



AMENIA
Remembering
The Amenia
Fire Company's
Legendary Phil
Thompson **A5**



MILLBROOK
Merritt
Bookstore's
Kira Wizner
Celebrates Fifth
Anniversary **B2**

**Last Minute
Holiday Shopping**
Special Banner, Page A2

COMPASS
New And Improved
NYC Maps; Hidden
Wonders In Falls
Village; And More **B1**

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Whether it's feeding the hungry or helping senior citizens access healthcare, the North East Community Center (NECC) in Millerton has been serving local residents for decades. To make a donation to the NECC, go to www.neccmillerton.org/donate.

The Harlem Valley shows it knows how to give

HARLEM VALLEY — Kicking off the month of December with goodness and generosity in tow, local nonprofits, small businesses and other organizations reached out on Tuesday, Dec. 1, and asked their communities to support those who work, often around the clock, to help others in need. It was all in recognition of

Giving Tuesday. What started as a simple idea to have "a day that encourages people to do good" in 2012 has since evolved into a global generosity movement, inviting people and organizations to do their part in transforming their communi-

See **GIVING TUESDAY, A6**

Webutuck reverts to remote learning

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

WEBUTUCK — After closing its school buildings due to reports of positive COVID-19 cases, the North East (Webutuck) Central School District resumed its hybrid instruction model on Monday, Nov. 30, welcoming students and staff back to campus following its Thanksgiving break.

The first COVID case was reported at Eugene Brooks Intermediate School (EBIS) on Friday, Nov. 6, resulting in all three Webutuck school buildings closing and going 100% remote for all students with an anticipated return to the hybrid model on Monday, Nov. 16. A second positive COVID case was reported on Monday, Nov. 9 — this time at Webutuck Elementary School (WES) — and the return to the hybrid model was postponed to Tuesday, Nov. 16. Reopening plans were re-examined at the Board of Education (BOE) meeting on Monday, Nov. 16, during which time the district decided to reopen

after Thanksgiving. Another two to three additional COVID cases were also reported at the meeting.

As was discussed at the Nov. 16 BOE meeting, the district followed the Dutchess County Department of Health's guidelines for contact tracing "over 40-plus people" and instructed them to remain in quarantine for two weeks. That included at least 10 staff members, which prompted the district to close as it didn't have enough staff to cover the 10 workers who had to quarantine.

Following students' return on Nov. 30, Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani reported roughly 25% fewer students were receiving in-person instruction prior to Thanksgiving. That percentage equals about 30 students total throughout all three school buildings before the holiday break. Breaking down that number by each school building, there's about a 10% difference in the number of stu-

See **REMOTE LEARNING, A6**

Update on Sharon Hospital

SHARON, Conn. — Sharon Hospital, part of Nuance Health, will host an online Community Update from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14.

In the virtual webinar, Sharon

Hospital President Dr. Mark Hirko will discuss the latest hospital developments and updates on the affiliation that created Nuance

See **HOSPITAL, A6**

Millerton deli fined for violating mask mandate

The face mask debate continues to brew, close to home

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

MILLERTON — Customers who walk up to the front door at the popular Talk of the Towne Deli at 208 Route 44 in Millerton any day of the week, barring Sunday (the only day the deli is closed), might be surprised by the sign that greets them. It reads, "Attention: Due to the fact that some A-hole keeps turning us into the Board of Health, please wear a mask. Some employees without masks have a medical issue, so if you don't feel comfortable, stay home." It's signed with a cheerful smiley face.

The over-arching message from the deli owners Mary Hosier and her sister, Sandra Sherman? They don't

believe that face masks can protect the public from catching the deadly coronavirus in the midst of the current global pandemic that's killed 1,555,535 people worldwide as of Tuesday, Dec. 8.

A non-believer

"I don't believe in them because I know people who wore them and caught it anyway," said Hosier, "and I totally don't believe all the COVID deaths that are reported. All the sicknesses are not COVID."

Hosier said that "COVID is no different than flu," and that "more people die of flu than they do of this COVID," when interviewed for this article on Saturday, Dec. 5.

See **MASKS, A6**



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Customers who enter the Talk of the Towne Deli in Millerton are greeted by this sign, indicating its owners' stance on the mask issue.

Millerton resident loses life in Route 22 one-vehicle accident

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

NORTH EAST — It was a tragic scene on Sunday afternoon around 12:30 p.m., along Route 22 near Smithfield Road in the town of North East, as Dutchess County Sheriff's Deputies responded to the scene of a serious automobile crash.

The investigation revealed that 52-year-old Millerton resident James M. Shaughnessy was driving a 2000

Chevrolet S-10 pickup truck southbound on Route 22 when he reportedly lost control of the vehicle.

According to the accident report, "the vehicle then exited the roadway onto the western shoulder and struck a tree. Mr. Shaughnessy, who was the sole occupant, suffered serious injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene."

Investigators currently believe that the accident was due to driver inattention, although the Sheriff's

Office Detective Bureau and Crash Investigation Unit is continuing to look into the crash.

The Sheriff's Office was assisted at the scene by the New York State Police, Dutchess County Medical Examiner's Office, Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP) and the Millerton and Amenia Fire Departments.

Authorities are asking anyone who may have witnessed the crash

See **FATAL ACCIDENT, A6**

Nonprofits struggle and strategize

COVID-19 puts a damper on holiday fundraising events

By **JUDITH O'HARA BALFE**
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Giving Tuesday is over; hopefully it was successful. But the needs of local charities go beyond a single day, and during the coronavirus pandemic, many are finding it hard to generate needed revenue. That's because nonprofit groups and charities, just like any other business or large organization, still cannot hold the galas, carnivals or other social gatherings this holiday season — usually the busiest time of the year for fundraising —

due to the virus. It's a predicament that has forced charities to rethink their fundraising strategies. We focused on a number of nonprofits in Millbrook dealing with the issue.

Angels of Light provides Christmas to terminally ill children and their families; it was started by Lori and George Decker more than 10 years ago. The charity gives a warm and stress-free holiday to those caring for very sick children and allows them the time and energy to be with their family, without worrying about shopping for and wrapping gifts or plan-

ning holiday meals. An annual gala for Angels of Light is usually held in September, raising around \$100,000.

This year, because of the pandemic, there was no gala, yet the Deckers have "adopted" more than 100 children to provide for this holiday. They have more than enough volunteers; some of the gifts are pre-wrapped and already shipped. But still, the foundation needs more gifts and donations.

Aside from some local families who benefit from Angels of Light, the foun-

See **CHARITIES, A6**



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Millerton.....	A2	Millbrook.....	B2
Pine Plains.....	A3, B5	Opinion.....	B3
Obituaries.....	A4	Sports.....	B4
Amenia.....	A5	Legals.....	B5
Compass.....	B1	Classifieds.....	B5-6

OPINION
Anti-Maskers Fight
Science; Columns;
Letters **B3**

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MILLERTON

Housing solutions, volunteers needed

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Tri-Town Coalition's Millerton-North East working group spoke of the development of its holistic goal (or "North Star") and how to achieve it at its meeting held on Tuesday, Nov. 10.

The North Star concept was introduced in October, when MASS Design Group Principal Chris Kroner said identifying a holistic goal is key to addressing questions of scale and staying focused.

The group convened via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the updated joint town/village Comprehensive Plan features a chapter on housing, the group agreed its goal should "promote a variety of housing alternatives to ensure equitable and affordable options for current and future residents."

Members said small groups could give input for different segments of the community, and propose housing alternatives. These smaller groups could serve as "sources of energy, donations and volunteers to facilitate outreach, buy-ins and solutions." The smaller groups could work to foster purpose and communication on common focus points and concentrate on tasks centered on rehabilitating existing properties, finance and funding, community outreach and interface

with the Comprehensive Plan and collaborate with town and village representatives.

Members considered what's been done so far to reach their goal. For finance and funding, Hudson River Housing has already established a Tri-Town Coalition Housing Development Fund to secure properties for potential development. To date, the fund has been "seeded" with more than \$16,000 in donations from NeighborWorks America, the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and anonymous donors, and a narrative to be used as a fundraising tool is being developed by the coalition's Steering Committee.

The group discussed how community outreach is uneven among all towns and suggested including town and village administrators; food providers; civic organizations; municipal employees and essential workers; businesses; second-home owners; etc., to enhance "wholesale commitments by the community" to secure external partners; collaborations with the town's Zoning Review Committee; and municipal involvement.

Residents are encouraged to join the working group, as "housing opportunity will make communities more desirable, more economically vibrant and more importantly more equitable," said member Sam Busselle. Email smbusselle@gmail.com for details.

NECC joins local libraries to host virtual Q&A with author Ibram X. Kendi

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Working in tandem with several libraries in the region, the North East Community Center (NECC) and the NorthEast-Millerton Library collaborated to present a once-in-a-lifetime virtual Q&A session with National Book Award-winning author Ibram X. Kendi on Monday, Nov. 30.

NorthEast-Millerton Library Director Rhiannon Leo-Jameson said the collaboration started when she was approached by NECC Youth Program Director Kathryn Atkins, who expressed an interest in starting a community book group at the library. The two entities soon began working together and the book club — known originally as the

Stamped Book Club after Kendi's popular book, "Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You," started meeting on a weekly basis.

NECC's Teen Team was reading Kendi's work at the time; Leo-Jameson said the library and NECC wondered whether it would be possible to have Kendi come in to do a talk. As the idea began to take root, NECC Teen Program Coordinator Meredith Hamilton reached out to the author's press agents and eventually, arrangements were made.

"I think the Teen Team having read the book was an impetus for us wanting to do it more broadly," Atkins said, "and it seemed like a wonderful opportunity to develop a Millerton-wide, community-wide book group and also to incorporate the teens in our programming. That's the reason

we chose that book: We wanted to choose a book that was accessible to everybody and make sure it was across all generations.

"We thought it would be a good opportunity for them to be comfortable having this conversation with adults," she continued, "and then we just took a chance that it might actually be possible to have Dr. Kendi participate."

Leo-Jameson asked other libraries if they would be interested in bringing Kendi to the community and got positive feedback. In addition to the NorthEast-Millerton Library, the Q&A session was presented in cooperation with libraries from Amenia, Pine Plains, Millbrook, Rhinecliff, Pleasant Valley, Staatsburg, Stanford and Salisbury, Conn.

Attendance was limited as each organization was allotted six to 10 tickets; the session quickly sold out. Leo-Jameson said 120 people ended up reserving tickets, and 100 actually attended the event on Monday, Nov. 30.

