hearing on Wednesday, June 9.

The hearing was focused on a site

plan application from KTB Properties for a restaurant at 2938 Church St., which has turned out to be more controversial than some would have anticipated.

It’s the third time KTB has appeared before the Planning Board, according to Banning, the applicant behind the project that entails the re-opening of a restaurant at the former New Age Diner, the last eatery at the site, which opened in August 2018. Others may remember previous incarnations of restaurants there in the last 30 years, including the popular Crumpets, Agriturismo and Tops Diner.

Banning now has plans for KTB to rent the space to former and much loved Stissing House chef/owners Michel and Patricia Jean, “to be operated as a restaurant serving primarily French food for dinner five nights a week and brunch on Sundays.”

Along with limited outdoor dining in the backyard, the site plan application includes no new construction, no hazardous materials on site and an on-site septic system with a grease trap.

The Jeans closed Stissing House in January after 15 years of business,

See **RESTAURANT, A6**

Amenia Fire Company revives summer tradition

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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AMENIA — Though the official start to summer is still a week away, the Amenia Fire Company gathered together all the makings of some summertime fun as it hosted Carnival Food Night on Saturday, June 12.

For more than 80 years, the fire company hosted a carnival, according to Capt. Andy Murphy. Yet as with

many wonderful traditions, Murphy said people lost interest as the years went by and it became more and more difficult to organize, given the manpower involved and the costs. He said it took three weeks to do so, with a week set aside for planning and then another week to set up the carnival and rides.

By hosting Carnival Food Night,

See **CARNIVAL, A6**

Senior lunches return to the Millerton Friendship Center

By **CAROL KNEELAND**
Special to The Millerton News

MILLERTON — The Senior Friendship Center located at the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex at 28 Century Blvd. rolled out the welcome mat again on Monday, June 7, much to the delight of its many participants who have been isolated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since March 2020, the sessions, which many seniors see as the best way to stay both active and social, had been suspended, although the all important nutrition program continued. Meals were delivered to eligible seniors who requested them, but personal contact fell by the COVID-19 wayside.

See **SENIOR LUNCHES, A6**



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Keeping cool against the day’s heat wave, local seniors sat down for a satisfying lunch among friends and neighbors in the Senior Friendship Center located in the NorthEast-Millerton Library Annex for its first day back in service, on Monday afternoon, June 7.

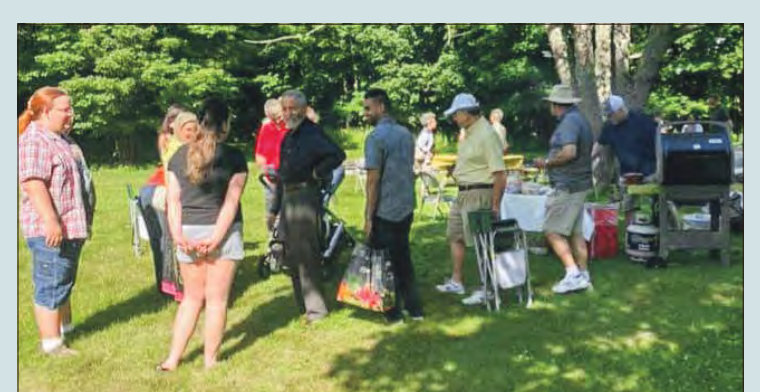


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pine Plains thanks medical heroes

After the hardships and heroism that arose in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic this past year, the Pine Plains community paid homage to all of the town’s medical volunteers with a lovely reception and celebration on Saturday, June 12. Hosted by residents Penny Wheeler and Victoria LoBrutto, the community enjoyed a beautiful afternoon for the celebration on the lawn of the Episcopal Church of the Regeneration, at 16 Pine St. Starting at 4 p.m., folks gathered for a delicious picnic, taking the time to let the guests of honor know how much their labors meant to the community in a time of such fear and uncertainty.



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Millerton.....	A2	Compass.....	B1-2
Pine Plains/Area.....	A3	Millbrook.....	B3
Obituaries.....	A4	Opinion.....	B4
Sports.....	A4	Legals.....	B5
Amenia.....	A5	Classifieds.....	B5-6

OPINION

Glad To See Senior Programs Back Up And Running; Column; Letters; **B4**

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MILLERTON

Millerton Wine & Spirits slides smoothly into summer

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Millerton Wine & Spirits at 34 Main St. is hoping for a summer of strong sales after making its way through a rather tough initial opening in the midst of a global pandemic, replacing the former Little Gates Wine Merchants last November. And while wine enthusiasts and others in the village welcomed the new business and its comfortable, open environment and discerning selection of wines from around the world, along with its owner, Christopher Jeans, with open arms, a pandemic can make for tough time to build clientele.

It's been slightly different in the world of wine sales, thankfully for Jeans, who has been able to provide an atmosphere that's comfortable for customers to engage in conversation without feeling intimidated while getting great value. Whether a seasoned collector or a newbie, he said he wants his store to be a sanctuary where people can come in and enjoy themselves.

Prior to opening his shop on Main Street, Jeans previously owned Casa Bacchus, a well known wine shop in Litchfield, Conn., for many years. Though Millerton isn't too far from his home in West Cornwall, Conn., he said he visited the village in

the fall of 2018 in response to a call from former Little Gates co-owner Chris Kennan asking if he could help out one day.

Jeans arrived in Millerton as an employee at Little Gates and worked alongside co-owner William Little (who is also an owner and member of The Lakeville Journal Company, which publishes The Millerton News). When Little decided to close the store after 14 years of business, Jeans said a friend of his, Paul Harney (of the Harney Tea empire), suggested they work on the store together. Harney and Jeans are now business partners at Millerton Wine & Spirits.

Believing "there's an adventure in these four walls where wine should be fun," Jeans said what has gone into the store is "tasting literally a thousand wines to get a few hundred that have made the cut."

"It's a great place for a client to be adventurous here," Jeans said. "We are adventurous in our selections because we want to make sure the right candidates are here. We encourage them to tell us what they're looking for and what they want — we're creating an environment that fosters that."

Indeed, standing out against the ocean blue walls sit shelves upon shelves of carefully curated wines selected from France, Spain, Portugal, California and



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Aspiring to create a comfortable atmosphere at Millerton Wine & Spirits, owner Christopher Jeans is ready to engage with his customers, whether they're new to wine or seasoned collectors.

other regions of the globe. Picked from centuries' old traditional vineyards to organic vineyards, there's an odyssey in the details and histories behind each wine choice.

In the rear, near a shelf of gins, bourbons and liquors, sits a space that Jeans anticipates using as a future tasting space. Casting his eyes around the varying sections of wine and other liquors, Jeans

said Millerton Wine & Spirits wants to be involved in every occasion.

Jeans also pointed to the many wonderful places in the local region that have provisions that pair beautifully with his wines, including the provisions on display at The Dig and Westerlind Food Pantry and the many local farms. Claiming they're "loco for local," he said he and Harney like



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Millerton Wine & Spirits at 34 Main St. is hoping for a busy summer after slugging its way through the COVID-19 pandemic since opening up last November.

to feature small local spirits and promote the local movement of wines, spirits and ciders.

Offering in-person shopping and curbside delivery, Millerton Wine & Spirits is open Sundays and Tuesdays from noon to 5

p.m.; Wednesdays from noon to 6 p.m.; Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; the shop is closed on Mondays.

For more information, call 518-789-3899.

NECC gives virtual update of how it survived the pandemic

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Community members interested in learning more about where the North East Community Center (NECC) is headed and how it survived the health crisis were invited to tune in for an exclusive virtual update, Where We Are and Where We Are Going, on Wednesday, May 26.

Beginning at 6 p.m., the conversation was held via Zoom, drawing 57 registrants. NECC Board of Directors Chair Nancy Elting thanked Executive Director Christine Sergent and the NECC staff for all they managed to do this past year and their response to "a worldwide pandemic that no one was prepared for."

"Frankly, NECC is not the Red Cross — we're not set up to respond to disasters," Elting said. "Our mission is to be here for the long haul, for the day-to-day, the year-to-year. Much of the work is about offering social and educational programs and services, and yet, with little notice, responding to a disaster is just what Christine and the staff did."

Noticing the diversity among those watching the Zoom presentation — including NECC clients, staff members, donors, business owners, officials and more — Sergent said that evening was "truly representative of the community of people that help NECC do the work that we do. It's very important work and we could not do it without you," Sergent said. "We might not even be here post-pandemic if it weren't for you."

Aided by photos that helped tell some of the community center's story from the last 15

months, Sergent spoke about how they got through the pandemic. Before COVID-19 arrived, she said her team had been working hard to build its staff, improve its financial stability, improving its use of technology, develop its emergency protocols and better its methods of program delivery.

This allowed NECC to take all of its operations remotely when the shutdown occurred last March. It also helped the center deliver their programs and continue serving the community while implementing new initiatives to meet emerging needs, such as its food and supplies pantry. Additionally, it helped the center make informed financial decisions while moving through the health crisis with their funders, donors and collaborators.

Because their Farmers Market and transportation programs were considered essential services during the pandemic, Sergent said those services continued after being adapted to COVID-19 safety guidelines.

As for the remaining programs, she said the staff was just as amazing switching to a virtual platform and finding new ways to keep people engaged. Using the Care Calls placed to local households as an example, she shared the ways in which the NECC learned what the current and emerging needs have been for its clients.

In addition to sharing the valuable lessons learned during the pandemic, Sergent addressed the challenges the NECC faced, such as hiring workers and meeting financial obligations. Sergent said the NECC was fortunate to have funders who also pivoted dur-

ing the pandemic, providing operational and crisis support that allowed it to modify some program models.

She mentioned the crucial support from the community, funders and donors, which was higher during the past year's pandemic than at any other point in NECC's history.

Considering the new situations that emerged in the last year, Sergent said the community center is continuing to provide COVID-19 vaccination assistance.

She also shared its awareness of the pandemic's impact on mental health, the need for childcare and food insecurity solutions, among other challenges.

Moving forward, Sergent announced the NECC would be reopening its offices on Tuesday June 1, and many of its programs will be resuming in-person with COVID-19 precautions and guidelines in place. The first floor of the community center space will be closed until July to accommodate its food pantry.

After marveling at the NECC's perseverance and the community's during the last 15 months, Sergent opened the conversation up for questions.

For more information on the North East Community Center, go to www.neccmillerton.org, call 518-789-4259 or stop by its main location at 51 South Center St., Millerton.

Don't Miss This Week's Special Inserts! Sales and more!

Check them out inside.

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MILLERTON IN BRIEF

Blood drive at Millerton library June 17

The NorthEast-Millerton Library is holding a blood drive on Thursday, June 17, from 3 to 7 p.m.

Help save a life with a blood donation. The Red Cross is seeing the lowest donation turn out since the pandemic started. Donation are urgently needed.

The library is excited to announce that its drive will be participating in the Pint for a Pint. Donors who give blood at the library will receive a coupon for a free pint of Stewart's ice cream

(while supplies last).

