LLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County and its Environs

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REGIONAL Recruiting in our schools A3



SPORTS Trinity Pawling tops Salisbury School A6

COMPASS Wreath workshops, and more **B1-5**

Last Minute toliday Shopping Special Banner, Page A7



From left, Laura, Marcia and Sharon Ferguson, Tom Babbitt, and (in front) Sandy Ferguson, pose in front of the Millerton Moviehouse — then called The Millerton Theater — in 1974.

When girls ran the Moviehouse

By NATALIA ZUKERMAN

nataliaz@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — The Moviehouse on Millerton's Main Street is iconic.

Built in 1903 and used briefly as a grange hall, it was soon converted into a movie theater with a secondfloor ballroom. Some know that it fell into disrepair in the 1970s before being bought and restored by Carol and Robert Sadlon in 1977.

Some fewer know that it was briefly a porn theatre. But it is a seldom told story that, for two years (the summers of 1974-1975), four teenaged sisters ran the movie theater.

The girls' father, M. Carr Ferguson, senior counsel in Davis Polk & Wardwell's tax department, was teaching at the University of Iowa in the early 1960s when he was offered a position at New York University Law School. His beloved late wife agreed to the move on one

condition: that they'd also have a place in the country.

One of their four daughters, Sharon, recalled: "Mom told me that she put a map out and placed a pin right where we lived. She then cut a string as long as what would have been 100 miles, and she just ran the string around. Anywhere within that space was okay. Turned out Lakeville was it!"

See MOVIEHOUSE, PAGE A8

Amenia Town Board delays action on affordable housing at Spruce Hill

By LEILA HAWKEN leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Based on opposition voiced by neighboring residents, the Amenia Town Board, at its meeting Thursday, Dec. 7, declined to move forward on a zone change request for the Spruce Hill neighborhood.

The zone change is being requested by Hudson River Housing (HRH) of Poughkeepsie in connection with an affordable housing project they have proposed for their 16-acre parcel at Spruce Hill; on Thursday, the Town Board declined to move the zone change request to the Planning Board for its consideration, effectively pausing the zone

change until "more information" could be gathered.

Mary Linge, HRH vice president for real estate development and home ownership, presented a brief overview of the project that HRH is proposing. The zone change would permit the multifamily units being proposed: preliminary plans for the Spruce Hill site include the building of seven affordable duplex units and one affordable sevenapartment building.

Attorney Ian MacDonald of Mackey, Butts and Whalen in Poughkeepsie, representing HRH, said that the affordable housing project would be "good for Amenia and all of Dutchess County."

One of the adjacent neigh-

bors, Salvatore La Rosa, voiced comments to the proposed zone change, indicating that he and his wife bought their home in 2022, expecting a quiet retirement in a scenic country setting.

La Rosa speculated that the recreational trail proposed by the developers would endanger the public because it would pass a former quarry that now contains a deep lake; that the entrance to the affordable housing complex, situated on a curve along Route 22, was dangerously sighted; that the common driveway to access Spruce Hill, which, according to current plans, would skirt La Rosa's

See HOUSING, PAGE A8

Nov. 7 election outcomes leave seats to fill

By CHRISTINE BATES Special to The Millerton News

DUTCHESS COUNTY — The **Dutchess County Board of Elec**tions posted certified results on its website on Friday, Dec. 8, the last possible day for votes to be certified under state election law.

There was no change to the final outcomes of close races in Pine Plains or Amenia from the initial unofficial results announced Nov. 10. The certified results also confirm that there is a town board seat to fill in both Amenia and North East.

In Amenia, incumbent Demo-

crat and longtime Town Board member Vicki Doyle lost her seat to newcomer Paul Winters by ten votes instead of eight votes.

Write-in results for Amenia town supervisor were revealed in the certification process with 122 votes for Munawar Ahmed, the candidate known for her "Anybody But Leo" signs. It is possible that the write-in votes she received affected the outcome of the supervisor race between Leo Blackman and incumbent Victoria Perotti, which Blackman won by 26 votes.