"Hands down, it was the highlight of our year," she said. "We've always liked to promote local authors and work with them, and we've had other authors that were children's authors, but this is the first time since I started working here that an adult author of this variety and popularity has come to the library and it's amazing, and it's nice to have something like that happen in Millerton."

Leo-Jameson shared how Kendi talked about what people can do living in a small community to help spread anti-racist

ideas. She said she was especially moved when he said that it's impossible "to bring about change if you don't believe it is possible to change."

Atkins said organizing the virtual Q&A session was a positive experience and it was great to bring Kendi to a Dutchess County audience, adding that NECC's partnership with the NorthEast-Millerton Library was essential to making it happen. In addition to Leo-Jameson and the Millerton library's collaboration with the NECC, she expressed her gratitude to the support from the many libraries that sponsored the community center and helped pay for the speaker's fee.

Since Kendi's talk, Atkins noted that a couple of new members have joined the book group, adding that NECC hopes people feel welcome to participate and bring their own ideas to the group.

The NECC book group's next meeting is Wednesday, Dec. 16; readers will be reading selected passages from a book of essays entitled, "Thick: And Other Essays," by Tressie McMillan Cottom.

To join the book club, contact bookclub@neccmillerton.org.



PHOTO BY RHIANNON LEO-JAMESON

Under the rainbow

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, just as the sun was setting for the day following a rainy afternoon, a very faint rainbow could be seen in the far-off background behind the NorthEast-Millerton Library on Main Street, minutes after the clock struck 5.

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PINE PLAINS/AREA



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE
With one of their fire engines brightly decorated with strings of holiday lights, members of the Milan Volunteer Fire Department participated in the "Go Light Your World" holiday weekend held at Wilcox Park in Stanfordville on Saturday, Dec. 5, and Sunday, Dec. 6.

Members of Dutchess County 4-H Clubs greeted passing motorists with a smile as they drove by the club's display.

Dutchess County offers 'stationary' parade as many towns cancel

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

STANFORDVILLE — Despite numerous local holiday parades being canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, Hudson Valley residents were able to safely celebrate the holiday season this past weekend, as they drove through Wilcox Park for the "Go Light Your World" Holiday Illumination Weekend hosted by Dutchess County Parks (DCP) on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19 in large crowds of people, multiple municipalities — such as the villages of Millerton and Millbrook — decided not to hold parades this year. After making the necessary adjustments and arrangements, the towns of Ame-

nia and Pine Plains did hold their annual parades, though altered, while Hillsdale, though unable to host its annual Christmas party and parade this year due to COVID-19, decorated its firetrucks and drove them through town. Likewise, the towns of Dover and Ancram invited their communities to enjoy their Christmas lights and holiday displays at a safe and social distance.

This past weekend, Dutchess County residents were given the chance to celebrate the holiday season with an event that was as spectacular as it was safe.

"As COVID-19 continues to impact our area, Dutchess County Parks continues to find new and creative ways to safely collaborate and highlight our beautiful parks," stated Dutchess County Executive Marc Mo-

linaro in a press release that announced the event, calling it "much-needed cheer."

Located in Stanfordville, the Holiday Illumination Weekend ran from 6 to 9 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday night. Troopers from the New York State Police directed a constant stream of vehicles nearly a mile long in and out of the park, directing them as they observed displays created by DCP as well as the local municipalities, nonprofits, businesses, fire departments, clubs, schools and other private participants.

The line of cars throughout the hilly park stretched out for an impressive length, piquing everyone's curiosity about the spectacle they were about to witness. Spectators were encouraged to tune their radios to a certain channel to hear the

festivities stream into their vehicles. Once they reached their destination, the view from the top was indeed a sight to behold.

Weaving their way up, down and around the park, families came face-to-face with more spectacles than they could count and were greeted by familiar faces, including the Dutchess County 4-H Clubs, the Red Knights Motorcycle Club, the Milan Volunteer Fire Department, the Pine Plains FFA and even Bee Bee the Clown. Santa and Mrs. Claus popped up again and again — in inflatable form, sitting in sleds, boats and all sorts of vehicles. Jolly Old St. Nick could even be spotted at the tail end of the "parade," waving and wishing everyone a Merry Christmas as they headed on out of the park on their way home.

Crafts for a Cause, straight from Ancramdale porch to Kenyan school

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

ANCRAMDAL — The COVID-19 pandemic is having unexpected consequences, including making more difficult the altruistic efforts of former Webutuck teachers Jean and John Roccanova, who, for 11 years have helped support a small school and its community in Nambale, Kenya.

Despite the difficulties, the pair of retired teachers is still planning to make their Crafts for a Cause year — this year by bringing the whole project to their covered front porch in Ancramdale.

Funds for the effort have typically come from the sale of John's exceptionally fine wood working projects, which fans will remember from being sold at various locations including the Webutuck school campus in Amenia and the Irondale School House in Millerton. Last last year, the sale went on for nearly a month thanks to the generosity of Pete Hathaway, who provided space for them in his former café on South Center Street in Millerton.

This year, only the location has changed as John said he once again he has "literally hundreds" of offerings, which he crafted throughout the year. Household items include lovely wooden salad bowls, platters, rolling pins, candle and note pad holders, earrings and bracelets.

Shoppers interested in introducing traditional fun to their seasonal gifts will find wooden toys such as "a peace train," airplanes, helicopters and banks made with old-fashioned postal box doors with combination locks.

In the past, funds have helped to expand the Kenyan community's school, pay a teacher's salary, provide computers and help improve day-to-day living conditions in the area through a number of means. This summer, the project sent \$3,000 for



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Woodcrafter and retired Webutuck teacher John Roccanova, shown here with some of his gorgeous handmade woodcrafts, creates items year round to sell for his charity.

COVID relief, providing seeds, fertilizer, hoes, grain storage bags, maize, rice and beans for more than 500 people including the elderly, widows, farmers and people with disabilities.

Donated bicycles and equipment have helped far-flung students attend school, which this year is open to only seniors who, despite the coronavirus, are preparing for the tests that will allow

them to qualify for university study. This year, the Roccanovas hope to buy additional bicycles as well as an electric bicycle for the program director, who must travel to multiple locations.

In addition to helping those on the other side of the globe, John said this year a portion of his sales from Ancram residents will be donated to Ancramdale's Neighbors Helping Neighbors

(ANHN) COVID Relief Fund. ANHN is a local charity that helps area residents during their most urgent times of need. Now, as the U.S. faces a second wave of COVID-19 in tandem with the flu season, that extra help is sorely needed and much appreciated.

Crafts for a Cause sales are by appointment only. Write to John at growagainstopoverty@gmail.com or call 518-329-2021.

Tax deductible donations to Grow Against Poverty may be sent to the Roccanovas at 153 Over Mountain Road, Ancramdale, NY 12503-5314 or made through www.globalgiving.org/projects/pedal-power-for-kenyan-education.

For more information on ANHN, call Adrienne Citrin at 518-329-5042 or Jack Lindsey at 518-329-7306, or send a check to ANHN, P.O. Box 97, Ancramdale, NY 12503.

Contributions to ANHN are also tax deductible.

School district to welcome high schoolers back to hybrid model, Jan. 14

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Staying up-to-date about the school's hybrid instruction model, the Pine Plains Central School District Board of Education (BOE) analyzed its status with its hybrid model as well as its plan to have students in grades ninth through 12th start the hybrid model, during its board meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 2.

The BOE convened via videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the previous BOE meeting on Nov. 18, BOE President Chip Couse reported the district has received emails from parents concerning the high school reopening as well as the metrics of student performance once it does.

Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler said masks are being worn at all times other than when students eat breakfast or lunch. At the minimum, students will get a five-minute mask break every period or hour, depending upon how schedules are organized. During those mask breaks, students will remain socially distanced from one another and remain in their seats in the classroom.

Handler reported that at that time, students in pre-k through eighth grade had been in the hybrid model for more than a month.

"Understand, please, that we have not had any cases of COVID in the buildings," he said. "That is, we have not had anyone test positive for COVID while they were contagious. We've had some people test positive but they've been out of the building for sufficient amounts of time that we were not required to do contact tracing."

Handler reported that at times, it's been a little touch and go as far as staffing is concerned, with the district using every substitute it has on the books and having to send some support staff at the high school to Cold Spring Early Learning Center. He said they can certainly bring the high school students back with the hybrid model before Christmas if the BOE decides to do so.

The earliest date high school students could return would be Monday, Dec. 14, since the district would need to let parents know and arrange bussing. As an alternative, the district could wait until Monday, Jan. 4, when they return from winter recess or wait until later in January. However, he said the high school presents more of a challenge since students move from class to class each period, mixing with other students and staff, which means there is a much larger group of students and staff who could be subject to quarantine.

On the upside, Handler noted the district has managed to avoid going back and forth between the hybrid and remote learning models for students in grades pre-k through ninth, and that classes will continue to be live streamed.

Following further discussion of the logistics that would need to be bridged and sharing their own concerns about reopening, the BOE acknowledged Handler's plan to return grades ninth through 12th to the hybrid learning schedule, starting Monday, Dec. 14, is probably best. Couse noted on a later date that this will give each cohort of students three days of school prior to the winter break, and that students who prefer learning from a remote platform may continue to do so.

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OBITUARIES

Edward Joseph Maillet

MILLERTON — Edward Joseph Maillet, 77, a 40-year resident of Millerton, died peacefully on Dec. 6, 2020, at New York Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan. Mr. Maillet was a warehouseman for 39 years at the Millerton Agway prior to his retirement. Born Aug. 17, 1943, in Nova Scotia, Canada, he was the son of the late Leonard Maillet and Marie (Poirier) and Frank Jong. He attended school in Dover Plains and Webutuck and enlisted in the United States Army during the Vietnam War. He served our nation from 1966 to 1969, at which time he was honorably discharged. Ed resided in Anramdale for 10 years prior to moving to Millerton. On Aug 2, 1980, in Amenia, he married Brenda Ann Dietter. Mrs. Maillet survives at home in Millerton. Mr. Maillet was an honorary member of the Millerton Fire Company and a member of the Millerton Rescue Squad for 10 years and also belonged to the Millerton Grange. In addition to his wife of 40 years, he is survived by three children, Kris Maillet of Millerton, Frank Maillet and his wife, Kristin, of Dover Plains and Denise Manfro of New Fairfield, Conn.; three grand-



children, Jaxon and Madison Manfro of New Fairfield and Karl Maillet of Dover Plains; two step-granddaughters, Alexis and Lily Gagnon of Dover Plains; three brothers, Bernie Ross and his wife, Joan, of Cambridge, Ontario, Moses "Tony" Maillet and his wife, Mary, of Amenia and Mark Maillet and his wife, Sharon, of Inverness, Fla.; and several nieces and nephews and many friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a daughter, Anne Marie Maillet; two brothers, Thedious Poirier and his wife, Joan, of Nova Scotia and Donald Maillet of Fayetteville, N.C. There are no calling hours. Funeral services will be private and at the convenience of the family. A celebration of life will be announced at a later date. Memorial contributions in Ed's memory may be made to the Millerton Agway, 5980 N. Elm Ave., Millerton, NY 12546, to assist with agricultural and pet care needs to benefit local families. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home in Millerton. To send flowers, plant a tree or send an online condolence to the family, go to www.conklinfuneralhome.com.