Go to www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive to make an appointment. To find the Millerton blood drive, search for sponsor code NEML or call 518-789-3340 and ask for Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson.

June is traditionally a difficult month for donations, let's see if the NorthEast-Millerton Library can meet the need.

The library is located at 75 Main St.

Twilight at the Pond concerts

The NorthEast-Millerton Library's Twilight at the Pond concerts are being held at the Taconic State Park at Rudd Pond, at 59 Rudd Pond Road.

Entrance is free, but there may be a parking fee. State park regulations and normal COVID-19 safety restrictions will apply.

Go to www.nemillertonlibrary.org or call 518-789-3340 for more information and a schedule of performers.

2022 Community Calendars

Order 2022 Community Calendar today. It's a Millerton tradition in its 63rd printing.

Visit the NorthEast-Millerton Library for paper forms, call 518-789-3340 to order over the phone or order at www.nemillertonlibrary.org.

Pre-orders are due by Sunday, Aug. 1.

Fifteen years goes by in a flash

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PINE PLAINS/AREA

High School junior Evan Matthews honored as BOCES Student of Distinction, teachers awarded tenure

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — The Pine Plains Board of Education (BOE) celebrated the achievements of the Pine Plains Central School District's (PPCSD) students and staff on Wednesday, May 19, by congratulating the latest recipient of the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Student of Distinction Award and awarding tenure to a number of PPCSD educators.

BOE members assembled in the Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School library for the meeting at 7 p.m. and live streamed the meeting to the PPCSD website, www.ppcsd.org.

With the Student of Distinction award listed as the meeting's first item of business, Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler reminded both the

BOE and the public that the district is one of the major supporters of the Dutchess County BOCES Career & Technical Institute (CTI), due to the number of students the school district sends and the quality of the students it sends to the CTI.

"Dutchess BOCES, as you well know, can only exist with the support of our component districts," Dutchess BOCES CTI Principal Mitchell Shron said, "and we want everyone to realize that just because a student leaves your high school and comes to our high school half a county away that this is still a shared student and a shared accomplishment."

At Dutchess BOCES CTI, Shron said they have a Go Pro program — which stands for guidance, optimism, professionalism, respect and opportunity — and every year, CTI faculty members are asked to nominate students who represent these

attitudes.

A senior at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School and a second-year student with Dutchess BOCES' computer program, Evan Matthews was commended for being a motivated student, among other attributes. In fact, when the CTI shut down last year due to COVID-19, Shron said one of the first things Matthews did was reach out to Shron to ask if the program could use the school's 3D printers to make face shields and other personal protective equipment (PPE) pieces for hospitals and first responders in the area.

"The Dutchess BOCES Career & Technical Institute has been a really valuable addition to my high school career," Matthews said. "I have learned to be confident in my abilities from the student-driven and hands-on teaching that I've experienced in my past two years."

It was through his deep engagement in the BOCES programs, Matthews said, that led to his earning four certifications based around computer hardware, networking, security and ethical hacking.

"If I had not gone to BOCES, I would not be nearly as far as I am today," he said. "I would not be nearly as confident as I am now with my choice to go to the Rochester Institute of Technology and pursue further education in the field of computer science and security."

Matthews gave thanks to his teachers at both Dutchess BOCES CTI and Stissing Mountain, Shron and the BOE, and Shron presented him with a certificate recognizing his achievement.

"Once again, Evan, we are very proud of your accomplishments," Handler said. "You're the kind of student at the CTI who's making the most of the opportunity and that's all we can ask for."

Handler also mentioned the PPCSD's plans to increase the number of students at the CTI next year "as we see this as a very valuable option for students to go and get programs that we can't provide here."

Tenure

Proceeding with the evening's tenure appointments, BOE President Chip Couse said, "Tonight, we have the responsibility and the privilege of recognizing a long-term partnership between these deserving teachers and our school district community. In their probationary terms, they have shown themselves to be highly qualified educators and committed to the Pine Plains Central School District. It's now our turn to demonstrate our commitment to their careers and their continued excellence with our students."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Dutchess Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) Career & Technical Institute Principal Mitchell Shron presented high school junior Evan Matthews, a student of both Dutchess BOCES and the Pine Plains Central School District, with the BOCES Student of Distinction award at the Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, May 19.

The first tenure was awarded to Erin Curnan in the library media specialist tenure area, followed by Kimberly Puglisi in the reading and special education tenure areas. Ryan Carney was awarded tenure in the guidance counselor tenure area, while Erin Essery was awarded tenure in the art tenure area. Meanwhile, Ryan Orton was awarded tenure in the secondary social studies tenure

area; Susan Poole-DiSalvo and Courtney Reichelt were both awarded tenure in the elementary tenure area; and Steven Sandman was awarded tenure in the secondary science tenure.

With each tenure award, the BOE offered its congratulations and unanimous approval. Handler offered a few words on each educator's work in the school district and the public offered its applause.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Between the lunch catered by Moose on the Loose and the music provided by Strings Attached, Pine Plains seniors relished their time with friends and neighbors at the town of Pine Plains' first Senior Luncheon in more than a year and a half on Wednesday, June 9.

Senior Luncheons return

PINE PLAINS — Local seniors found a way to keep cool against the heat wave while enjoying a bite to eat among friends at the town of Pine Plains' first Senior Luncheon since the COVID-19 pandemic hit last March, on Wednesday, June 9.

Starting at noon in the Community Room above the Pine Plains Free Library, the free luncheon drew a large turnout of senior citizens from the area who dined on a lunch of deli sandwiches catered by the popular Moose on the Loose, located at 7711 South Main St., along with pasta, potato and Greek salads and plenty of refreshing iced tea and water to drink.

As they ate among friends,

neighbors and spouses, the seniors were entertained by a lively repertoire of music performed by the band, Strings Attached.

"We're getting back to our normal Wednesday routine," said Pine Plains Assistant to the Supervisor Alice Hanback-Nuccio as she watched the seniors savor this long-awaited social event.

Hanback-Nuccio also noted the town will host the potluck lunches on the second Wednesday of every month in the Community Room above the library at noon. Everyone over 60 years of age is welcome to enjoy lunch, courtesy of the town.

— Kaitlin Lyle

SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office (DCSO). All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Property

Damage Auto Accident

Monday, May 31, Deputies responded to Route 22 in the area of Fenwood Drive in the town of Pawling for a report of a Property Damage Auto Accident, from which the operator fled the scene.

The operator was not located and the investigation is ongoing.

Abandoned vehicle

Tuesday, June 1, Deputies responded to Winchell Mountain Road in the town of North East for a single vehicle crash.

The vehicle was found unoccupied and efforts to find the operator of the Subaru are ongoing.

DWI arrest

Friday, June 4, Deputies arrested Ramiro S. Alvarado (age 28) for Driving while Intoxicated in the town of Amenia.

The subject is to appear in the Town of Amenia Court at a later date.

Report crime tips

Anyone with any information relative to the aforementioned criminal cases, or any other suspected criminal activity, should contact the DCSO tip line at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail.com. All information will be kept confidential.

The Millerton News will publish the outcome of police charges. Contact us by mail at P.O. Box 625, Millerton, NY 12546, Attn: Police Blotter, or send an email, with "police blotter" in the subject line, to editor@millertonnews.com.

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning. Notice of such error must be given to us after the first run of the advertisement.

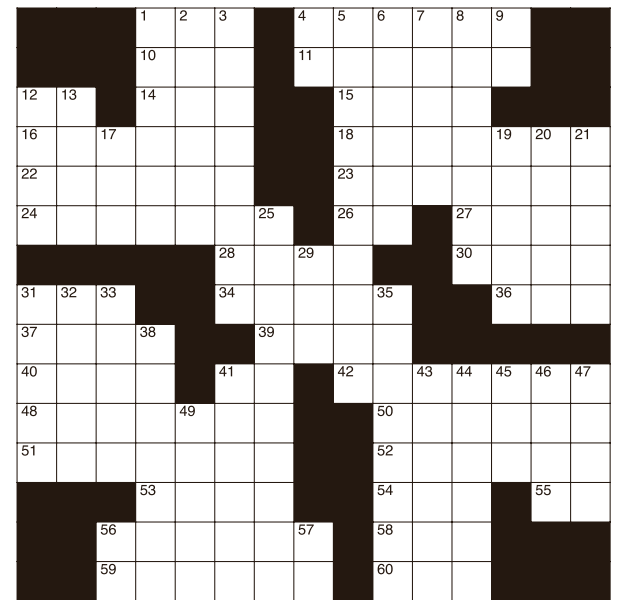
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

1. "Sleepless In Seattle" actress Ryan
4. One of Santa's reindeer
10. Before the present
11. Type of butter
12. Location of White House
14. Motion
15. Tree part
16. Regions around the North Pole
18. Fits on a boat's gunwale
22. Discuss after it's happened
23. Milk substitute for coffee
24. Describes one who believes in supreme being
26. Equally
27. Famed director Forman
28. Popular apartment style
30. British School
31. Advanced degree
34. Order of architecture
36. Investment account (abbr.)
37. Snakelike fishes
39. Children's tale bear
40. Norse personification of old age
41. Atomic #58
42. Moving your head
48. 1878 Kentucky Derby winner
50. Frankfurter
51. Small, seedless raisin
52. Device in papermaking machine
53. Go
54. Open payment initiative (abbr.)
55. "Westworld" actor Harris
56. Saturated with salt
58. Marry
59. Report on
60. Midway between north and northeast

CLUES DOWN

1. Rays
2. Self-centered person
3. One you look after
4. Prosecutor
5. Portion
6. Speaks ill of
7. Formal system for computer programs
8. To make angry
9. Rural delivery
12. Group of languages
13. Large First Nations group
17. Circulating life force in Chinese philosophy



19. Excludes
20. Body cavity of a metazoan
21. Swedish monetary unit
25. Works with
29. Partner to "to"
31. Rewards (archaic)
32. One of Caroline Islands
33. Type of alcohol
35. Eat a lot
38. Nuns
41. Dog
43. Become more serious
44. Choose
45. Newspapers use it
46. World's longest river
47. Commanded to go faster

49. Cabs
56. Mr. T's "A-Team" character
57. Document signed (abbr.)

June 10 Solution

B	R	A	V	E	S	T	A	E	T	N	A
R	E	S	I	D	E	B	O	D	E	S	
A	L	L	I	T	E	R	A	T	I	O	N
V	I	E	M	I	A	O	S	M	E	N	
O	N	E	I	R	O	N	K	I	S	I	
S	E	P	A	R	A	T	E	S	R	E	N
S	A	L	E	S	M	O	R	O	S	E	
I	S	M	S	C	A	R	S				
A	N	O	D	E	S	N	O	T	E	C	
P	E	D	E	S	S	O	P	E	R	F	I
O	R	I	S	M	E	A	L	E	S	B	W
T	U	N	O	M	A	S	A	T	A	E	
H	L	C	O	E	L	E	N	T	E	R	A
E	A	R	T	H	A	E	R	A	T	E	D
M	E	A	N	S	R	A	G	G	E	D	

Sudoku

7		8			3	2		
	5		6	4				
		1		9	2			7
		4		3			8	
			1		9		2	
3					9			5
5	9			7	3			
						9		

June 10 Solution

1	8	2	7	9	4	6	5	3
5	9	3	8	1	6	4	2	7
4	6	7	3	5	2	8	9	1
2	7	8	1	6	5	3	4	9
9	5	6	4	8	3	7	1	2
3	1	4	9	2	7	5	8	6
8	4	1	6	7	9	2	3	5
6	3	5	2	4	1	9	7	8
7	2	9	5	3	8	1	6	4

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Amenia Strong: the issues, the candidates

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
 editor@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — The three candidates running on the independent Amenia Strong ticket in the Tuesday, June 22, New York Republican Primary understandably want to focus on issues other than Silo Ridge and assessments — they want to focus on the town and what they believe they can do better than those they are hoping to replace. All newcomers to the political game, Julie Doran is looking to unseat longtime town Supervisor Victoria Perotti, who is seeking her fifth two-year term leading the town, while Jamie Vitiello and Brad Rebillard are hoping to replace Councilmembers James Morris and Michele Somogyi, both of whom are seeking a second go-around at their four-year positions.