Ahmed commented: "I've had

See ELECTION, PAGE A2



Audrey Wagoner, left, and Athena Blue Marcos are constructing holiday carousels, a traditional decoration from Germany, at the NorthEast-Millerton Library.

A roundup of holidaytime kids' activities at your local library

By CAROL KNEELAND

Special to The Millerton News

DUTCHESS COUNTY - With children off from school and adults busy preparing for the holidays, the local libraries are providing fun activities and events, and - with most events, activities and supplies free of charge — a welcome respite from holiday commercialism.

In addition to their planned activities, libraries loan DVDs of

music and movies as well as books and magazines for all reading levels. Some libraries have also created packages that combine activities or props with appropriate books, and most have board games and

While library cards are generally not required for these events, they are free for residents. A library card makes a great stocking-stuffer for

See HOLIDAY, PAGE A8



CONTACT

The Millerton News

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Our Towns	A2-4
Obituaries	A4
Opinion	A5
Legal Notices	A6

-	Our Towns	A6-
-	Compass	B1-:
,	Classifieds	B
	Specialist Directory	Be

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Columns, Letter A5

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HVA tests Amenia surface water

By LEILA HAWKEN leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — A larger-thanusual attendance was noted at the public meeting of the Amenia Wastewater Committee on Thursday, Dec. 7, for a preliminary report on surface water quality tests conducted in selected town locations.

Tests from all sample sites indicated that contaminants, including ammonia, chlorine, laundry effluent and non-threatening levels of E. coli, are emanating from upstream flow, which could indicate failed or failing septic systems in the area.

Though the test results are still preliminary, confirmation of these results could demonstrate the town's need for a wastewater project, aiding the town in securing federal infrastructure funding for such a project.

Claire Wegh, who presented the report, is the manager of the Ten Mile River Watershed Association, part of the

Housatonic Valley Association (HVA).

The town had engaged with HVA to perform surface water testing to measure contaminants as an indicator of the condition of local residential and commercial septic systems, explained Wastewater Committee Chairman Charlie Miller, in its effort to prepare applications for wastewater project funding.

Samples taken from the middle of outfall streams, including next to the Town Hall and near Cumberland Farms, showed a variety of contaminants, including E. coli, ammonia, chlorine, and contaminants from laundry effluent (low concentrations of E. coli are common in surface water runoff and are not threatening).

Three sampling sessions have occurred so far in August, September and November. Three more are scheduled to begin in March, Wegh said. After the spring testing is completed and reported,

Wegh said, the next steps will involve mapping to identify the sources.

Miller said that the final HVA water quality testing report should be ready in May 2024.

Several residents offered comments, mostly concerned about the wastewater project as a whole. Lake Amenia Road residents expressed concerns about the possibility that the modern treatment facility might be located on land near their homes.

The proposed location,

Miller explained, is further southward, near the sheriff's office along Route 22.

Others sought information about the system installation itself, the wastewater district, and eventual cost, maintenance and funding.

At the Town Board meeting later that evening, Miller praised the number of residents who had attended the Wastewater Committee meeting, seeing their participation as valuable input. For more on the Town Board meeting, see article on page A1.



A P

Posting up at Post 178

Santa (Ed Watson) and Jane Rodd, 4-H program leader at Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County in Millbrook, attended the monthly pancake breakfast Sunday, Dec. 3, at American Legion Post 178 in Millerton.

ELECTION Continued from Page A1

many individuals walk up to me to let me know that they voted for me because I represent 'real change.' Republicans, Conservatives, Democrats, Independents, Working Family — these folks seemed spread across the political spectrum."

Blackman agreed: "It's unclear who voted for Ahmed. I'm not sure of her impact — some theorize she took liberal votes from me; others, MAGA votes from Victoria. With no polling, we really don't know."

In the Town of North East, the election for the two four-year term town board seats installed Lana Morrison (R) and Meg Winkler (D), who was not supposed to be on the ballot for that four-year seat, but for a different one.

The ballot errors caused the defeat of Republican Chris Mayville, who would have been running unopposed.