AMENIA — Hans Joerg Meili (known to many in the area as "Joerg") was born in Zurich, Switzerland, on Nov. 14, 1929, and died peacefully at his home in Amenia on Dec. 4, 2020. The son of Dr. Juris Hans Meili-Laetsch and Elisabeth Meili-Laetsch, Joerg was the eldest of his three brothers: Dieter (deceased), Christoph and Adrian. Although Hans Joerg grew up in the city of Zurich as the son of a District Attorney, he always had a penchant for farming and his parents had memories of him running around barefoot to visit a neighboring farmer with a few dairy cows. Because of his love of all things agriculture, he attended the Landwirtschaftschule (an agricultural college) in the Swiss canton of Neuchatel and graduated with high honors. Joerg spoke several languages and because Neuchatel is in the French-speaking part of Switzerland, despite growing up in the German-speaking portion of the country, his classes were all in French. Upon graduating, he realized that a career in farming in Switzerland wasn't that realistic due to the challenges of farming in a small, mountainous country — which made other distant lands more attractive. So, in order to learn about different types of agriculture, he planned to try farming in various other parts of the world. He started out by working on farms in England, Holland and Denmark. His next country was the United States; he was hired as manager of Bel-Air Farm in Millbrook, which at the time was one of the largest dairy farms in the Northeast and owned by a Swiss-German entrepreneur. Joerg arrived in 1953 with the intent to spend a year or so in the United States and then travel to Africa or South America to learn about their farming operations. But fate intervened and he met a vivacious woman named Carol from New York City who one day made the trip upstate to Bel-Air Farm to visit her teenage brother, who was spending a summer working on the farm. The exact facts are somewhat murky but here's what we do know: one of her purposes in going to Bel-Air was to give the young Swiss farm manager a talking to about what she deemed unfair treatment of her younger brother. Apparently that conversation went very well because Joerg ended up driving Carol back to New York that night and shortly thereafter she moved to Millbrook as the wife of a country farmer. They had five children, Barbara, Jean (deceased), Joerg and twins Carla and Craig. When Bel-Air was sold to a new owner, Joerg purchased a small farm on the border of Amenia and Sharon and also started a silo and storage tank construction business. Unfortunately, Carol died of cancer in 1970, just a few short years after



the family settled in Amenia. For decades, Hans Joerg and his business partner sold and constructed silos and tanks in the Northeast, including projects throughout New England and most of the mid-Atlantic region. Over the years, he also expanded the farm. Upon retiring, he returned full-time to farming and some years ago he realized his long-held dream of watching a herd of beef cows grazing outside his house. He developed a herd which mixed Belted Galloways and Herefords (sometimes resulting in strange abstract markings) which have become a bit of a local attraction as they quietly graze in his field opposite Paley's farm market in Sharon. Hans Joerg was very proud that his two sons, Joerg and Craig, have continued the family farming tradition and have their own farming operations. Although his Swiss family would have preferred that Hans Joerg returned to Switzerland, he truly loved his new country and proudly became a citizen in the 1950s. He also loved traveling throughout the United States for both pleasure and business — he would often drive hundreds of miles (sometimes in a single day) to visit farmers and municipal customers in upstate New York or in various parts of New England. He also traveled abroad quite frequently, primarily in Europe but some of his most memorable trips were to New Zealand, Patagonia, South Africa and India. And of course he made frequent visits to his family in Switzerland, often accompanied by friends or family members — he wanted his children to have strong relationships with the extended Swiss family and to experience Swiss culture. His companion for decades was Susanne Kaletsch, who lived in Sharon for many years but returned to her home country of Germany late last year. Hans Joerg loved not only his own farm but all farms — one of his favorite activities was driving around the countryside, exploring back roads and taking in the spectacular natural beauty of the Tri-state area. In addition to enjoying watching his grandchildren grow up, one of his recent pleasures was tending to cats; he had a beloved cat, Phoebe, that was his constant companion for many years. After she died a few years ago, he started taking care of a collection of barn cats; because he fed them regularly, they all decided to pick up and move from the barn over to his house. At times there would be six or more cats lounging on his porch. In addition to being an avid reader, he loved classical music and opera and was a frequent visitor, along with Susanne, to Music Mountain and The Shed at Tanglewood and he also enjoyed the Metropolitan Opera simulcasts at the Mahaiwe Theater in Great Barrington. He served on the Board of Directors of the Bank of Millbrook from 1983 through 2010 and thereafter was a Director Emeritus until his death. Hans Joerg is survived by his children, Barbara, Joerg, Carla, her husband, Michael Clarke, and Craig; his grandchildren, Sam, Summer and Sarah Meili, Charlotte Clarke and Thatcher and Greta Meili; his brother, Christoph and wife, Christine, and his brother Adrian and wife Marianne; his sister-in-law, Giacinta (widow of Dieter); and many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and -nephews. Calling hours will be on Friday, Dec. 11, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Kenny Funeral Home in Sharon. A graveside ceremony will take place on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 10 a.m. at the Amenia Island Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Little Guild Animal Shelter, 285 Sharon Turnpike, West Cornwall, CT 06796; Amenia Fire Department, P.O. Box 166, 36 Mechanic St., Amenia, NY 12501; or the Dutchess Land Conservancy, 4289 Route NY-82, Millbrook, NY 12545.

Elizabeth Ann Ober

LITCHFIELD — Elizabeth Ann Ober, 82, died Nov. 30, 2020, in Litchfield. The Rev. Douglas Worthington, of St. Andrew's Church in Kent, officiated at a family service at Liz's bedside on May 29. She was born in Chicago, Ill., on April 4, 1938, to Wilfred Schaeffer Stone, a patent lawyer in Chicago, and Mary Elizabeth née Kunkel. Liz was a vivacious, stalwart Foreign Service wife who, after studying at DePauw and Boston University, supported her husband Robert Fairchild Ober Jr. during assignments in Hamburg, Warsaw, Moscow (three times), New Delhi and Athens, and his incumbency as president of International College in Beirut, Lebanon, from 1998 to 2001. She was president of American women's clubs in Moscow and New Delhi. In 1978, then-Senator Joe Biden, whom she had guided around Moscow, wrote the



chargé d'affaires that she belonged in the Foreign Service itself! Upon retirement from the Foreign Service, they settled in the town of Sharon and worked at Kent School, where she served as the administrative assistant to Dr. Joel Danisi, Kent School's doctor, during the 1990s. She also helped her son at his gallery in Kent, the Ober Gallery. She was a devoted and loving mother of three: Elise LaFosse, a docent at the Wadsworth Atheneum in Hartford; Abby Ober, an artist and instructor at St. Michaels in Maryland; and Robert F. Ober III, a history teacher at Kent School and owner of the Ober Gallery; their spouses, Laurent, John and Amy; and her four grandchildren, Natalie Laible, Rob Laible, Rob Ober IV and Lucy Ober. Her family and her friends here and abroad will remember her abiding love.

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Julia (Boulton) Scott

WEST CORNWALL — Julia Boulton Scott, 87, of Cream Hill Road, died peacefully on Nov. 30, 2020, at Geer Village. She was the loving wife of the late John Findlay Scott. Julia was born on April 6, 1933, in Calcutta, India, the eldest daughter of The Very Reverend Walter and Kathleen Lorna (Yorke-Batley) Boulton. In 1945, her family returned to England and Julia graduated from Girton College at Cambridge University in 1955 with an M.A. in History and Law. She married John on June 25, 1958, and they moved from the U.K. to New York City, where John joined the Legal Office of the United Nations. She got her M.S.W. from Columbia School for Social Work in 1979. In 1965, she and John purchased and renovated an old mill in West Cornwall, and moved there full time in 2000. Over the years she was passionate about her gardens and her horses, and was devoted to her family, friends and community. Her interests included

music, literature, travel and cooking. She was known in Cornwall for her hospitality and she frequently used Gold's Mill for entertaining and fundraising. Julia was a committed volunteer who served on numerous boards, many of which involved organizations committed to providing resources for mental health, including Prime Time House, Clubhouse International and Fountain House. She is survived by two sons, John William and Alexander, a daughter, Catherine; and nine grandchildren, John, Dylan, Graham, Caroline, Emma, Anabel, Stella and Ruby. A memorial service will be deferred until 2021, once it is safe to gather again. Memorial contributions may be made to Clubhouse International, 845 Third Ave., 6th Floor, NYC, NY 10022; and Crescendo Inc., P.O. Box 245, Lakeville, CT 06039. The Kenny Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

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Submit obituaries to cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com.



Hans Joerg Meili

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Worship Services
Week of December 13, 2020
Call ahead or visit websites for updates on remote or in-person services.
The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.
Falls Village Congregational Church
Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon
Greenwoods Community Church
St. Thomas Episcopal Church
North East Baptist Church
The Sharon United Methodist Church
Promised Land Baptist Church
The Chapel of All Saints, Cornwall
The Smithfield Presbyterian Church
Sharon Congregational Church
Christ Castle Church
SAINT KATERI TEKAKWITHA PARISH
Canaan United Methodist Church

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Fire Company sets Amenia aglow with annual Celebration of Lights

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Determined to deliver some holiday cheer while adhering to COVID-19 health and safety guidelines, the Amenia Fire Company invited local residents to take a drive or a stroll around town on Sunday night, Dec. 6, to enjoy the lineup of decorated vehicles and floats on display for the Celebration of Lights, its ninth annual holiday event.

Though originally scheduled for Friday, Dec. 4, the event was moved to Sunday, Dec. 6, due to concerns about bad weather. Residents were encouraged to decorate anything on wheels for the celebration, from cars and trucks to ATVs, bicycles and tractors.