Julie Doran

Doran, a single mother of two, said she has a strong business background and has always “kept a close eye on the town’s budget, school taxes and always paid attention and had a hand on the pulse of what’s going on, but it wasn’t until I became so concerned with the mismanagement of the town’s money that I had to [get involved]. I was guilty of turning my head, but now I’m trying to participate.”

While never serving on any town boards or committees, she does serve on groups like the private Amenia/Wassaic Coalition, which was founded by Silo Ridge and tries to bolster local organizations.

When asked to talk about specifics that she would focus on as town supervisor, Doran replied, “How about eliminating things from the budget? Like the youth program. From 2019 to 2020, the budget went down in one year \$40,000. It eliminated two summer programs completely, when it wiped out Little League, sadly enough. It doesn’t make any sense, why are we cutting youth programs, but we can afford to spend \$1.1 million on a heating system for Town Hall?”

She added, “We are one of the richest towns in Dutchess County. We should be able to build a septic system and a new firehouse. Let’s move forward.”

It’s worth noting that the governor had issued a number of Executive Orders during the pandemic limiting many youth activities, as children weren’t yet vaccinated and COVID numbers were raging. The town plans to reinstate many of its summer recreation programs, including baseball, according to Perotti, in the 2022 budget.

Jamie Vitiello

Running mate Vitiello agrees Amenia has a lot to offer, and thinks he can help.

Currently he’s the deputy civil defense coordinator with the Department of Emergency Response, an unpaid position similar to the many governmental roles he’s held over the years.

Vitiello recently sold Vitech Systems Group, a tech company he founded and ran for 24 years. He also moved to Amenia with his wife and two children; they

live in Silo Ridge.

“I feel like I am in a once in a 100-year opportunity,” he said. “Amenia has to decide what it wants to be... it’s complicated to fulfill what it can be. It needs affordable housing, it needs workforce housing. That ties a little to potentially needing some semblance of a wastewater system downtown. I don’t see it on a trend to synthesize right now as it’s currently being driven. I think that could be a hugely missed opportunity, but it’s loaded with potential.”

He added there’s a divide between the Silo Ridge community, which pays about “\$70,000 per house in real estate taxes a year with no tax breaks... and taxes have gone up.” Vitiello added the developers have “an ultimate vision to have 245 C/Os [Certificates of Occupancy], or doorbells, which could be condos or houses,” which would add significantly to the tax base.

“They are fully contributing,” he said of Silo residents. “This year, Silo Ridge made up almost 40% of the tax base of the entire town of Amenia, with roughly 50 houses that have C/Os with a town that has 1,600 houses. It’s stunning actually.”

He also addressed claims Silo Ridge did not live up to its commitment when it came to town to do things for the community, like build a wastewater system. He recounted what he was told by the partners at Silo, adding he didn’t know the information first hand.

“The investors behind Silo purchased property, and still own it, 6 acres specifically for a wastewater plant, and offered to fully service a 25-year bond for the plant, but the town turned them down,” said Vitiello. “The town only wanted to do it if Silo gave them the money all up front. It’s so frustrating.”

Perotti, though, said at the time the town’s Wastewater Committee had garnered a \$3 million matching grant, and Silo refused to come up with the matching \$1.5 million. She also noted Silo fell flat on other commitments, “like installing a sound system in the auditorium of Town Hall and fixing the bathrooms in the back of the auditorium; the only thing they did was paint the auditorium. All the things they promised never happened.”

But Vitiello said Silo Ridge does contribute to the community, and gave a prime example.

It’s a “significant contributor; we just formed a Silo Ridge foundation exclusive for the purpose to raise money from Silo members to contribute to the community, called the Amenia/Wassaic Coalition,” he said. “When the pandemic began, County Executive Marc Molinaro called me and said the food banks are in serious trouble, and the county doesn’t have a budgetary way to restock them. Can you guys raise money from Silo Ridge? We raised \$90,000 in like three days.”

Which led Vitiello to address a question about his relationship with Molinaro, a close friend. He was even Molinaro’s best man at his wedding. Some have raised concerns that the outgoing

county exec, leaving due to term limits, cherry picked his friend to sit on the Town Board so he and the rest of the Amenia Strong candidates, if victorious, would have a 3-5 majority and could appoint a new assessor when Boyrk’s term expires — ensuring Silo Ridge a new assessment — and the town and county many millions in future tax dollars.

“I hadn’t heard that. I absolutely acknowledge Marc is my dear friend,” Vitiello said. “That friendship is born of the both of us really caring about Dutchess County, of public service, and that continues to be the basis of our friendship — we love this place. We want what’s good for it. I can’t think of a single reason why it benefits Marcus for me to be on the Town Board... there’s no upside to him... I’ve never run for public office, so I may pick his brain and that may aggravate him. There’s no subplot here around a benefit as to me being on the Town Board.”

As to whether Amenia Strong is “just a shill for Silo Ridge,” and if an Amenia Strong victory would turn Amenia into a company town, Vitiello said absolutely not.

“I would be running for Town Board even if I lived outside of Silo,” he said. “This is important.”

Brad Rebillard

Rebillard, born and raised in Amenia and the longtime owner of Dutchess Country Realty in Millerton, has a lengthy record of community service. Not only has he served on the now defunct Millerton Lions Club for many years (he once served as its president), he’s now a member of the Amenia Lions Club; he’s also served with many other local organizations and is a member of both the Amenia Wastewater Committee and an alternate on the town’s Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA).

His wife, Jeanne, is running for one of two seats on the Dutchess County Republican Committee in the primary; she has her own public relations firm and currently does public relations for Silo Ridge. She is not running on the Amenia Strong ticket.

Like his running mates, Rebillard tried to distance Amenia Strong from Silo Ridge and its lawsuit against the town.

“I don’t think any of the lawsuits are tied to just Silo Ridge,” he said, stressing he wants to remain positive and look forward. “Even without the numbers, where’s the money going, even though we have all this revenue?”

This is Rebillard’s first time running for political office; he said he was drawn to the Amenia Strong slate because he’s concerned with the town’s lack of communication and “unaccountable spending,” adding “I feel like it’s my time to serve the community and the town that I call my home.”

Rebillard added, “We need to stimulate community involvement and identify community needs and community awareness and develop a community-wide vision and plan and path to implement it. That’s not in the works that I’ve seen. They’ve cut the recreation budget in 2020,

and moneys weren’t put back, even though we knew we could see light at the end of the tunnel with COVID vaccinations.”

Rebillard called Amenia a “pass-thru town,” and said that its government should do more to encourage economic growth. He cited Four Brothers as one example of a business with “innovative ideas” that should be encouraged by the town.

“Enhancing community awareness, and the development of a positive vision of downtown Amenia is something that needs to be encouraged by our boards,” he said, adding the closure of businesses like Monte’s Local Kitchen and Tap Room was a missed opportunity for the town.

Perotti noted, however, that the town has been dealing with unique challenges, added expenses and dwindling revenue — all thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet somehow it still managed to welcome nine new businesses to open downtown in the last year, something she is especially pleased to mention.

“We have a wonderful town,” she said.

Primary Election details

According to the Dutchess County Board of Elections, there are 2,442 registered voters in the town of Amenia, which has a population of 4,314, according to the 2010 Census (the last on record); 723 of them are Republican (including 335 women and 388 men) — versus 835 Democrats — those registered Republicans are qualified to vote in the June 22 primary.

Qualified voters are instructed to head to the Wassaic firehouse, at 27 Firehouse Road, for the Republican Primary, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Wassaic firehouse will be the sole polling place in the town of Amenia for the primary.

To read profiles on all of the candidates running in the June 22 Amenia Republican Primary, go to www.tricornernews.com.

To read all about Amenia Strong, turn to this week’s front page.



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

Trail blazers


With spring now almost over, the Harlem Valley Rail Trail has been welcoming a steady stream of local residents, area visitors, families and outdoor enthusiasts during the past couple of weeks. Whether they’ve been blazing across the trail on foot, on bicycles, on skateboards or on roller blades, chances are trailgoers have caught a glimpse of the region’s resident wildlife that live along the trail while getting their exercise, some fresh air and hopefully relaxing along the way.



If they were to take a closer look at the ponds that border the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, trail enthusiasts heading from Coleman Station in Sharon, Conn., to Amenia Station in Amenia, might find a swan or two taking a leisurely swim.

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Candidate
Town Supervisor

Jamie Vitiello
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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

TRIBUTES: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Why We Love Live ‘Tribute’ Shows (And, Of Course, ABBA)

It seems that this summer there are more “tribute” shows than ever in the Tristate region. Maybe it has something to do with the COVID-19 pandemic, and ongoing uncertainty about when/where/how we can all gather in public venues. Or maybe we all just really love to hear old tunes played live in the style that sounds familiar to our ears. One of the joys of music subscription services such as Spotify and YouTube is that you can do a search for “covers” of songs you love; the fun there is that you can often hear wildly different versions of great songs (vintage as well as recent).

Tribute shows, on the other hand, are meant to recreate your favorite songs in the way they were originally performed by your favorite bands.

Take the Swedish pop super group ABBA as an example. The band’s biggest hits are covered extensively, in part because they’ve been performed onstage and onscreen in the films and plays of “Mamma Mia” — and of course, “Mamma Mia 2,” in which the band’s most famous songs are covered by the immortal Cher (who released her own album of ABBA covers when “Mamma Mia 2” came out; it’s great).

I certainly have an appreciation for higher-quality music of the classical, pop, rock and jazz varieties, but I do love me some ABBA. Somehow, my annual birthday ritual has come to include watching “Mamma Mia” at



PHOTO COURTESY DANCING DREAM

Dancing Dream, a tribute band for Swedish super group ABBA, is one of several tribute acts performing in the region this summer. Their show will be July 10 at Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn.

home with my friend Divya every year.