The one-year, unexpired term seat for which Winkler was running had no candidates listed on the ballot, and write-ins went to Winkler. Because she's accepted the four-year seat, the unexpired term seat is open for the board

The next step for Amenia and North East is for the town boards to invite anyone interested in serving to submit a letter and qualifications to their board. Board members will then interview prospective candidates and make recommendations to their respective board. Both town boards will vote on the position at their first regular meeting in January, Amenia's on Jan. 4 and North East's on Jan. 11.

In Amenia, two Democrats and two Republicans will decide who will fill the seat vacated by Leo Blackman when he was elected supervisor. It's possible they will choose to restore former Deputy Supervisor Vicki Doyle to the board.

Of herself, Ahmed said, "It is highly doubtful I will be nominated for a board seat."

Amenia Town Board member-elect Winters said "there are three requirements that I believe that any replacement would need: institutional

knowledge of how Amenia government works, knowledge of existing lawsuits, and the ability and want to represent the entire community equally.

"I have spoken with both Damian Gutierrez and Victoria Perotti and they have both agreed to step up and fill that position for one year and then step away to allow new candidates to run for the seat. I have not spoken directly with Mrs. Doyle about her willingness as she has not reached out to me."

While the North East Town Board could nominate Republican Chris Mayville to fill the one-year seat, Town Supervisor Chris Kennan indicated his intention to announce the vacancy, ask town residents interested in being appointed to the board to let him know, and to fill the seat at the first regular board meeting of 2024 on Thursday, Jan. 11.

Kennan also commented that he "would miss having John Midwood on the board, who has contributed to the board's work in many different ways over the past eight years that he has served as a councilman, in particular his work on making our board meetings more accessible to the public by livestreaming our board meetings, and updating the town's website."

In the Pine Plains race for town assessor, no candidates were listed on the ballot. Four different people received one write-in vote each, so there is no winner of that race.

The more than four weeks' delay in certification by the Dutchess County Board of Elections was the result of the many close races in Fishkill and Poughkeepsie. If the margin between two candidates is less than 20 votes or .5%, a hand count of the ballots is required before all final county results are certified.

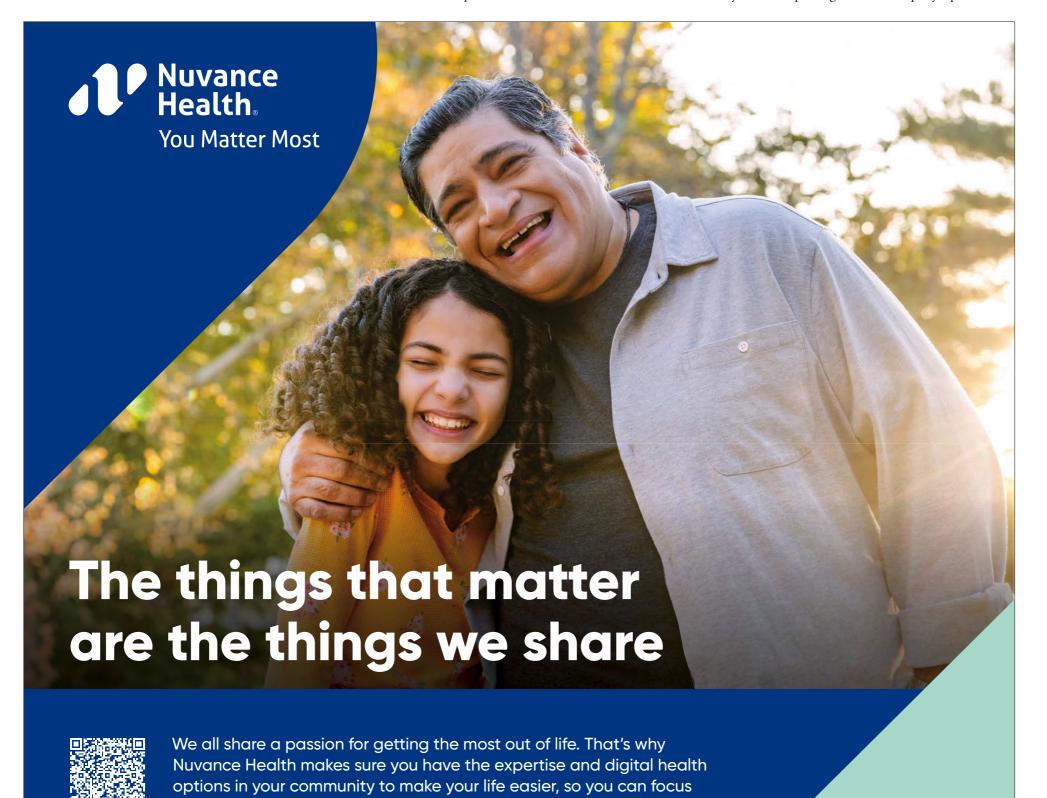
The hand count is conducted by a four-person team of two Democrats and two Republicans on the staff of the Board of Elections. One examines the ballot and calls out the winner while another watches, and one records the result while being observed by the other party representative.