In the moments leading up to the celebration's 6 p.m. start time, vehicles formed a line at the traffic light going down toward the basketball courts, parking along Route 343. Interested in seeing how the fire company had arranged this "stationary parade" under COVID-19 restrictions, community members did the driving — or the walking — to avoid crowded streets, all while wearing face masks and maintaining a safe social distance. As



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Eager to bring a little extra holiday cheer to the town of Amenia, Mrs. Claus and Santa greeted families and posed for socially distant holiday photos with children at the Amenia Fire Company's ninth annual holiday event on Sunday, Dec. 6.

they made their way down the sidewalks, residents also admired the town's traditional holiday decorations, from the garlands and lights draped around the lampposts at Fountain Square to the holiday lights twinkling from storefronts.

Trucks were bedecked with colorful lights, some carrying inflatable holiday characters like Santa Claus and Olaf the snowman. Others pulled decorated tractors and ATVs behind them, playing holiday music to further

awaken the holiday spirit. Fire trucks from Wassaic and Amenia were adorned in lights; a bicycle was covered in tinsel and poinsettias.

People walked on both sides of the road, observing the festivities from a safe distance. Passing motorists slowed down to get a good look and beeped their horns in appreciation. Families walked in groups, children's faces lighting up at the sight of Santa and Mrs. Claus.

"The holiday season truly has

begun," said Amenia Fire Company Rescue Lt., parade organizer and Town Clerk Dawn Marie Klingner. "It was a difficult decision for me to go ahead with this... and I am extremely pleased that I have. You see all the children here... smiling and visiting with Santa, it warms my heart."

"I'm very glad they're doing it," said Amenia resident Sam Wyckoff. "I was afraid we wouldn't have it this year. I'd rather have this than nothing, and it's nice to see people happy."

Community remembers longtime Amenia firefighter Phil Thompson

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Having dedicated his life in service to his community, the void left in the wake of longtime Amenia Fire Company member Phil Thompson's passing was felt not only by his loved ones and fellow firefighters, but also by all who had the privilege of knowing him. Thompson passed away at home at the age of 71 on Monday, Nov. 23, following his battle with metastatic lung cancer.

Reminiscing about the life he built in the town of Amenia, Thompson attended the former Amenia Elementary School and graduated from Webutuck High School in 1967. That same year, he joined the Amenia Fire Company alongside his father, Paul, and brother, Don. Following his graduation from Potsdam State University in 1972, Thompson channeled his degree in education to teaching math, dedicating many years of teaching at Dover Junior/Senior High School.

Genuine in his desire to help others, Thompson wore many hats in his 53 years with the Amenia Fire Company, assuming the responsibilities of firefighter, emergency medical technician (EMT) and fire prevention officer as well as treasurer, parade chairman and company historian. Recalling the company's recognition of Thompson's contributions and 50 years of service just a few years ago, Fire Chief Aaron Howard Jr. spoke just as highly of Thompson's dedication as a senior EMT, fire prevention and fire safety officer as he did about Thompson's work in planning and coordinating numerous parades and carnivals in Amenia throughout the decades.

"He was definitely a huge asset over the years," Howard Jr. said. "He carried many different titles and positions; he did a tremendous amount of work. He will be greatly missed."

Reaching beyond the town of Amenia, Thompson's compassion could be seen in his choice of becoming a 911 dispatcher for the Dutchess County Bureau of Emergency Services, where he worked from 1985 until his retirement in 2011. He also offered his services as an EMT with the Amenia Rescue Squad (he was captain from 1996 to 2011), and was actively involved with Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP) from 1998 up to his recent passing. Even on his days off, his daughter Samantha Culligan, who lives in Amenia,



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Pictured here with one of his daughters, Samantha Culligan, longtime Amenia Fire Company member Phil Thompson spent every day with his loved ones prior to his passing on Monday, Nov. 23, at the age of 71.

said her father would keep his pager right next to him, ready to respond to any EMS call no matter the time of day.

"I felt like he cared more about others than he did about himself," Culligan said.

Christine Thompson, Phil's wife of 15 years, recalled a moment from the days when her future husband was courting her, when he reached out to help a woman who was struggling.

"He was a helper — he wanted to help people who needed any kind of assistance," she said. "He didn't like to see people struggling."

Thompson was honored for his service as a dispatcher in 2009, when he was presented with the New York State Communications Specialist of the Year Award, the highest award a dispatcher can earn in New York State.

Hoping the community will remember how caring and compassionate her father was even after he is gone, Culligan said, "I hope that pushes some of the younger members of the community who knew him to be like

him and want to serve the community in fire and EMS or other volunteering that could be done."

When asked what she hopes her children will remember about their grandfather, Culligan said, "Just how much he loved them and that he would take the shirt off his back for them."

Christine said that Phil loved his family, and his grandchildren, deeply.

"When he was first diagnosed, I think one of the first things he said to me was, 'I'm not going to watch them grow up,' and it broke his heart," she said.

Remembering their final days, Christine said the family spent every day together, making sure they were present to show their love for each other. Thinking of the number of well-wishers who reached out to her family following her husband's passing, she said, "I hope he knew how much he was loved."

In special honor of Thompson, Amenia officials posthumously declared him the town's 2020 Citizen of the Year during its annual tree lighting ceremony on Saturday evening, Dec. 5.

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ADVERTISEMENT

St. Thomas will help many manage a Blue Christmas

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

AMENIA UNION — The holiday season is often touted as one of light and happiness, but Rev. AJ Stack of St. Thomas' Episcopal Church on Leedsville Road is among those who acknowledges there are many people who are struggling with issues that make the celebrations difficult.

To ease the burden, St. Thomas is among the various local churches offering special services traditionally known as Blue Christmas or The Longest Night, which mark the day when light is most diminished and sunlight time begins to once again lengthen. His congregation will mark the occasion with a contemplative "quiet service with lots of music" on Zoom on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 5 p.m.

While the Blue Christmas service will remember those lost who are no longer here, Stack said, "It is not just that. It's designed to be a time of acknowledging that sometimes this is a difficult season for people and that we can't necessarily manufacture joy out of whole cloth."

Stack said he feels it is important to recognize that

"sometimes this is a rough season — not only for those people who have lost loved ones and who we remember most visibly at Christmas — but especially this year, as Christmas is going to look so different. We mourn the loss of normalcy. It's an opportunity to acknowledge that the Christmas season is not just joy. It's about our whole person and some of that is mourning and sadness and things that are difficult."

In addition to the Blue Christmas service, St. Thomas is also offering the traditional Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 10:30 a.m., "where we do readings, and, since we can't sing together, it will end up being a musical performance featuring piano, flute and organ," according to Rev. Stack.

A Christmas Eve service will be presented early Thursday evening, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. with all celebrations accessed virtually at www.stthomasamenia.com/worship. For more information, call the church at 845-373-9161.

For additional services in the Tri-state region, check weekly listings in The Millerton News on its obituary page.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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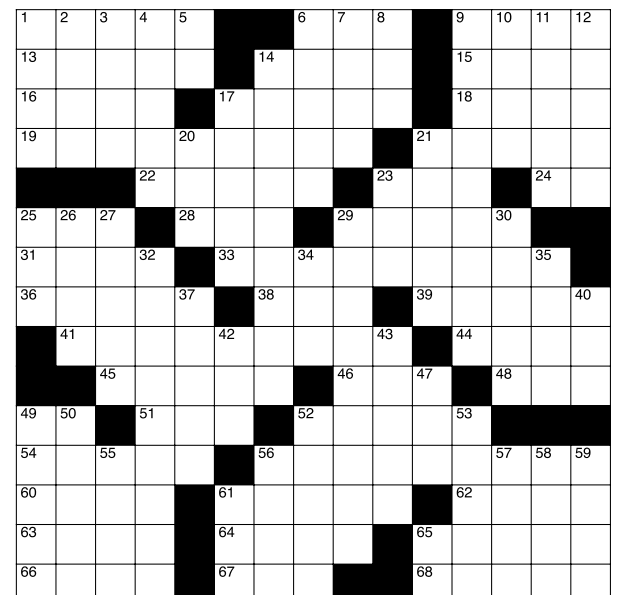
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Skateboarders love them
- Popular sports podcast (abbr.)
- Former Ohio State great Michael
- Not dirty
- Earth goddess (Greek myth.)
- A Spanish river
- Pig meat (French)
- Famed astronomer
- Floating ice
- Broadcast
- Aquatic mammals
- Some are bath
- Hip hop trio
- NY Giants' #56
- Small European viper
- Neither
- Multiple Tony-winner Rivera
- Loud noise
- Second year high schooler
- "_ in comparison"
- Golf score
- Raise
- Pastas
- Easily manageable
- Fathered
- Pouch
- Institute legal proceedings against
- News organization
- Unruly group of people
- Fasten or secure
- Sheets of glass
- Doubled
- Foolish person
- Rooney and Kate are two
- Small, rich sponge cake
- Advice or counsel
- Large wading bird
- Famed British physician
- Narrow ridges (Swedish)
- Field force unit
- Lying face downward

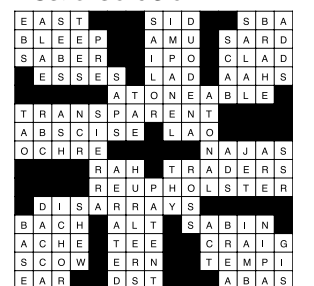
CLUES DOWN

- Proof of purchase (abbr.)
- Soap ingredient
- Blackbird
- Single steps
- Tin
- Books have lots of them
- Made of fermented honey and water
- You can get it in a bed
- Room for communal meals
- Early Syrian kingdom
- Provokes dry amusement
- Use with "thou"
- Mollusk
- Grain storage units

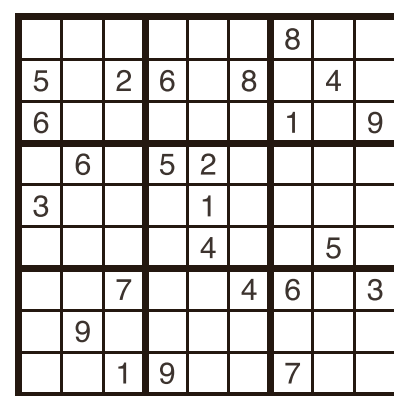


- Not a car, not a truck
- Ooze
- N. Vietnamese ethnic group
- Tennis pro group
- Something that's not what it's purported to be
- E. Indian trees
- Beloved December holiday
- Regions
- Metric unit of length
- Peter's last name
- Beige
- 17-year period in astronomy
- Where golfers begin
- Basketball stat (abbr.)
- Frocks
- Soda comes in it
- On approval
- Trims by cutting
- Small finch
- Language Bura—
- Nothing
- Imbecile (British)
- Tropical Asian plant
- Abba __, Israeli politician
- Small freshwater fish
- Indicates position
- Data processing

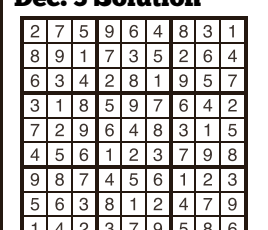
Dec. 3 Solution



Sudoku



Dec. 3 Solution



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December 10-16, 2020

HOLIDAY GIFTS: LEILA HAWKEN

To Tuck Into a Stocking: A Portal to Dreams of NYC

Mapmaker John Tauranac (a part-time resident of Cornwall, Conn.) has taken the iconic New York City subway map (which he designed) and made it, if possible, even a little better.