This year, however, I will most certainly be attending the Sharon Playhouse ABBA tribute show that, curiously, is scheduled for the actual night of my birthday, which is Saturday, July 10.

Sharon Playhouse in Sharon, Conn., has a pretty packed roster of summer entertainment with performers from the region and from New York City.

However, there are also several tribute shows on the schedule. In addition to ABBA, look for shows featuring Electric Light Orchestra (yes, I like them too; so sue me); the music of the Rat Pack; the music of Motown; tunes in the style of the Andrews Sisters, tunes in the style of Buddy Holly and the Crickets and more. Get all

the details at www.sharon-playhouse.org/drive-in-stage.

Infinity Hall, the lovely and historic gem of a theater in the center of Norfolk, Conn., relies particularly heavily on tribute shows. There’s been quite a bit of schedule shuffling caused by COVID-19, but this summer look for shows that bring back the magic of Fleetwood Mac and the epic album, “Tusk;” Jim Morrison and the Doors; the Beatles in “Beatlemania;” and Kashmir: The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Tribute Band (yes, the ultimate!).

The band love continues all the way into autumn, with plans for tributes to Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young; and Chicago. Look for schedules and ticket information at www.infinityhall.com/Events.

For those who deeply love Led Zeppelin and aren’t satisfied with just Kashmir (the Ultimate

Led Zep tribute band), the Towne Crier Cafe in Beacon, N.Y., has The PreZence which is an “authentic Led Zeppelin tribute experience,” on July 3.

Other tribute acts there this summer include Gratefully Yours (Grateful Dead) and a YES tribute show. In autumn, look for The American Pink Floyd Show.

For details, and for information on performances by non-tribute awesome acts including Steve Forbert, Iris Dement and Sloane Wainwright, go to www.townecrier.com.

And to all the tribute bands that recreate our favorite song experiences: We salute you!



PHOTOS COURTESY CORNWALL LIBRARY

Michael Trapp, an internationally acclaimed garden designer, opens his Cornwall garden this year for visitors to the town’s Books and Blooms tour.

BOOKS & BLOOMS TOUR & TALKS, JUNE 18 TO 20

Books & Blooms to Benefit The Cornwall Library in Cornwall, Conn., will be held this year on Friday, June 18, and Sunday, June 20.

On Friday at 5 p.m. there will be a Zoom talk with George Schoellkopf about Hollister House Garden in Washington Depot (a tour of the garden will be offered from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, June 20).

On Saturday, from

10 a.m. to 4 p.m. there will be a tour of the Cornwall gardens of John and Juliet Hubbard, Bart and Debby Jones, Roxana Laughlin and Michael Trapp.

There will also be a sale at the Cornwall Library of new and out-of-print gardening books; tea towels with the Books & Blooms signature design; and cut flowers arranged and donated by members of the Cornwall Garden Club.



The garden of former New York Botanical Garden plant curator Juliet Hubbard and her husband, John, is on this year’s Books and Blooms tour in Cornwall, Conn.

BOOKS: ROB BUCCINO

Gladwell Dives into History Of Targeted Military Bombing

Is aerial bombing a strategic weapon or an instrument of terror? Malcolm Gladwell’s new book, “The Bomber Mafia,” tells the story of how American military aviation thinking transformed from aiming to dismantle enemy industrial capability to delivering wholesale slaughter of civilians ... and how the pendulum now has swung back.

Master storyteller that he is, Gladwell brings alive charismatic historical figures who played key roles in the transition, especially Gen. Curtis E. LeMay, who in later years earned opprobrium for suggesting that North Vietnam could be bombed “into the Stone Age.”

LeMay’s personal courage and pragmatism, as well as his dedication

to excellence among the pilots and crews he led, somewhat redeem his reputation in Gladwell’s retelling.

Also depicted in depth is the more sympathetic character of Gen. Haywood Hansell, from whom LeMay took over command of bombing of Japan and who saw his more ethical strategy of targeting only military sites replaced by LeMay’s approach of mass destruction, culminating in atomic warfare.

The book does particularly well in limning the interpersonal dynamics of the mostly young, ambitious and competitive officers who formed the group to which the book’s title refers.

Gladwell makes a compelling case that LeMay was right and that propo-

nents of precision bombing were wrong, at least in terms of bringing the war to an end.

The accuracy in proving-ground tests of the legendary Norden bombsight had led a cabal of American Army aviation leaders — there was no Air Force then — to believe that precision bombing could cripple the manufacture of strategically crucial ball bearings and synthetic fuels. Such bombing required daylight missions, exposing fliers and crews to accurate enemy artillery and fighter planes.

Many lives and aircraft later, it became apparent that, under combat conditions, very few bombs were actually hitting their targets, and the damage done

Continued on next page

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PHOTO SUBMITTED

The July 3 Hillsdale, N.Y., flea is one of three major markets happening nearby this summer.

VINTAGE: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Household Hunting and Gathering At Three Famous Flea Markets

Tag sales are just fine for most of us, but for the true fan of finding glorious vintage rustic home decorations there is nothing like a giant flea market.

Of course the famous such markets are in Paris and New York City but — think about it: You're here in The Country. Old adorable things are closer to their original owners here. And perhaps there will be a larger-than-average supply of amazing finds; there were no sales last year, of course, because of the COVID-19 quarantine.

I wish I could say that there is less sharp-elbowed savvy competition at these sales but that would be a lie. There will be war — perhaps over a McCoy vase or some bits of delicious silver flatware, unmatched

but enticing (I want!).

Hey, a little competition builds character and gets the blood racing.

The big market of the East Coast, and one of the most famous markets in America, is the venerable Brimfield Market in Sturbridge, Mass., which is actually an amalgam of several smaller markets with thousands (yes, thousands) of dealers and an estimated 50,000 visitors.

Three Brimfield markets have been scheduled for this year. The first was May 11 to 16. The second will be July 13 to 18 and the final sale of 2021 will be Sept. 7 to 12.

The hours vary but when aficionados talk about shopping at Brimfield, they invariably describe using a flashlight in the wee dark hours of

the morning. Get excellent details at www.brimfieldantiquefleamarket.com.

On a somewhat smaller scale is the Elephant's Trunk flea market in New Milford, Conn., which is held every Sunday from April through December. With food trucks and other entertainment, the Elephant's Trunk is almost like an ag fair for vintage furnishing fans. Instead of cows, there are couches.

You can buy tickets for early entry online at www.etflea.com. Early Buyers can enter at 5:30 a.m.; Pre-paid Buyers enter between 7 and 8 a.m.

General Admission is from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; these tickets can only be purchased at the gate. A seasoned campaigner of Elephant's Trunk sales confided to me that the

best time to go is 7 a.m. If you go during the Early Buyer slot, she said, many of the buyers are not at their booths because they're off looking at the wares of other dealers.

Coming up on Independence Day weekend, the town of Hillsdale, N.Y., will hold its annual flea market on Saturday, July 3, at Hamlet Park (at the intersection of Routes 22 and 23). The market opens at 8 a.m. for early birds with a \$10 admission fee; admission from 9 a.m. until the end of the shopping day, at 3 p.m., is free.

This sale has clothing in addition to home furnishings. And if you'd like to participate as a vendor, there are some spaces available (contact Steven Tiger at stiger@taconic.net or 518-938-1404).

STREAMING: ED FERMAN

Great Literature Made Even Better, on HBO

My wife sometimes glances over from her book and says, "You're watching too much TV." I sometimes respond, "I'm watching an adaptation of a literary masterwork." This is occasionally true. Here are a few prestige shows guaranteed to dignify the most uninspired watch list:

Philip Roth's "The Plot Against America" is, like most of his work, partly autobiographical. Unlike most of his work, its plot is electrifying: a chilling alternative history in which Charles Lindbergh has been elected president in 1940 and the U.S. is becoming increasingly fascist and anti-Semitic. Roth's 2004 novel was made into a six-episode HBO miniseries in 2020.

The story centers on a family that mirrors Roth's own: Herman Levin (Morgan Spector), his wife, Bess, 10-year-old Philip and his older brother, Sandy. Winona Ryder plays Bess's sister, Evelyn, who falls for a Lindbergh crony, the odious Rabbi Bengelsdorf (John Turturro).

The Levins' lives are disrupted by a series of increasingly oppressive and violent anti-Semitic incidents supported by the Lindbergh administration.

This is a powerful family drama along with Roth's warning about the impact of far-right "America First" nativism promoted by Lindbergh and, recently, by Donald Trump.

"The Leftovers" is based on Tom Perrotta's novel of the same name. It takes place a few years after the Sudden Departure — the mysterious disappearance of 2% of the world's population.

It is told largely through the eyes of Kevin Garvey (Justin Theroux), police chief of a town in New York; and Nora Durst (Carrie Coon), who has lost her entire family in the Departure.

The sweeping story line

is too complex to summarize easily in this space, but a number of cults have evolved, notably The Guilty Remnant, a weird group of chain-smoking nihilists.

Although the show won critical acclaim, the audience was small, perhaps because of its somewhat surreal tone. I do not mean to suggest that watching is slow or difficult. This is a riveting and suspenseful story with some unforgettable characters, especially Carrie Coon's Nora. In my view, this is one of the two best shows of the decade (along with "Breaking Bad"). Three seasons on HBO Max.

Although I admire both the above novels, the TV treatments are superior, partly because they extend the scope of the books. Both have high-concept or "what if" story lines. High-concept work often veers into science fiction — e.g. the Roth book has a plot similar to Philip K. Dick's "The Man In the High Castle" — but this is not always the case. The ultimate high-concept work may be "Snakes on a Plane."

If you prefer a character-driven story, I have to send you again to the HBO library to watch "My Brilliant Friend," the adaptation of the novel by the mysterious Elena Ferrante.

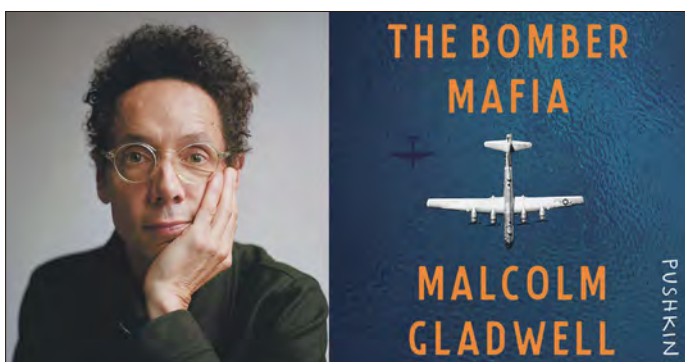
To the list of great female friendships — Gertrude Stein & Alice B. Toklas, Thelma & Louise, Betty & Veronica — we must add Lenu & Lila, who grow up together in Naples in the 1950s.

There is no plot here other than the enduring one of Coming of Age, but if you have a fondness for Italy, you will enjoy this gorgeously photographed show featuring remarkable performances by two lovely actresses.