This new version, published in August, is published by Tauranac Maps and can be purchased locally at The Wish House in West Cornwall, Conn. (www.wishhouse.com) for \$5.95.

When Tauranac, a Cornwall, Conn., resident and a fairly low key gent, was asked if it lives up to its billing as “ultimate subway map,” he modestly confessed, “I am so vain as to believe that it is.”

The very first New York subway map was produced in 1904 as an advertising postcard issued by Wanamaker’s Department Store in Manhattan, which could be accessed by a subway station stop on its lower level.

Many map iterations followed, but it was the 1979 version that introduced the concept of color



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

John Tauranac, designer of the iconic New York City subway map, has a new and improved map that he is selling at retail outlets, including the Wish House in West Cornwall.

coding the subway lines.

Tauranac was already achieving acclaim for his 1972 and 1973 “undercover maps” of Midtown and Lower Manhattan, tracing the underground walking passages that thread through and under the city’s buildings.

He was employed by the MTA (Metropolitan Transit Authority) and in 1974 was working on creating an official travel guide and introducing a geographically accurate subway map.

By 1978, he was the chairman of the MTA subway map committee but had been unsuccessful in gaining approval for his ideas for the color-coding system.

That same year, though, bolstered by the support of socialite and powerhouse Phyllis Cerf Wagner, Tauranac’s concept of the quasi-geographic, color-coded system was approved by the MTA president.

The 1979 MTA map has provided the bones for all subsequent maps, Taura-

nac said. But with each new edition, the map has incorporated changes that render it more confusing.

Tauranac’s new MTA pocket map pack is self-published and conveys even more information in a clearer, color-coded and keyed presentation. For example, there is now a separate map on the reverse side with information about late-night service.

For any riders who have ever discovered that they were traveling north on a line when they meant to go south, Tauranac has added a no u-turn symbol to indicate stations where riders cannot cross the tracks without paying to go the other way. If you don’t see the symbol, you can use that station to correct your directional error.

The new map also answers the question of where the subway station is in relation to a station stop, particularly helpful when avenues are positioned diagonally to the normal street grid. To

promote clarity, Tauranac explains that exercising geographic license makes the map “quasi-geographic.”

With the aid of a key guide printed at the top of the map, riders can tell a lot about a station by the color, its intensity and the geometric shape representing the subway line.

Access for handicapped riders is noted with a visual cue — although Tauranac notes that ease-of-access information is also helpful for riders with luggage or baby strollers.

For the first time, there is an index of stations within the subway system, with bus connections noted for each station, for example.

As for where the lifelong interest in the details of New York City transit and architecture began, Tauranac credits his childhood years when his father, who was the manager of a major hotel, took him on regular city walks in the 1960s.

Tauranac’s mother had died when he was very young, so these walks with his father were especially important. His father would often pause to point out who lived where along Fifth Avenue, for example.

“It sort of stuck,” Tauranac said.

To put together a more substantial gift of New York City lore, there are additional Tauranac works that offer a deep look into the city and what lies beneath its surface, including a poster version of the new map.

Although all authors love all their books, as parents love their children, Tauranac was especially pleased with a review of one of his books, from the New York Times. About “Manhattan Block By Block: A Street Atlas,” the paper said, it “offers just about all the critical information a site-seeker might need — and then some.”

Sometimes more is more.

To find out about John Tauranac’s books and insights into New York City, go to his website at www.johntauranac.com.

SMALL-TOWN LIFE:
PATRICK L. SULLIVAN

Glimpses of Hidden Wonders In Falls Village

Documentary filmmaker Eric Veden is back with episode 23 of his series on Falls Village, Conn. The DVDs are available at the town’s David M. Hunt Library to borrow or for sale (\$10).

The latest documentary kicks off with chickens and bluegrass music before moving into an interview with First Selectman Henry Todd, who reminisces about his 40-odd years of traveling the world for business.

Todd says he spent four months per year out of the country, working in the commodities and flavoring businesses.

This took him to Japan to China, to Madagascar, Indonesia and India — a very partial list.

Todd says every country has different ways of conducting business, and he had to learn them all.

“It was fun. I loved it.”

Next up is a visit to Lou Timolat and Eric Carlson at the Falls Village Sawmill on Route 7.

Timolat explains how he came to be in the sawmill business and how it evolved since the early 1980s.

Carlson, Timolat’s son-in-law and a 20-year Army veteran,

explains how he took an interest in the business.

“It’s hard work,” Carlson acknowledged before adding, “I hate to use the word ‘soothing,’ but there’s something about it.”

In the third chapter, Star Childs explains how his grandfather, Starling W. Childs, and Frederic C. Walcott originally acquired 400 acres of land around Tobey Pond in 1909, which was the start of the Great Mountain Forest that stretches over 6,000 acres in Falls Village and Norfolk, Conn.

The men were interested in the idea that private individuals could demonstrate that forest and wildlife conservation could go hand in hand.

Chapter four is a quick detour to the present day, with footage of the Hunt Library’s plant sale back in May, with an emphasis on the measures taken to protect buyers and sellers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

And the video wraps up with an unusual look at Music Mountain (one of the nation’s premier sites to hear live chamber music), with bird calls and music.

‘CHRISTMAS MUSIC OF THREE CULTURES’

Crescendo is producing a December concert, “Christmas Music of Three Cultures,” including portions of J.S. Bach’s Christmas Oratorio, music of the South American Colonial Baroque, excerpts of Navidad Nuestro (Our Christmas) by the renowned Argentinian composer Ariel Ramirez, and a beautiful and joyful motet, Chariot

Jubilee, by the distinguished Black composer, Nathaniel Dett. Based on Spiritual and Gospel music, it was premiered in 1921.

The livestreamed concert is on Saturday, Dec. 19, at 4 p.m. The link to the concert will be at Crescendo’s new website, www.worldclassmusic.org. There are also links to special events leading up to the concert.

ALTHEA PLATT’S LUSH LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS

Eve M. Kahn will explain how landscape painter Althea Hill Platt (1860-1932) survived family scandal and won acclaim for exhibiting luminous views of Europe and America at hundreds of prestigious venues, in a Zoom lecture for the Sharon Historical Society & Museum in Sharon, Conn., on Friday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m.

Get the Zoom link at <http://sharonhist.org>.

UPCOMING EVENTS

With the rise again of concerns about COVID-19, many cultural venues are canceling events at the last minute to protect staff and patrons. It’s always a good idea to check websites before you go to an event.

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MILLBROOK

'Living Millbrook' co-founder Rona Boyer remembered

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Rona Boyer, 74, passed away on Friday, Nov. 27, at Vassar Brothers Medical Center in Poughkeepsie from lung and kidney issues. She had lived in the village of Millbrook for the past 10 years.

Boyer moved to the village in 2010, a stranger. But in the years that she made Millbrook home, she had become a vital part of the community. She helped out with the annual Millbrook Literary Festival, as a member of its standing committee. Boyer was also involved with the Millbrook Rotary Club, joining in 2011 and becoming its president at one point, as well as becoming the president of the Millbrook Business Association (MBA). Both institutions help support the community and its businesses. Boyer's business know-how was invaluable to the two groups.

Boyer was born Rona Pashkin in The Bronx on May 31,

1946; she later moved to Mount Vernon, where she graduated high school. She earned a college degree from SUNY Albany and received certificates from the International Marketing Institute at Harvard University and studied top management in business at Chicago University.

After graduation she worked for McCann-Erikson for 20 years. Requesting a transfer to Europe, she spent two years in Helsinki, Finland. Later, she worked in Portugal, then Italy, as creative director for McCann-Erikson. Boyer then moved to Paris, France, working for L'Oreal, where she learned to speak French; the job took her all over the world. While in Paris, she met and married Gerard Boyer; they had two daughters.

In 1993, she contracted malaria while on a trip to Africa; she became seriously ill and upon recovering decided that she wanted to return to America. Her husband agreed, and the family moved to Los Angeles, Calif. Her husband worked for

a French wine company; she worked in advertising. When the wine company was sold, her husband was offered a job managing Beaverbrook Farm, an estate in Millbrook belonging to Frederick Fekkal.

Upon arriving in Millbrook, Boyer made it her business to get involved in local activities. She began writing for The Millbrook Independent, a small local newspaper; she became its food editor and advertising director. The Boyers also opened their

own consulting firm. When her husband died in 2015, at about the same time that The Millbrook Independent stopped publishing, Boyer had to reinvent herself — again.

Boyer became the market manager and publisher, as well as the recruiter, for Best Version Media Magazine. She created, along with Carola Lott, "Living Millbrook" and "Living Rhinebeck," two high-end super-local magazines that feature stories about businesses and people in

those communities. They were a testimony to her expertise in both the business and publishing worlds.

In her private time, Boyer stayed busy playing cards, mah jong and backgammon with her many friends. She was also an accomplished cook; the magazines featured many of her favorite recipes.

Boyer was a die-hard Democrat and a passionate debater who loved to discuss history and religion.

This Millbrook transplant leaves behind daughters Jennifer Boyer Volturno and Samantha Boyer, along with three grandchildren whom she dearly loved.

A small group of close friends will gather at a service on Thursday, Dec. 10, at the Allen Funeral Home in Millbrook at 2 p.m.

The family has asked anyone who wants to make a donation in Boyer's name to send it in support of the Democratic Party by going to www.ActBlu.com.

Kira Wizner celebrates five years of owning local fav, Merritt Bookstore

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — When Kira Wizner took over Merritt Bookstore five years ago, she had big plans. Already a much-loved Millbrook flagship store located at 57 Front St., Merritt had an established clientele, but Wizner wanted to try new ideas, new products and she wanted to make it her own. From the beginning, she worked to keep the warmth and small-town feel Merritt's former owners had established but she added her own touches along the way.