Margherita Mazzucco plays Lenu, and Gaia Girace plays Lila. Neither had any previous acting experience and were chosen from more than 9,000 children and teenagers in the Neapolitan region.

...Gladwell

Continued from previous page



was minimal compared to the human cost.

Night-time incendiary raids aimed at homes of factory workers (and their families), however, could halt production of materiel effectively.

Gladwell describes how cities such as Dresden in Germany and Tokyo in Japan were turned to furnaces and cinders as pilots and crews watched in dismay.

Gladwell also takes readers to today's world, where lasers and computers make the precision attacks strategists once dreamed of a practical reality, even as nations retain vast arsenals of weapons of mass destruction.

As with all Gladwell's books, I found "The Bomber Mafia" a compelling and vivid read, though not on a par with "The Tipping Point" or "David and Goliath."

Partly to blame is that those books yielded sur-

prising revelations, often counter-intuitive, where this story is much more straightforward and unremarkable.

But I also felt that Gladwell skimmed over much that could have enriched the book. Nowhere does he mention how German, Japanese, Italian and Russian bombing strategists rationalized their own decisions to intentionally strike civilian targets.

And Gladwell occasionally gets basic facts wrong: for example, he refers to a lack of a tailwind to help a heavily laden bomber take off, when a headwind is what aerodynamics demands.

There's also a looseness, an informality at times, to his descriptions, as if he's chatting with the reader, that can be jarring at times.

Overall, though, like the bombers he writes vividly about, Gladwell delivers the goods.

SHERMAN PLAYERS RETURN TO STAGE

The Sherman Players in Sherman, Conn., will open its 2021 season of live performances on July 9, 10, 16 and 17 with "Durang Outdoors," an evening of Christopher Durang one act plays under the stars.

The two comic one-acts are "The Actor's Nightmare" and "For Whom The Southern Belle Tolls."

Durang is an American playwright known for absurd and enter-

taining dramas. He won the Tony Award for Best Play in 2013 and won the Obie Award for Best Playwright for his first play, "Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You," in 1980.

All performances begin at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$23 and can be purchased at www.shermanplayhouse.org. Bring chairs and a picnic. The grounds open about one hour before show time.

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Your Guide to Tri-State Events

June 17, 2021



ART: Work Continues on the Epic Ode to American Workers, **10**

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMP



CHAMBER MUSIC

The Thrill of a Shared Music Experience, **14**



THEATER

Sharon Playhouse Offers Something For Everyone, **3**

RECREATION

Shooting Clays and Fly Fishing for Beginners And the Experienced, **5**

CINEMA

A Main Street Favorite Comes Back to Life; Cult Films and Craft Cocktails, **6, 18**

ANGLING

Why I Fish Where I Fish, **8**

RAILROADS

Making Tracks To Admire Railroad History, **11**

ARTS & FOOD

Summer Arts and Edibles For all Ages, **12**

DANCE

Live Dance Is Back At Jacob's Pillow, **15**

PERFORMANCES

Uncommon Delights At Bard, **16**

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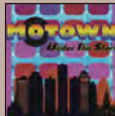
DRIVE-IN STAGE



Saturday, July 3
@ 8pm
**AMERICA'S
SWEETHEARTS**



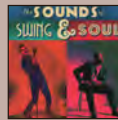
Saturday, July 10
@ 8pm
DANCING DREAM
ABBA Tribute



Saturday, July 24
@ 8pm
**MOTOWN UNDER
THE STARS**



Saturday, August 7
@ 8pm
**SWINGIN' WITH
THE RAT PACK**



Saturday, August 21
@ 8pm
**THE SOUNDS OF
SWING & SOUL**



Friday, August 27 &
Saturday, August 28
ELO LASER ENCOUNTER
Both Shows @ 8pm



Saturday, September 11
@ 8pm
THE RAVE-ONS
Buddy Holly Tribute

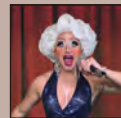


Saturday, September 18
@ 8pm
**CONNECTICUT
VIRTUOSI CHAMBER
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YOUTH THEATER

PATIO STAGE



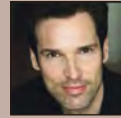
Saturday, July 17
@ 8pm
**CACOPHONY
DANIELS**



Sunday, July 25
@ 2pm
**THE EMERALD
TRIO**



Friday, July 30
@ 8pm
**WALKIN' AFTER
MIDNIGHT with
CARTER CALVERT**



Friday, August 6
@ 8pm
HUGH PANARO



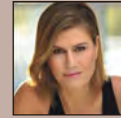
Friday, August 20
@ 8pm
**MICHAEL
BROWN**



Sunday, August 22
@ 3pm
**JOHN
DAVIDSON**



Friday, September 3
@ 8pm
**MARIA B.
HICKEY**



Friday, September 10
@ 8pm
KERRI LOUISE
Comedian



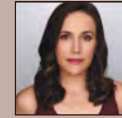
Sunday, September 12
@ 2pm
JALYNN STEELE



Friday, September 17
@ 8pm
**WANDA
HOUSTON**



Sunday, September 19
@ 2pm
**TREVOR
MARTIN**



Friday, September 24
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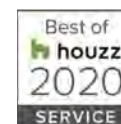




PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

America's Sweethearts will return to the outdoor stage at Sharon Playhouse this summer — but the stage will be bigger and better and the shows will be (even) grander than before.

THEATER: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Sharon Playhouse Offers Something for Everyone This Summer

The motto of Sharon Playhouse Artistic Director Alan M-L Wager and Managing Director Robert Levinstein might just be, “That worked well, let’s try it again but go even bigger this time!”

And thus the 2021 season of theater and education will be similar to the 2020 season — but bigger (and, of course, even better, although 2020 was pretty great).

COVID-19 kept audiences and performers away from the main stage last summer. But Levinstein and Wager took to heart the classic summer theater motto: We’ve got a barn, let’s put on a show!

The shows actually took place outside the barn, on a stage specially constructed to hold a small number of performances that ranged from live music to film screenings.

Socially distanced parking spaces were created in the parking lot, including a hilltop area at the back where socially distanced tailgate parties offered a fun way for theater patrons to visit with each other before the shows commenced.

This summer, the stage will be larger, and will be covered. The shows themselves, therefore, will have a little more space and the performers can be more expansive.

There is also a plan to put a screen behind the stage, so there can be visuals and graphics to enhance the performances.

The stage is the setting for only one portion of this summer’s entertainment at the Playhouse: the Drive-In Stage shows (which include tribute shows dedicated to Swedish super group ABBA, the super cool Rat Pack of the 1960s, the Detroit sound of the Motor City aka Motown and more).

For the Drive-In performances, audiences reserve a parking space and arrive in/watch the show in their vehicles (trucks in back, smaller cars up front). Last year, tickets were sold for the Drive-in Stage on a per-vehicle basis; this year, tickets will be sold per person.

There will also be more intimate performances on the patio next to the main stage building. Three of the performances are daytime brunch shows; the rest are dinner theater. Meals will be provided by two local restaurants.

Among the shows scheduled for the patio are local favorites Wanda Houston and Michael Whitney Brown; drag artist Cacophony

Continued on page 4

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John Heck • Cindy Heck

... Sharon Playhouse

continued from page 3

Daniels performing show tunes; heartthrob/actor/singer/game show host John Davidson; and the return of a Playhouse favorite, Amanda Lea Lavergne doing a cabaret-style show.

Don't wait to order tickets for the Aug. 6 patio performance starring Hugh Panaro, who has performed multiple times in multiple roles (including the title role) in the Broadway production of "The Phantom of the Opera."

There is also a robust schedule of programming for children, including theater education programs led by Director of Education Michael Baldwin and choreographer Sarah Cuoco (both are Salisbury natives).

The youth programs will culminate in performances of "Frozen Junior," "Seussical Kids" and,

for teens, "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The big question for 2021 (and beyond) is of course: When will the main stage open again? The Playhouse team announced on June 3 that they will follow the example of Broadway and open the main building in autumn with a BIG EVENT.

They promise that details will be available soon.

The Sharon Playhouse season begins July 3; tickets went on sale on June 3.

For more information on shows, dates and tickets go to the Sharon Playhouse website at www.sharonplayhouse.org. Keep an eye on the website; new programs and more information are added often.

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SHOOTING: LANS CHRISTENSEN

Bustin' Clays as A Way To Entertain Yourself This Summer

Summer entertainment doesn't have to involve restaurants or dance parties or going to the theater.

Your favorite sport can be your summer's entertainment. For me, that sport is sporting clays, but for you it might be fly-fishing. Either way, I heartily recommend Orvis Sandanona in Millbrook, N.Y., as a relatively affordable place to pursue or learn to fish and shoot.

As a sporting clay devotee for more than 20 years, I have spent many entertaining, challenging and happy days at Orvis. It is "the oldest permitted shotgun shooting club in the U.S." and their facilities are the equal of any club anywhere, in my opinion. Seasoned wing and clay shooters can try two clays courses, both with a variety of

target presentations.

But perhaps the best offering at Orvis is instruction for the first-time shooter or fly-fisher. The instructors for both "games" are highly experienced and qualified "pros."

Chief Shooting Instructor Paula Moore is a five-time member of Womens World Team USA, who holds many championship titles. The fishing instructors, like Mark Searle, can boast equal accolades and achievements.

Clay shooters always say to new shooters "when you see your first clay break, you're hooked." You can see this proven daily at Orvis Sandanona.

Information about sporting clays, wingshooting and fly-fishing instruction and curriculums can be found at www.orvis.com/sandanona-shooting-grounds.html.



PHOTOS BY LANS CHRISTENSEN


Paula Moore, at right in photo, teaches a first-timer how to shoot sporting clays at Orvis Sandanona.



Instructor Mark Searle, far left, with a fly-fishing class.

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CINEMA: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The Moviehouse Comes Back to Life — With an Elevator and an Ice Machine

The region enjoyed a collective sigh of delight and relief over Memorial Day weekend as the new owners of The Moviehouse in Millerton, N.Y., enjoyed a successful soft opening (showing the films “A Quiet Place 2” and “Dream Horse”).

Carol and Robert Sadlon were the creators of The Moviehouse, which opened on Memorial Day weekend in 1978 — which was the reason new owners Chelsea Altman and David Maltby pushed hard to open on the same holiday weekend this year.

After Robert died in 2019, his widow and partner began making plans to turn the theater to new owners — and felt very fortunate to have found Maltby and Altman earlier this year.

Ownership changed hands in March; and in a perhaps ironic twist, the COVID-19 pandemic became kind of sort of a good thing. It allowed them to get in quickly with construction crews and do updates to the interior and, of course, add the elevator that theater patrons had been asking for (and making donations toward) in recent years.

“And we have an ice maker now,” Altman said in an interview by phone

“From an operations perspective, we can open slowly and see how it goes, and not be overwhelmed with four theaters and the bar, all at once.”

on May 10. “Apparently that was something people really wanted.”

Ice will come in handy for more than soft drinks from the concession stand. Maltby and Altman both have backgrounds in the entertainment and hospitality industries and they will be part of a new trend toward making movie theaters more like entertainment centers.

Of course it will still be possible to come and just see a movie; but there will be options for making it more of a Night Out.

The small upstairs theater that was in recent years a screening room will be available for parties and events. It’s possible that patrons will someday be able to enter by a separate door that takes them right upstairs to have a glass of wine, even if they’re



PHOTO COURTESY THE MOVIEHOUSE

Moviehouse owners David Maltby and Chelsea Altman, left and center, and manager Casey Lehman.

not seeing a film, Altman said. The logistics on that are still being calculated out.

Altman did not expect the upstairs space to be open by Memorial Day weekend — and in fact it wasn’t.

“We had wanted to do a soft opening on Memorial Day weekend, with just the two downstairs theaters open,” she said.

“There were some construction delays upstairs, it’s an old building and this is a big job. And from an operations perspective, we can open slowly and see how it goes, and not be overwhelmed with four theaters and the bar, all at once.”

The expected grand opening date will be July 4 weekend.

Altman and Maltby feel fortunate to have found a general manager, Casey Lehman, who moved here from Ohio for this job, which he learned about from an online careers website.

“He wanted to hear about any film job, anywhere, and then he saw

this one,” Altman said. “He’s been the perfect guy for the job, charming and intelligent and knowledgeable about films and also about the service industry. He found a place to live, easily. It feels very Meant To Be.”

Changes small and large are in evidence at The Moviehouse, with fresh paint and new carpet and even a new sign outside.

“But we’re not changing the name,” Altman promised. Nor will she and Maltby swerve dramatically from the high-quality film offerings that area cinema fans have traditionally found and loved at The Moviehouse.

Even the website will remain the same, at www.themoviehouse.net, although the site will get updated and spiffed up this summer. For now because of COVID-19, but possibly on into the future, moviegoers will have to reserve their seats online ahead of time. Tickets will also be sold at the door, but at that point there will likely be fewer seats to choose from.



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PHOTOS BY GARY DODSON

The Esopus Creek in Phoenicia, N.Y., is a dream spot for fly-fishermen.

ANGLING: PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Why I Fish Where I Fish

Patrick L. Sullivan is The Lakeville Journal Company's award-winning fishing columnist (in addition to being the newspaper's senior reporter).

Every year when fishing season begins, Sullivan again journeys to his Prized, Secret A1 Litchfield County angling spots (and no, we won't tell you where they are).

But as summer comes, he begins to disappear to Phoenicia, N.Y., where he fishes in the Esopus Creek.

In this article, he explains the differences between his two favorite destinations.

My trout fishing is centered around the Housatonic watershed in Litchfield County, Conn., and that of the Esopus Creek in Ulster County, N.Y.

These systems have some similari-

ties and some important differences.

Both rivers are on the big side and wading can be tricky.

Both rivers have abundant public access.

Both rivers have a good network of tributaries that in turn provide good access to anglers.

And as a general rule, if something's hatching in New York, it's probably hatching in Connecticut, too.

The differences start with water temperature. The Housatonic gets warm in the summer and is full of bass, pike and other warm water species.

The Esopus below the Shandaken Tunnel (aka "The Portal") is a tailwater and has more in common with Connecticut's Farmington River than the Housatonic. A steady flow



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of cold water comes from the north through a long tunnel and empties into the Esopus in Allaben. The 11 or so miles between the Portal and the Ashokan Reservoir remain cold (or coldish) throughout most of the season. You might find some dinker smallmouth down by the reservoir, but nothing like the Housatonic's abundance of bronzebacks.

The Esopus has wild trout — rainbows, to be specific. They are known locally as “silver bullets.” They are small and feisty.

And they are about to become the dominant species, because New York state has finally listened to anglers and agreed to stop stocking the Esopus with hatchery browns.

Without these interlopers competing for the same food, the rainbows will thrive.

There will still be brown trout, but they will run up from the reservoir in the fall to spawn. So after a few years Esopus trout of any sort will be, if not wild in the strictest sense, at least wild-ish. What they won't be is fresh from the hatchery.

There are other significant differences.

Phoenicia and environs have far more **Buddhists** than the Region One School District in Connecticut's Northwest Corner. There's a Buddhist retreat center next door to my place,



in fact, and another one downstream in Mount Tremper, N.Y.

Cell service. If you think it's spotty in the Tri-state area, consider that it is essentially illegal to build anything like a proper cell tower within the Catskill Park. It's not completely devoid of service, but if you are traveling west on Route 28 it conks out around Boiceville and doesn't return until you get near the Delaware County line, a distance of some 17 miles.

Hipsters. Like Marlin Perkins on “Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom,” I observe from afar, and send Jim in to actually wrestle the alligators or buy the small-batch heritage vintage artisanal whatever. I have concluded that the eastern Catskills have more hipsters than the Northwest Corner.

However, the Northwest Corner has more art galleries and retired investment bankers.

Things have gotten livelier in Ulster County in recent years. The Phoenicia Diner on Route 28 used to be the greasiest of spoons, but the new own-

ers fixed the joint up and it is always packed. With hipsters, but still.

Phoenicia also has not one but two fly shops, which has not been the case for decades.

The Esopus has several prominent hatches. The Hendrickson hatch. The sulfur hatch. The isonychia hatch.

And the rubber hatch.

Because the flow in the 11 miles between the Portal and reservoir can be easily manipulated, the Esopus has for years been home to whitewater events — kayaks, mostly — and to a tubing industry.

The COVID-19 pandemic took out the oldest and most prominent tubing concern, but I have no doubt that sometime this summer I will have to stop fishing and watch as a flotilla of pleasure-seekers bobs by in their rented tubes, intent on sunburn and hypothermia.

The Housatonic's recreational boaters tend more toward the raft, canoe and kayak.

So which watershed do I prefer? The one I have time for.

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PHOTO BY PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

A hatchery brown trout

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ART: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Work Continues On the Epic Ode to American Workers

The lengthy process of assembling and installing the massive mural at the heart of the American Mural Project (AMP) in Winsted, Conn., continues, under the direction of artist Ellen Griesedieck.

The mural, which is about 80% complete, offers a salute to American workers and how they have defined this nation, which is appropriate in scale and topic to the setting it is in.

The 120-foot long, 48-foot high and up to 10-foot-deep three-dimensional painting is so large that two former mill buildings on Whiting Street in Winsted had to be renovated just to house it and the adjacent visitor's

center.

After years of effort, with help from artisans, craftsmen and school children, the mural is expected to open to the public in spring of 2022. So far, the artist has traveled to 17 states to create pieces of the mural with groups in each of those states.

Griesedieck still has several large sections of the mural to install, as well as additional three-dimensional pieces and components that will be displayed in the ramp gallery.

As work on the mural continues, AMP staff, including Executive Director Amy Wynn, have been holding Open Mill Tours. To check for an-



PHOTO COURTESY AMP

Ellen Griesedieck is close to completing the American Mural Project.

nouncements on upcoming dates, go to www.americanmuralproject.org/open-mill-tours. The tours offer visitors a first-hand sneak peek into the installation process.

In the meantime, programming is being offered for schools, teachers, after-school partnerships, summer enrichment camps and an apprentice-style internship program.


The Summer Enrichment Programs for kids, tweens and teens, ages 7 to 17, run from June 29 through July 30.

Each week features a different theme and runs Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The programs are led by teaching artists

and art educators, and each program offers indoor and outdoor music, art, work and play.

Weekly themes include Latin, jazz and Afro-Cuban music; art projects using materials inspired by Robert Smithson's "Spiral Jetty" (water and stone), Maya Lin's "Wavefield" (soil and grass), and Ugo Rondinone's "Seven Magic Mountains" (painted stones); and "dabbling," with freeform projects such as decorating a treehouse, creating a board game, drawing a comic book or writing a poem.

To learn about available programs and to register (available spots fill up quickly), go to www.americanmuralproject.org/summer.



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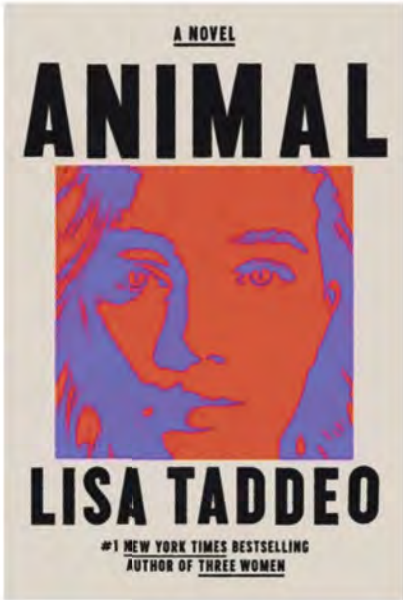
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PHOTO COURTESY AMP

The mural is a larger-than-life tribute to the American worker.

RAILROADS: ROB BUCCINO

Making Tracks To Admire and Enjoy Railroad History

There's something about railroad trains — from the way their horns scald the hillsides with sound, to the searing brilliance of their headlights at night, to the trembling of the earth as they roll by — that can't help but stir the soul.

It's not just our awe at the size, length and mass of these leviathans of the land, but also the window they open into a large part of America's history. Whenever we wander down abandoned rights-of-way or climb aboard mothballed locomotives at rail museums, we can envision what it took from the (mostly) men who labored to open up our continent.

Imagine, for example, that it's a blistering mid-August and you're shoveling a ton of coal by hand into a steam locomotive's fiery furnace. Think about what hands it took to drill into solid rock using hammer and steel. John Henry-style, in all kinds of weather. You'll start to appreciate how different life was a scant century and a half ago, and the tremendous work it took to link an expanding America's borders.

Because we live where three railroad-pioneering states join together, we're blessed with many opportunities here to marvel at train history. If you or your children are amateur ferro-equinologists (a fancy name for people who study the "iron horse"), one way to slake your curiosity is to start at the North Canaan, Conn., Union Station, first built in 1872.

CANAAN UNION STATION

A century ago, trains westbound from Hartford on the Central New England line crossed tracks there with the New Haven Railroad's Berkshire line (which still shoulders the Housatonic Railroad's freight traffic several times a day). The Victorian-style station was rebuilt at great expense after near

demolishment in a 2001 arson-related fire, and today houses a small museum with rail memorabilia (for more info, go to www.canaanunionstation.com; museum hours are Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) as well as a brewery and offices. Look skywards for the steam-train weathervane on the station roof.

And if you're interested in purchasing a piece of history, the station is for sale.

THE HOOSAC TUNNEL

Artifacts of bygone railroads pepper the area, from crumbling bridge abutments visible from Salisbury's Weatogue Road and a pergola on a causeway in Twin Lakes to the massive Hoosac Tunnel in North Adams, Mass.

Completed in 1874 after two decades of stop-and-go work, the tunnel was the second-longest in the world at that time. More than 190 men perished building it, earning it the sobriquet "the bloody pit."