Before long, Merritt Bookstore had moved temporarily to a new home on Franklin Avenue, while the old locale was refreshed and remodeled. While on Franklin, Merritt hosted many events including books signings with local authors, while still featuring a grand array of books, gifts, art supplies and toys. When Wizner finally turned her key in the lock at the renovated store on Front Street four months later on April 1, 2016, there were a number of great changes, with a bright and contemporary new look.

During the past five years, there have been countless authors talks, some light hearted, like Iza Trapani, author of those delightful children's books, and some dark, but necessary, like women writers Ellen Messer and Ellen Feldin, who wrote and spoke about the squalid conditions of illegal abortions.

There have been food-oriented events, such as when Crown Maple Syrup of nearby Dover Plains visited and handed out their sweet samples, and when two of the four Manhattan women who wrote a soup cookbook made the trek to Millbrook to talk about and then give out samples of their tasty soup.

Let's not forget everyone's favorite, the "Where's Waldo?" book series and annual contest,



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Kira Wizner, owner of Merritt Bookstore, celebrated five years of owning the longtime business, a mainstay in the community, on Nov. 17.

which offers prizes for local children, involves community businesses and ends at the bookstore with a party.

The store's lovely second floor space has hosted many art exhibitions, including, most years, the Millbrook community's annual student art exhibit. Other educational and cultural events have also been held there, including regular Millbrook Arts Group (MAG) concerts, and Merritt is always welcoming and warm.

On Nov. 17, Wizner sent out an e-mail thanking everyone for their friendship and business, thanking them for welcoming her and her family so openly and

supporting her business.

"I embraced Millbrook, and Millbrook embraced me," she said.

She also talked about how

her love of books and a once-a-year book fair at her daughter's school originally brought her to Millbrook.

"I'm just as excited as I was at the start of it," she said, adding, "Thank you."

Although her husband's work as an educator and her two daughters' education keep them in the city a great deal, the family has always made the community's events their own, from Millbrook's Farmers Market to its Community Day, along with many others.

Wizner can also be seen most years at The Home Source Show, Orvis Sporting Weekend and the Millbrook Literary Festival; she usually serves on the Literary Festival's Board.

While most events have been canceled this year as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, Merritt Bookstore has remained open as long as it's been allowed to do so under the governor's orders, striving to remain an integral part of the village's business community. The store has gone to great lengths to keep customers safe, with a hand sanitizer station at the entrance; it requires customers to wear face masks and respect social distancing. The store also offers online orders, orders over the phone and curb-side pickup. To learn more, go to www.merrittbooks.com or call 845-677-5857.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

Rona Boyer, relaxing on her back deck at home, when she was interviewed for The Lakeville Journal Company's 2017 special supplement Towns and Villages.

MILLBROOK IN BRIEF

Annual Menorah lighting Dec. 13

The annual lighting of the Menorah on the lawn of the Thorne Building will take place on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 3:30 p.m. The ceremony celebrates the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, and commemorates the rededication of the Temple of Jerusalem in 167 B.C., when the Maccabees rejected the Antiochus Epiphanes, when there was only enough oil for one day, but miraculously, the oil lasted

for the eight days it took to prepare more oil.

Rabbi Hanoch Hecht, of the Rhinebeck Jewish Center, will once again conduct the ceremony. Rabbi Hecht has asked that no more than 20 people attend due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There will not be any refreshments following the ceremony this year, as in years past, because of the pandemic.

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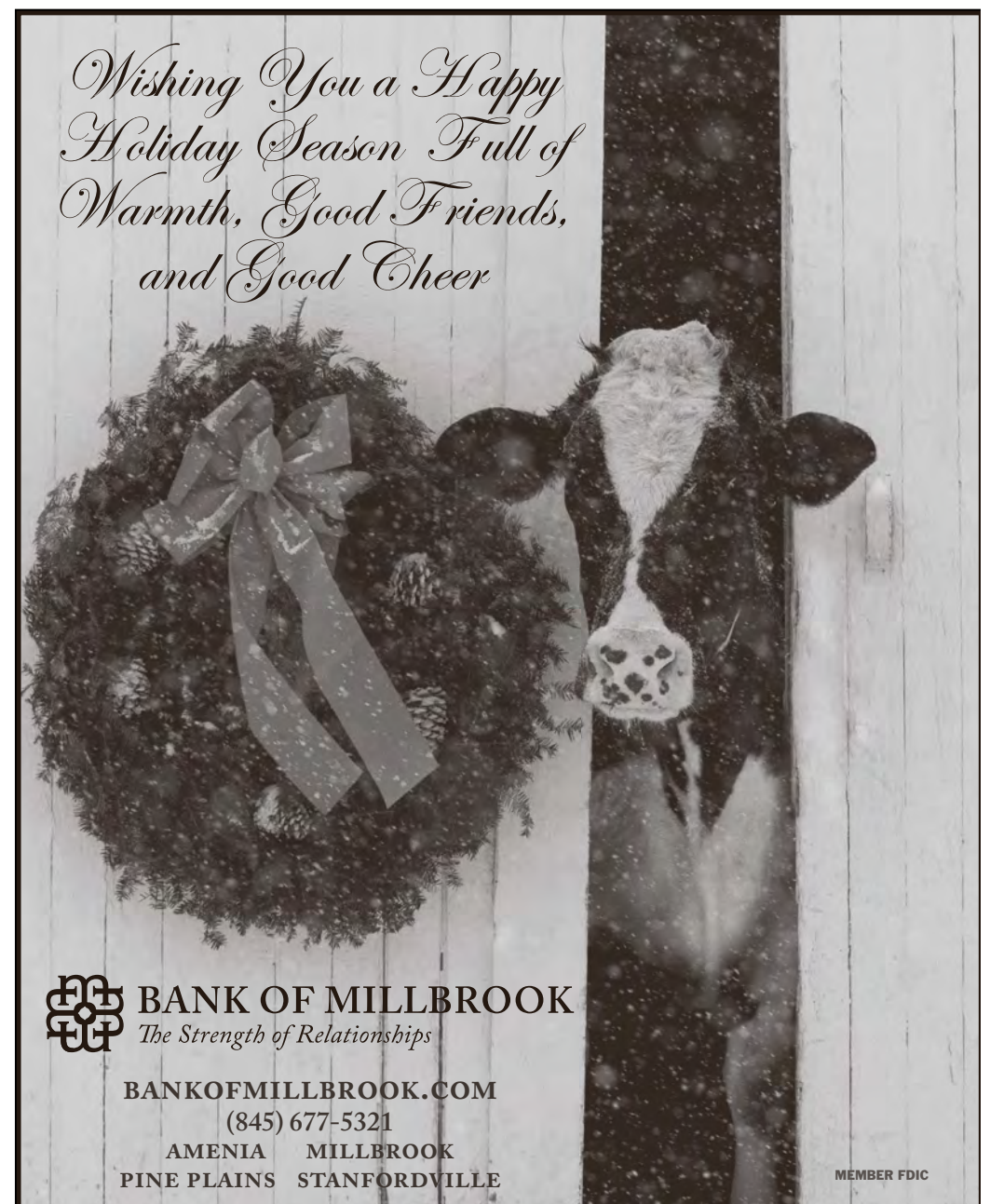
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EDITORIAL

Anti-maskers fight science

To mask or not to mask? That seems to be the question on millions of Americans' minds these days, as the coronavirus pandemic sweeps across the nation, killing hundreds of thousands of our men and women who only months ago were leading vibrant lives surrounded by their loved ones.

Now, 10 months after COVID-19 hit our shores, it's hard to believe that people in the U.S. are still debating whether donning a face mask can help slow the spread of the deadly respiratory virus — and if it's worth the simple act of placing a small piece of material securely across one's mouth and nose to prevent viral particles from going airborne and possibly infecting others with a disease that could easily kill them.

Science has proven it is. Medical experts the world over have supported that science. There is clearly evidence to demonstrate that wearing a mask is the responsible thing for all to do, everyday, to protect those around us — family, friend or stranger.

Yet still, there are those among us who don't believe. There are those who seem to think the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) — nonpolitical medical organizations — are lying when they say wearing masks saves lives — and instead are politically motivated in their messaging rather than based in fact.

Now, after watching the nightly newscast and reading the morning news, you may believe those "anti-maskers" live in places far removed, perhaps in Wyoming, where that state's Republican governor, Mark Gordon, resisted mandating masks until he himself became infected with COVID-19 at the end of November. Or perhaps you think those naysayers live in Kansas City, Mo., where the CDC tracked trends of counties with and without a mask mandate.

NPR reported on the CDC's Kansas City study, and interviewed Dr. Rex Archer, a Kansas City physician who heads the COVID-19 treatment center at St. Luke's Health System.

"We've had this huge swing that's occurred because [people are] not wearing masks, and yes, that's putting pressure on our hospitals..." Archer told NPR.

According to the CDC study: "Wearing face masks in public spaces reduces the spread of SARS-CoV-2."

Again, science doesn't lie.

Even President Elect Joe Biden has asked every American to mask up for the first 100 days after he takes office in January. He told CNN's Jake Tapper on Thursday, Dec. 3, that the request is, "Not forever. One hundred days. And I think we'll see a significant reduction."

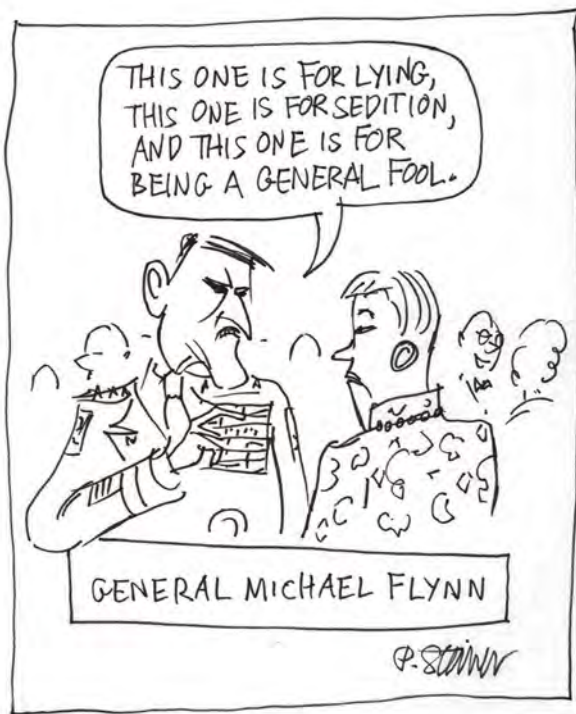
But getting back to the anti-maskers, the ones we've been referring to in this editorial, they do not live in the Midwest or the far reaches of the U.S., they live right here in the Harlem Valley. This week, we spoke to people who reside and do business locally in Millerton and its surrounds who fall on both sides of the mask debate; you can find that article on our front page. We hope you'll take the time to read it.

So while you may be trying to keep yourself and your loved ones safe, cocooned securely in your home as much as possible, only going out for necessities, wearing a mask and keeping socially distanced, there are others, perhaps your friends and neighbors, who are not following our governor's safety guidelines, our health department's guidelines, the CDC's guidelines, our president elect's guidelines. They believe they know better. We're not saying they're acting out of ill-will or spite, that they're intentionally trying to make others sick or to kill anyone. Of course not. But the fact is that is exactly what their actions could lead to — intentional or not.

And then there are those who do act belligerently when they are asked to put on a mask — as they are required to do in the State of New York when in a public place — by people who are justly concerned about catching the virus. To those acting out, please, just stop it. Such hostility is unnecessary. Being asked to put on a mask is not inappropriate. We are in the midst of a deadly global pandemic. As of Tuesday, Dec. 8, more than 1.5 million people have died worldwide. It takes courage to speak up when someone's actions jeopardize another person's life.

Responding by coughing on a person, yelling at a person, cursing at a person, intimidating a person, threatening a person, physically assaulting a person — such behavior is unacceptable, bordering on being criminal — if not actually being criminal. We can't sanction such actions and hope others agree, including the law.

The bottom line here is that the issue of wearing a face mask — a simple step that can save lives — should not be politicized. Today, as we face this ever-growing pandemic together, as a community, putting on a face mask should be as routine as putting on a jacket before heading out for a chilly day. It's a protective measure, not just for yourself, but for others as well. Think outside of yourself. Once the New Year arrives we'll be well-nigh on a year of the coronavirus. It's long past time to for all of America to finally mask-up.



Considering how we treat low wage workers

When Chernobyl went up, the cloud caused the destruction of all milk, food and consumable product across Scandinavia, Germany, Switzerland and Northern Italy. Where it went from there, no one is absolutely sure, but the Sahara is a good bet. Untold tons of food were wasted, destroyed and treated as radioactive waste (buried deep underground). People were contaminated, died or delivered horribly deformed children by the hundreds. Meanwhile, sick workers assigned to clean up Chernobyl have been "reassigned" across the old Soviet Union and are "untraceable," according to the U.N. divisions that keep track of nuclear disasters in Vienna.

The Japanese Fukushima nuclear catastrophe created a need for workers, manual laborers, to go in and secure the plant before it erupted. "Disposable" workers, people hired off the streets, the homeless, were then given scant training and assigned to radioactive areas' cleaning tasks. Five cases of those employees with leukemia were officially reported in Japan in 2012, but then authorities visited only one more hospital where they found 50 patients all recently contaminated, all of whom were homeless people who had taken temporary employment at the power plant. They were only employed for a short while and thrown back onto the streets. When they got leukemia, as they were no longer employees, they didn't show up on official radiation exposure lists. It's a neat trick: Hire temporary workers, desperate for any job, give them a nuclear reactor job in close proximity to what are terminal levels of radiation, fire them after a few weeks and let them die a slow agonizing death. Will they complain? Sure, but to whom? They have no voice, they have no constituency

Best Instagram feeds for green activism?

Dear EarthTalk: What are the best Instagram feeds to follow lately if I'm into environmental activism and fighting climate change?
— Bill S., New Orleans, La.

It's amazing how dominant Instagram has become in the world of social media. Eco-advocates would be remiss to not make use of it to raise awareness and spur action on behalf of the planet. Given Instagram's limited functionality, activists and groups have to be creative to make the most of the photo-dominant platform to stand out from the crowd.

Indigenous Climate Action uses its @indigenouclimate-account to motivate and empower both youth and adults on climate activism by reminding them of the human connections to land, water, community, culture and the sense of responsibility toward future generations exemplified in Indigenous communities.

Another timely account to follow is @sunrisemvmt, the Instagram outlet for the Sunrise

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE
Peter Riva

and they are, after all the discards of society.

Before you shake your head at the Japanese, think again. Ever seen the jobs we let the homeless hire onto in Los Angeles, working down sewers or picking strawberries or carrying cement bags, faces covered in lung clogging dust? Ever seen the sugar cane fields in Florida and the workers we boat in from Haiti and treat in ways we wouldn't dream of treating as our citizens, simply because "they need the work and the U.S. dollar?" Ever seen who handles your garbage dumps or where we send all that trash?

Ever stop to think how or why GE thought it could dump dioxins in the Hudson River? Was it because they thought there were enough powerful people in the impoverished region to object? No, it was because you don't bite the hand that hires you locally — you can't complain and keep your job.

Disposable humans are a sad part of the economy, whether we want to admit it or not.

Part of the discussion of a minimum wage that will arrive in 2021 has to include the need to improve working conditions and safety. Yes, it will come at a price. However, unless we are willing to allow the practice of disposing under-represented humans as part of the benefit for our style of living, the current employment standards can only be seen as both immoral and amoral.

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A little relief during a stressful year, thanks to the Millerton library

We all need a little extra happiness and a little less stress. And we have just the thing to help. As of Tuesday, Dec. 15, the NorthEast-Millerton Library is going fine free! What does that mean, you say? Well, if you check out an item at our library, you won't be charged a fine if you return it late.

This will only apply to items borrowed at the NorthEast-Millerton Library. (The only exception being our laptops and hotspots.) You will still be charged a fee if you lose, damage or just don't return an item. That's not all. Any overdue fine currently on a patron's card, from an item checked out at our library, will be forgiven.

This has been an incredibly hard year, and we hope that this will make it a little bit easier. We are so happy to be able to offer this to the community to help ensure financial and logistical difficulties

do not prevent someone from using the library. You shouldn't have to worry about returning your library book when facing family illness, remote schooling or whatever else this pandemic may bring.

While this will mean a loss of funds for the library, we are hoping that those who can donate, will. Since the Library is 501(C)3, your donation would be tax deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

To learn more about how to make a donation, go to www.nemillertonlibrary.org, call 518-789-3340, stop by the library at 75 Main St., Millerton, or mail a check to P.O. Box 786, Millerton, NY 12546.

Every donation is greatly appreciated and put to excellent use.

Rhiannon Leo-Jameson
Library Director, NorthEast-Millerton Library
Copake

Children can get crafty thanks to kits at Pine Plains library

'Tis the season and the FRIENDS of the Pine Plains Free Library are feeling a bit merry and bright as we've worked with the library staff to bring FREE "grab & go" craft kits to children ages 3 and up.

There are eight new winter themed kits on display in the library for you to choose one — while supplies last. Stop in to see Alexis, Mary or Sophia to pick yours up.

Library hours are Tuesday through Friday, from 2 to 6 p.m., and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

To keep us all safe, face masks are required in the library.

Have a healthy and happy holiday.

Janet Fitzgerald
President, FRIENDS of the Pine Plains Free Library
Pine Plains

Amenia Memory Tree — It's that time of year!

This year the Amenia Lions Club Memory Tree is dedicated to first responders, front line and essential workers. You can show your support and remember a loved one with a \$5 donation to the Amenia Lions Club.

The Memory Tree benefits the Dutchess County Hearing Conservation Committee and purchases hearing aids for those that can't afford one. In addition, the Lions Club just completed its annual 300 Club Dinner with curbside service due to COVID-19 and recently donated over \$3,000 to organizations that specialize in feeding and providing necessities for the holidays. Every dollar we raise goes back into the

community!

Forms may be picked up at Jack's Auto in Wassauc, Havens Real Estate in Amenia, Bank of Millbrook in Amenia or from any Amenia Lions Club member. You can also go to the Amenia Lions Facebook page to download your own copy.

Names must be submitted before Dec. 18 to be included in the listing in the Dec. 24 issue of The Millerton News.

For more information, call 845-453-0408 to leave a message or email bjdhale@gmail.com.

Lori S. Hale
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Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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PHOTO BY JAMES H. CLARK

Rainbow across the border

SPORTS

High risk winter sport athletes can begin practice Jan. 4, 2021

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

NEW YORK STATE — Between the pounding of the basketball against the gym floor, the tension of grappling their opponent on the wrestling mat and the sensation of skates gliding on the ice, there's much for student athletes to look forward to when it comes to the winter season. Seeking to minimize risk and exposure to COVID-19 this winter, the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) announced that high school athletes can't start practicing high risk winter sports until Monday, Jan. 4, 2021.

Pine Plains Central School District Athletic Director Rob Scott explained the situation. Basically, he said, the state said schools can start practicing on Jan. 4. Section IX said they can start practicing on Jan. 4 also, but right now there is no competition allowed for those sports, so the schools can practice — but not compete. Section IX did not compete in fall sports this year, they actually pushed the date of the fall season back. There are guidelines schools must follow for high-risk sports. Students may begin practicing high risk winter sports, according to Scott, but unless the governor or the New York State Department of Health weighs in, schools have been banned from competing.

NYSPHSAA issued a press release on Nov. 17; it gave examples of high risk winter



ARCHIVE PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Stepping boldly onto the court, the Pine Plains varsity boys basketball team faced off against Webutuck in the Webutuck High School gymnasium at a game held this past January.

sports, including basketball, wrestling, competitive cheer and ice hockey. In the Harlem Valley, Webutuck High School in Amenia, Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School in Pine Plains and Millbrook High School are member schools.

Meanwhile, as previously determined by the association, low and moderate risk winter sports — including

indoor track and field, swimming and diving, skiing and gymnastics — were allowed to begin on Monday, Nov. 30, for schools and sections that have determined it "feasible to host interscholastic athletics at that time." Locally, Harlem Valley students only participate in indoor track and field in this category. NYSPHSAA noted all winter State Championship events remain scheduled as of this time.

Recognizing "the numerous challenges interscholastic programs" face resuming high risk sports during the pandemic, NYSPHSAA President Julie Bergman said its goal is to keep students safe while they can keep playing sports.

With updated guidance on how to proceed with the 2020-21 winter sports season, Harlem Valley school districts have been discussing their options.