It's still the longest active transportation tunnel in the U.S., east of the Rockies. An active freight corridor, it's closed to visitors, but its entrance is visible from the Florida, Mass., end, near Pittsfield. A free museum in a former railroad yard at 115 State St. in North Adams documents the history of the Hoosac Tunnel and related railroad lore.

The North Adams Museum of History and Science at Western Gateway Heritage State Park is temporarily closed because of COVID-19; go online to www.mass.gov/locations/western-gateway-heritage-state-park for information on its reopening.

CAMA IN KENT, CONN.

If hands-on contact with steam engines beckons you, a visit to the Connecticut Antique Machinery Association museum in Kent, Conn., might



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

You can ride an antique narrow-gauge steam engine train at the CAMA Fall Festival in Kent, Conn.

be what you crave.

Narrow-gauge locomotives and steam machinery there bring the Industrial Revolution to vivid life.

CAMA reopened quietly in May and, for now, will only welcome visitors on weekends. Usually, the best times to visit are the opening and closing weekends, in spring and autumn. There was no reopening weekend this year because of COVID concerns but the Fall Festival is scheduled for Sept. 24 to 26.

During the festival, the massive historic steam engines are powered up; there are swap shops on the lawn, with small bits of antique machinery for sale; and steam engine fans bring their most beloved antiques and either drive them around the grounds or put them on display under tents.

RAILROAD AND RAILWAY MUSEUMS

For visiting a treasure trove of full-scale locomotives, passenger cars, freight stock and track utility trains, the Railroad Museum of New England at the 1881-vintage depot in Thomaston, Conn., reopens in July. They occasionally offer excursion rides on the Naugatuck Railroad.

Danbury Railway Museum also has several diesel locomotives, passenger and freight cars, and a 1907 steam engine that once ran on the Boston

and Maine line.

WALKING THE LINE

No tracks remain on the CNE right of way, but walking trails in Salisbury, Conn., and Farmington, Conn., invite strollers and bicyclists to amble along level pathways where trains once ran.

It's fun to stop by the Poetry Tree on the 1.7-mile Railroad Ramble off Route 44 in Salisbury and peruse what local poets have posted.

A longer (18-mile) path, the Farmington River Trail, follows the former CNE right-of-way, connecting with the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail at Tunxis Meade Park in Farmington and at Drake Hill Road in Simsbury.

In nearby Millerton and Amenia, N.Y., there's easy access to the ever-expanding Harlem Valley Rail Trail, now paved from just north of the (still-operating) Wassauc Metro-North train station all the way to Ancram.

Farther west, the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historical Park lets you enjoy spectacular views as you walk across the Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge. When completed in 1889, it was the second-longest bridge span in the world.

There's far more rail history in the area than this article can list, but these sites can give you a place to start. Check internet listings for opening hours and travel directions.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The Lantern (located at 10 Main St. in the hamlet of Wassaic) is open at 2 p.m. Fridays through Sundays, enticing customers with wood-fired pizzas, homemade pasta and other culinary delights — and a beautiful garden space in which to dine.

ARTS AND FOOD: KAITLIN LYLE

Summer Arts and Edibles for all Ages

I've visited the hamlet Of Wassaic (in the town of Amenia, N.Y.), countless times — both as a reporter for The Millerton News and as cyclist on the Rail Trail.

I've come to love the stories behind the little collection of buildings in the valley behind the Metro-North train station, many of which are part of The Wassaic Project, an arts colony created in 2008 by (at that time) recent college graduates Bowie Zunino, Jeff Barnett-Winsby and Eve Biddle.

The buildings in the center of the hamlet, which is bisected by a still-active train track, are an important part of the region's agricultural history, the marketplace where farmers would sell their livestock

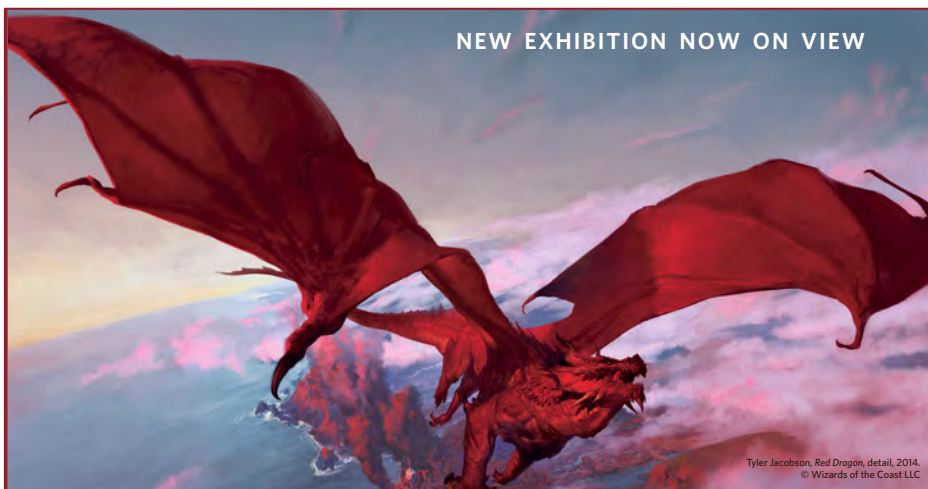
at auctions held in the Luther Barn, which is now home to studios for artists taking part in the Wassaic Project residency program.

The former Maxon grain mill that towers over the hamlet and the train tracks is now a multi-story art gallery.

I tell the tales of these and the other buildings again and again to family and friends and anyone who will listen, about Wassaic's notable buildings, and the many community activities that have helped bring the hamlet back to life after decades of dormancy.

SUMMER ART IN THE HAMLET

Wassaic Project Executive Co-Director Jeff Barnett-Winsby said two



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art exhibitions are in the hamlet this summer.

The first is in the Maxon Mills building and is called, "If You Lived Here You'd Be Home By Now."

The second exhibition will be in the form of a book, "Secret of the Friendly Woods." The new tradition of doing a print publication began last summer, when COVID-19 restrictions kept visitors from seeing art in person. The show is open Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. until Saturday, Sept. 18.

There will be a limit on the number of people who can see the show at one time. There won't be any reservations, it will be first-come-first served. Find out more at www.wassaicproject.org.

PARTIES AND OUTDOOR DINING

The Wassaic Project has been notable for its efforts to become part of the surrounding community. Two "Block Parties" are being planned for this summer, plus a party on

the Maxon Mills porch on Monday, June 26, with tours of the summer exhibition and a talk by New York magazine art critic Jerry Saltz.

Across the train tracks from the art-dedicated buildings is The Lantern, a bar that was once a popular spot for weekly meetings of area billiards leagues. The Wassaic Project founders have maintained some of the character of the old bar but have added upgrades including an outdoor eating area with picnic tables at which to enjoy the now-famous wood-fired pizza, fresh pasta, salads and weekly cocktail specials.

The Lantern opens at 2 p.m. on Fridays through Sundays. For now, dining is outdoors or by takeout; check the website to see what the new protocols will be as COVID-19 guidelines change (www.wassaiclanterninn.com).

FOOD PUBLICATIONS (AND FOOD) AT NEWSSTAND

Another draw on weekends is the Newsstand, a tiny structure designed

to look like an actual newsstand by architect Matthew Schnepf. The stand sells food-themed publications and actual food (often including pastries by Ari Paradise, baker at the nearby Troutbeck hotel in Amenia).

Installed by Ten Mile Table last summer, the idea behind the pop-up is to "highlight and support diverse, thought-provoking voices in food/wine/art print publishing, and makers in food, art and hospitality."

Find the Newsstand schedule (which might include a hamlet-wide clambake) at www.tenmilettable.com/wassaic-newsstand.

Another draw to the hamlet is the green barn purchased last year by Schnepf and his wife, Munawar Ahmed, which is now home not only to a shop selling everything from maple syrup to sheepskin rugs to furniture made by local artisans; but also a small bike rental shop, for visitors who want to use Wassaic as the stepping off point for cycling on the Rail Trail.

CHILDREN WELCOME IN WASSAIC

Wassaic is a particularly welcoming destination for families with children. There is an active streetlife in the hamlet now, with many families milling around and visiting with each other on weekends.

The Wassaic Project also offers summer arts programs for children and teens.

Varsity Arts Camp is for rising ninth through 12th graders; a Junior Varsity Arts Camp is for rising fifth through eighth graders; and an Art Scouts program is for rising first through fourth graders.

The arts campers visit the exhibitions at Maxon Mills and work on their own projects, which are shown in a mini-exhibition at the end of the week of their program. The camps are in August, with separate weeks for each age group.

To find out more, go to www.wassaicproject.org/education.



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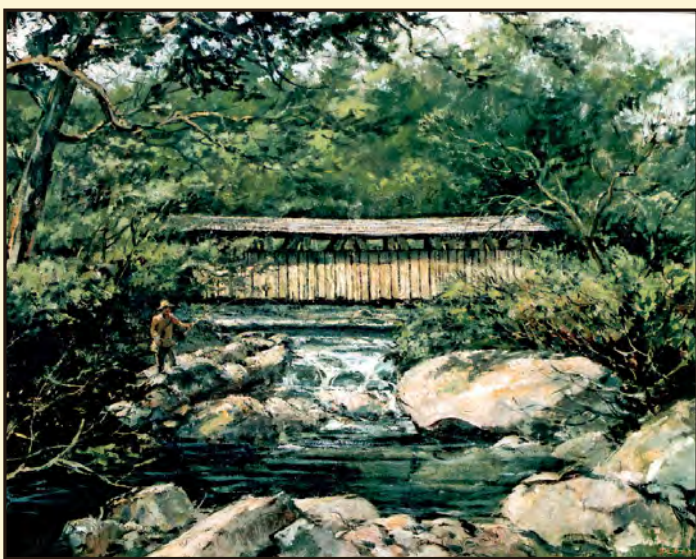




PHOTO BY SOPHIE ZHAI

Live performances, including concerts by the Shanghai Quartet, return to Music Mountain.

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CHAMBER MUSIC: FRED BAUMGARTEN

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A year ago, many arts organizations in our region were staring into the abyss of a COVID year without live audiences or performances, and an uncertain future as a result. Many found creative ways to keep their audiences engaged through virtual means.

Music Mountain, for example, produced a dozen "Live from Music Mountain" livestreamed programs of music and interviews that found a ready audience. Somehow, it emerged stronger and even found the resources — with some help from local friends and businesses — to make some much-needed upgrades to Gordon Hall, its main concert venue.

Now entering its 92nd season, the Falls Village, Conn.-based summer chamber music festival is ready to welcome back live audiences and ensembles for an exciting and eagerly anticipated concert series.

The shortened season will open on July 4 with the Shanghai Quartet, a perennial Music Mountain favorite, playing works by Beethoven, Smetana and Chinese composer Zhou Long.

It concludes on Sept. 5 with the Cassatt String Quartet, joined by pianist Ursula Oppens, featuring works by two women composers, Amy Beach and Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel (sister of Romantic-era composer Felix Mendelssohn), as well as a Mozart string quartet.