At the Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) meeting on Monday, Nov. 16, Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani informed the board

that they were given permission for low and moderate risk contact sports to start on Nov. 30. He told the BOE at the time the district had opened its gymnasium for a number of sports; it's enforcing social distancing with the athletic director supervising to ensure students and coaches wear masks and stay 6 feet apart.

"We're trying to get as close to normal as possible," Castellani said.

Pine Plains Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler discussed low risk winter sports at the BOE meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 18. He explained that the district's only low risk sport is winter track.

Meanwhile, in a letter posted on the Millbrook Central School District website, www.millbrookcsd.org, on Tuesday, Nov. 24, Superintendent of Schools Laura Mitchell reported that, due to "barriers" to participation, its administration and BOE determined the district won't participate in winter indoor track this school year. Such barriers include concerns about the potential for COVID-19 to spread among athletes in the district and in opponent schools; the recommendation that winter indoor track be held outside and the complications that presents; and incomplete guidance.

Also in her letter, Mitchell reported that the district hasn't yet determined whether it will participate in high risk sports, such as basketball and cheerleading.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Virtual performance broadcast Jan. 7

NEW YORK CITY — Come Thursday, Jan. 7, Mark DeGarmo Dance (MDD) will be broadcasting its trans-cultural transdisciplinary Virtual Salon Performance Series to an international audience via Zoom. Mark DeGarmo, a Pine Plains native, is an internationally recognized choreographer who resides in New York City and Ancram.

The dance series will spotlight international and emerging performing artists Selim Cizdan from Turkey, Aigars Larionovs from Latvia and Adriane Erdos and Makayla Peterson from New York City. Each performance will include an audience feedback session curated and facilitated by DeGarmo, who founded MDD and is its executive

Move and Groove Mondays! on Zoom

MILLERTON — The NorthEast-Millerton Library is offering Move and Groove Mondays! from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m. every week via Zoom. Just email kmclune@nemillertonlibrary.org for the Zoom link.

Hotchkiss School student Katerina encourages her students to share their ideas, to request music they like, to express movement preferences, etc. Katerina mixes traditional dance styles (ballet, jazz, etc.) with free movement and asks her students to add their own choreography to create sequences that the whole class then dances. Be sure your child has space to move freely.

For more information, call the library at 518-789-3340.

and artistic director. Tickets will be by donation. Attendees may purchase tickets online at www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-salon-performance-series-january-7th-2021-tickets-131489385291, via PayPal at www.paypal.me/markdegarmodance or via Venmo at Mark-DeGarmo-2.

The Zoom link will be sent to attendees at 4 p.m. the day of the performance. If a donation is made after that time, MDD staff will send the link via email as soon as possible.

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

New easy registration with Rec. Department

WASHINGTON — The Town of Washington (TOW) Recreation Department has a software program to make it easier to sign up for activities once the coronavirus pandemic has ended.

Residents will be able to go to www.towrecreation.com and click on the Create New Account link to open an account and gain easier access to program registration. Be sure to add all the members of the household into the account. Don't forget to enter a cell number with the carrier so the Recreation Department can text with any last-minute changes.

New household accounts will provide subscribers with registration history, financial history and much more.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Members of the 2019-20 Pine Plains varsity volleyball team celebrated another vigorous sports season in the Stissing Mountain High School gymnasium.

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

Remember

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

With thanks to those who serve.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

The Board of Trustees of the Evergreen Cemetery Inc. have scheduled a lot owners and general business meeting on December 19, 2020 at 9:00 am.

The meeting will be held at the American Legion Post #426 located at 9 North Main Street, Pine Plains, NY 12567.

12-10-20
12-17-20

Legal notice

Notice of formation of 6 WEST STREET PAWLING, LLC; Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State

of New York (SSNY) on 11/06/2020; Office located in Dutchess County; SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served; SSNY shall mail a copy of any such process served to: The LLC, 10 West Street, Pawling, NY 12589; Purpose is any lawful act or activity.

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This letter has been enclosed in print editions of The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News and on www.tricornernews.com for several weeks. We invite all our readers to continue to keep track of our progress and we will keep you updated regularly.

Can you imagine a world without your Lakeville Journal or Millerton News?

Dear Reader,

Late in 2019, we came to you, hat in hand, to share with you our story within the world of vanishing local journalism. You generously supported us, to date, in the amount of \$164,975 in what was known as the "Community Membership" model and will now be known as the "Community Contributor" model.

- Your generosity made up a deeply appreciated 39% of annual General Expenses from September of 2019.
- We are happy to have qualified for a PPP loan (which we will convert to a 'grant', having met the necessary criteria), in the amount of \$146,643, contributing 35% of General Expenses during this same period.
- As they experienced their own COVID-19 cash needs, our steadfast advertisers needed to scale back their commitments to us. Our advertising revenue has dropped over 30%.
- Effective October 15, 2020, we have raised the cost of the newspaper to two dollars, the first increase since 2003.

COVID-19 has awakened an awareness of the significance of our papers, as we seek information about our world. Thanks to our Community's generosity and the unwavering dedication of our fine Team, we were able to remain fully functional through this pandemic. We love our Community partnership. We will continue our work, with your kind respect and support.

— The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC

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PINE PLAINS/AREA

A glance through 250 million years of Hudson Valley history

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

PINE PLAINS — For all the lectures the Pine Plains Free Library has held to teach its patrons about the Hudson Valley, never before have they been taken on a tour of 250 million years' worth of history. Never, that is, until its most recent author talk featuring David Levine and his new book, "The Hudson Valley: The First 250 Million Years: A Mostly Chronological and Occasionally Personal His-

tory," on Thursday, Dec. 3. Held via Zoom due to the coronavirus pandemic, the author talk drew a handful of readers in attendance, and their interest in the discussion only grew with Library Assistant Alexis Tackett's introduction of Levine's book and research.

In his introductory remarks, Levine shared that he's been a writer since he took a college internship during President Jimmy Carter's administration at a weekly newspaper in Rochester, N.Y. Since his travels

to New York City, he's worked as a writer and editor and has freelanced during the years for publications such as The New York Times, Sports Illustrated, American Heritage and others.

Originally working as a sports journalist, Levine published six books on sports, some of which he wrote and some of which he co-wrote. Seeing as his last book was written 25 years ago, Levine said his recent book has been "a very fun experience... being between hardcovers again."

Levine said he started writing for Hudson Valley Magazine in 2007 as a regular contributor. In 2010, the magazine began a regular history column and offered Levine the job. Calling his decision to write the column "one of the best yes's I ever yes'd," Levine said he's had the pleasure of immersing himself in the history of a region he didn't know that much about.

From the dinosaurs that left their footprints and the glaciers that carved the lakes and hills of the Hudson Valley to the first people who settled here, Levine said through his research into 250 million years of history, he's learned that "the Hudson Valley has an amazing story to tell — stories — plural."

With 70 stories bound between the pages of his newest book, Levine was soon asking his audience a question for each chapter, testing their knowledge of the Hudson Valley in a kind of a "Hudson Valley Jeopardy."

For the chapter entitled "Jurassic Parkchester," he talked about the 1972 discovery of the first dinosaur fossils in Nyack Beach State in Rockland County, and how its footprints belonged to a type of lizard known as the Grallator.

Moving ahead 250 million years, he highlighted a few spots around the Hudson Valley where residents could find geological formations carved during the Ice Age, from the floor of glacial Lake Albany to the Pine Bush Preserve in Albany County.

Levine outlined the origins of the first people who discovered the Hudson Valley and how, upon settling in the valley, they named a river that reminded them of their original



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Author David Levine spoke about his book, "The Hudson Valley: The First 250 Million Years: A Mostly Chronological and Occasionally Personal History," via Zoom on Thursday, Dec. 3.

homeland Mahicannituck and called themselves the Muhheconneok, or the People of the Water That Are Never Still.

Over the next hour, readers listened intently as Levine shed light on stories related to the borders of the Oblong and how it was divided between New York State and Connecticut; a dinner party Alexander Hamilton attended in Albany; Benedict Arnold's downfall; the Hudson Valley's whaling heritage; how women's right activist Sojourner Truth got her start in Ulster County; and the story of "the picnic that won the war," where President Franklin D. Roosevelt invited King George VI and Queen Elizabeth to his home in Hyde Park and served them their first hot dogs.

MILLERTON IN BRIEF

Free Narcan training Dec. 15

Free Narcan Training will be provided on Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m. by Sun River Health (formerly Hudson River Health Care) through a Zoom meeting sponsored by the NorthEast-Miller-ton Library.

Narcan (Naloxone) is a medication that reverses an overdose by blocking heroin or other opioids in the brain for 30 to 90 minutes. The training will teach how Narcan works, what to do when there's an overdose and how and when to administer the medication. Participants will receive a FREE Narcan kit.

An RSVP is required at 518-789-3440 or www.nemillertonlibrary.org.

Holiday Fair

There's a great opportunity for safe holiday shopping after the NECC Farmers Market on Saturday, Dec. 12. NECC will clean up, sanitize and then re-open the space and at 3 p.m. Local paintings, pottery, jewelry, wreaths, garland, botanical pressings, dried flower arrangements and more will be for sale; there will be live music.

The sale will be downstairs at the Millerton Methodist Church, 6 Dutchess Ave, from 3 to 6 p.m.

Guidelines for social distancing and face masks will be enforced.

Email john@neccmillerton.org for details.

Stissing Center's new video series entertains during the pandemic

PINE PLAINS — For the latest installment in the nonprofit's "Video of the Week" series, The Stissing Center shined the spotlight on a performance by singer Chelsea Fingal DeSouza, with music by Sophia Zhou, on Monday, Nov. 16.

Each weekly installment in the Pine Plains performing arts center's newest series is meant to showcase diverse videos performed at, for or about The Stissing Center.

Accompanied by Zhou on the piano, DeSouza sang, "The Town is Lit," a song based on the words of author Toni Morrison, within The Center's completely redesigned performance space.

A video of DeSouza's and Zhou's performance can now be viewed online on the YouTube channel, "The Stissing Center." Viewers are invited to subscribe to the YouTube channel for more videos and to tune in each week for a brand new addition to the series.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Singer Chelsea Fingal DeSouza channeled the words of author Toni Morrison in her performance of the song, "The Town is Lit," for The Stissing Center's new "Video of the Week" series.

— Kaitlin Lyle

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REGIONAL INFORMATION



VISITORS WELCOME: to Christ Castle Church Sundays! 9 Granite Avenue, North Canaan, CT. 9 am, 1st service is Liturgical/Sacramental like Episcopalian. 10:15 am, 2nd service is Evangelical like Baptist.

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

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