All of this is part of a season-long emphasis on diversifying the repertoire and combining the lesser known with the more familiar. Works by Florence Price, an African American woman, and William Grant Still, an African American man, will be heard; the Harlem String Quartet, another Music Mountain favorite, will perform a varied program including

jazz-infused pieces by Billy Strayhorn, Wynton Marsalis and Dizzy Gillespie.

From the Western "canon," some of the compelling pieces on tap include Janacek's String Quartet #2, titled "Intimate Letters," which, as its name implies, is achingly beautiful and intimate; Dvorak's breezy "American Quartet," composed while he was living in Iowa; and Ravel's Impressionist masterpiece, his String Quartet in F Major, the only quartet he wrote.

This summer, Music Mountain will also be making audience safety its highest priority. While the rapidly evolving easing of restrictions may change the situation, for now plans are being made for limited, socially distanced seating in Gordon Hall, with quiet fans, open doors and other accommodations for extra ventilation.

Outside, for the first time in its history, Music Mountain will formally offer lawn seating, with monitors and speakers. And concerts will continue to be available via livestream for those who feel at too great a risk being in a group.

A series of Saturday "Jazz and More" concerts is still in the planning stages. Announcements will be made on the Music Mountain website, www.MusicMountain.org.

For all of us, the prospect of enjoying live, in-person music again feels like emerging into the light after a long, dark journey.

Music Mountain's chamber music series — 10 concerts from July 4 through Sept. 5 — will take place, as always, on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m., in air-conditioned Gordon Hall, 225 Music Mountain Road, Falls Village. For tickets and schedules, go to www.MusicMountain.org or call 860-824-7126.

DANCE: JENNY HANSELL

Jacob's Pillow: Live Dance Is Back

The beautiful grounds of the Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival in Becket, Mass., will be alive with art again this summer, literally: All of the live performances will be held either on the outdoor stage formerly called Inside/Out and now known as the Henry J. Leir Outdoor Stage, or around the grounds in site-specific works.

All last year, the Pillow found ways to keep people connected to dance, through online events, short films and, eventually, COVID-safe residencies for choreographers and companies. Now, an abbreviated season will include some returning favorites, cutting edge innovators and new voices, with a special emphasis on BiPOC creators.

Highlights include Dorrance Dance (June 30-July 4), Michelle Dorrance's tap company, which will perform on the outdoor stage in a world premiere featuring jazz trumpeter Keyon Harold. Dancers will also conduct "tap takeovers" around the grounds.

The Dallas Black Dance Theatre will premiere a new work by Darrell Grand Moultrie, who has worked with Alvin Ailey, Dance Theatre of Harlem and American Ballet Theater (Aug. 4-8).

The post-modern Brian Brooks/Moving Company performs alongside the wonderful Williamstown-based vocal ensemble Roomful of Teeth (July 21-25.)

In their Pillow debut, Los Angeles-based Contra Tiempo, which per-

forms work rooted in salsa, Afro-Cuban, hip hop and contemporary dance, will present an evening-length work called joyUS justUS, about making joy the center of a more loving world (July 7-11.)

Among the site-specific events to be performed around the ground, a group of local Indigenous dancers, coming from the Mashpee Wampanoag, Seneca, Cayuga and Nipmuc nations will come together for a performance called Easter Woodland Dances (July 17.)

Each of the performances will also stream starting about 10 days after the in-person event concludes. Performances by international companies are online-only. The Nrityagram Dance Ensemble, an Indian classical

dance company from Bangalore, and the Paris Opera Ballet featuring Crystal Pite, are some of the companies featured online-only.

The Ted Shawn theater will remain closed — it is undergoing significant renovation to be ready for next summer — and the Doris Duke burned in a catastrophic fire in November 2020 (cause undetermined, according to statements from the Pillow).

Seating is planned for 25% capacity and so tickets are very limited. Sales for the general public open on June 1. As of now all patrons are required to wear masks on-site, but check the website, www.jacobspillow.org, before you go, for the latest guidance, as well as for tickets, information on live-streaming, and any schedule changes.

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PERFORMANCES: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

A Tasting Menu of Uncommon Delights at Bard

It's 40 minutes from my front door in Lakeville, Conn., to Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y., also known as the town of Red Hook (not to be confused with the one in Brooklyn).

It's a bit of a drive, but the ride is exquisite, especially at sunset. The famous Mercato restaurant in Red Hook has closed down, but its chef/owners Michele and Francesco Butoni (descendants of award-winning Italian pasta makers) have now opened GioBatta in nearby Tivoli, N.Y.

That might not be enough to tempt you deep into the heart of the scenic Hudson Valley — but then there is Bard SummerScape.

Anyone who thinks of New England and the Hudson River Valley as being home to more traditional

Anyone who thinks of New England and the Hudson River Valley as being home to more traditional music hasn't checked out the college's eclectic and experimental summer offerings in theater and music.

music hasn't checked out the college's eclectic and experimental summer offerings in theater and music.

"Eclectic and experimental" might be off putting, but when you combine them with the third E — entertaining! — then you have something worth a 40-minute drive.

There are several stages and venues at Bard including of course the Sosnoff Theater in the undulating, metal-clad Frank Gehry-designed building, which is worth a trip to Annandale-on-Hudson in its own

right.

There is also a new stage at Montgomery Place, the historic Hudson Valley estate just down the road from the main campus that was purchased by Bard a few years ago.

Montgomery Place this summer will host some of the younger, kickier events, including three performances from July 15 to 17 by transgender artist Mx. Justin Vivian Bond in "Your Auntie Glam's Midsummer Flutter."

For those who are not connoisseurs of the world of drag: The New Yorker magazine calls Bond "the greatest cabaret artist of this generation."

Other dance and theater programs on the schedule for the summer fall somewhere between Mx. Bond and the more traditional, classical end of the spectrum.

A highlight, for me at least, of this year's SummerScape will be the first fully staged North American production, at the Sosnoff Theater, of one of only three operas composed by Ernest Chasson, called "Le Roi Arthus."

This French-language opera tells the story of King Arthur and his betrayal by his best friend and his wife (and eventually his son, but that's not in the opera).

At the helm for this production (performed between July 25 and Aug. 1) is Bard's president as well as the SummerScape festival founder and artistic director, Leon Botstein. Botstein is eccentric, creative and talented and loves to put on worthwhile shows that are only rarely produced.

Sometimes, of course, there's a reason why no one has ever produced a

show before. "Le Roi Arthus" is a very long opera (the Gramophone recording is 2 hours and 47 minutes long). But Botstein is on record as being a huge fan of the opera, which has passages that are described as rich and gorgeous. The whole show might not be outstanding but (and this might be the theme of all SummerScape shows), what is life without a little experimentation.

For those who fear that nearly three hours of an opera they've never heard before might be too much, the production will also be streamed, allowing the viewer to wander in and out.

Also at Bard between Aug. 6 and 15 will be the Summer Music Festival, built around the career of Nadia Boulanger and the musicians who influenced and taught her.

The list is long and, according to the preview statement of the festival, includes "music by her teachers and mentors, including Gabriel Fauré, Louis Vierne and Charles Marie Widor; her Parisian contemporaries, like Claude Debussy, Olivier Messiaen, Francis Poulenc, Maurice Ravel, Erik Satie and expats George Gershwin, Cole Porter and Igor Stravinsky; her male students, including Jean Françaix, Astor Piazzolla, and illustrious Americans Marc Blitzstein, Elliott Carter, Aaron Copland, Philip Glass, Walter Piston and Virgil Thomson; her female students, like Marcelle de Manziarly, Thea Musgrave, Julia Perry and Louise Talma; other women composers, Germaine Tailleferre and Lili Boulanger, Nadia's celebrated sister, among them; and some of the bygone composers whose music she vociferously championed, like Monteverdi, Bach and Brahms."

For full information on Bard SummerScape and the Summer Music Festival, go to www.fishercenter.bard.edu.



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CINEMA: CYNTHIA AND KATHARINE HOCHSWENDER

Cult Films and Craft Cocktails with Boondocks

In the film “Pat and Mike,” Spencer Tracy famously if coarsely praised co-star Katharine Hepburn’s figure, saying, “There isn’t much meat on her but what’s there is cherce” (cherce being a colloquial pronunciation of “choice”).

Similarly, there aren’t a lot of listings on the Boondocks Film Society schedule for this summer, but what’s there ... is choice.

Boondocks is a cult film screening/event programming enterprise run by Cornwall, Conn., residents Jeff Palfini and Cindy Heslin.

Events are scheduled about once every month. They center around a cult film classic, which is screened at a venue that is usually offbeat and/or unexpected. Usually there is some kind of food or cocktail element to the evening. Often there is some other form of entertainment, sometimes

musical.

As the explainer on the Boondocks website says, “We’re talking full-fledged events, not just nights out at the movies.”

It goes without saying that COVID-19 messed with the past year’s schedule. But there have already been three 2021 screenings (“On Her Majesty’s Secret Service,” “Empire Records” and “Serial Mom”).

Coming up on Wednesday, June 23, at 7 p.m., the featured film will be “Ghost World,” which is a favorite in my household — and which, like “Empire Records,” stars a young actress who will soon go from indie star to Hollywood Sensation (Renee Zellweger in “Empire Records” and, in “Ghost World,” the young Scarlett Johansson).

But the big draw, for my daughter at least, is star Thora Birch’s love

interest in the film, the actor Steve Buscemi, playing yet another seedy but kindhearted loser (his specialty). Birch’s character and Buscemi meet at a tag sale, where Buscemi is selling vintage vinyl records. Romance and complications ensue.

The screening of “Ghost World” will begin at dusk, at an outdoor art park called Turnpark Art Space in West Stockbridge, Mass. Until the film begins, DJ MAC will spin old records (78 RPM, so in fact quite old).

The food will be provided by SOMA catering. At the pre-film happy hour there will be themed craft cocktails made with Bully Boy spirits and craft beer from Collective Arts Brewing. Tickets are \$16.

The other film on this summer’s Boondocks schedule is Sam Shepard’s “Paris, Texas,” directed by Wim Wenders, and starring Harry Dean

Stanton, Dean Stockwell and the very beautiful young Nastassja Kinski, who was possibly one of the most famous starlets in the world at that time.

This very indy film made from Shepard’s play will be shown in a fairly conventional venue: the drive-in theater at Four Brothers in Amenia, N.Y.

The evening begins on Thursday, July 15, at 7 p.m. (there will be live music with William Lawrence) and the screening begins at dusk.

For anyone who has not yet been to the drive-in, it is enormous fun and there is usually a great deal of car-to-car socializing before the screenings begin. The ticket price had not been set when this issue went to press, but it’s likely to be between \$15 and \$20.

For more details on these Boondocks events, and on future evenings out, go to www.boondocksfilmsociety.org.

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Nikolai Astrup: Visions of Norway is generously supported by the Savings Bank Foundation DNB.

Nikolai Astrup, *Growing Season at Sandalstrand* (detail), linoleum and woodblock, 1923; print, 1923. Savings Bank Foundation DNB / The Astrup Collection / KODE Art Museums of Bergen.

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