PHOTO BY MAUD DOYLE

Potterheads

Helena Barnes and Angelina Benedetto of Sharon, Conn., selected ceramics by Claude Renaud at The Millerton News' first Winter Fair on Sunday, Dec. 10, at the Millerton United Methodist Church.



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As recruitment tanks, the military aims to put more young people in uniform

By DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

Special to The Millerton News

FALLS VILLAGE, Conn. — Earlier this month, a U.S. Air Force recruiter manned a cafeteria table at Housatonic Valley Regional High School (HVRHS).

Armed with swag and promotional pamphlets, he fielded questions from curious students and touted the merits of a military career.

Army recruiters also paid the school a visit in 2023, and a spokesman for the Marine Corps said the Region One school is due for a visit from its local recruiter soon.

"When the military comes, they are very well received," said Kirin Terni, HVRHS' college and career center coordinator. "The students seem engaged" in conversations with the uniformed visitors, she said, adding, "We are very open to any career paths they consider."

While it is not unusual for representatives of all the major branches of the Armed Forces to visit high school students throughout the school year, the pressure is mounting for recruiters to put more young people in uniform.

Except for the Marine Corps, all major branches of the military missed their recruitment goals in 2023, making it the worst recruiting year since the institution of the all-volunteer force in 1973, according to local recruiters.

Simply put, the U.S. military is in a war for talent.

A number of factors are causing young people to shun Uncle Sam, said military of-

To name a few: A hot job market; increased competition from the state's community colleges, which are offering free tuition; fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic shutdowns, which, for two years, prevented face-to-face contact with the public; and escalating global conflicts.

"There are a lot of programs helping students get into the workplace where they qualify for immediate employment" in addition to lofty bonuses and on-the-job training, noted HVRHS Principal Ian Strevor.

According to Defense Department polling data, when asked, only 9% of Americans expressed a willingness to serve in the military. Meanwhile, the number of people eligible for service has dropped to 23%, due largely to obesity and low test scores.

To solve the recruiting crisis, it is essential to bridge the gap between the military and the public, said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Kimberly Nagle, the marketing NCO in charge of the 319th Reservists Squadron, which oversees recruitment in the New England states.

She cited differences between the Gen Z population, who are the right age but un-



Airman Basic Isabella Hartley, a recruiter for the Air Force, during a late November visit to Housatonic Valley Regional High School.

interested in enlisting, and previous generations, which were more familiar with and supportive of the military.

"We're hitting social media to get the word out, giving bonuses quarterly and we're pushing out the Space Force," said Nagle. "That's our shiny, new tool" and has generated "a lot of interest. We're feeling confident heading into 2024 and want to do everything we can to keep our Air Force running efficiently."

In an effort to target Gen Z, the Navy recently introduced its new ad campaign, "Forged by the Sea," featuring videos of soldiers explaining why they chose to enlist.

According to recruiters, a young person is more likely to enlist if they come from a family of military veterans.

Recruiters are most effective when they have "boots on the ground," meeting faceto-face in local communities, which, until recently was limited, said Capt. Matthew Sims, Future Ops OIC, who oversees the Army's Northeast Battalion headquarters covering the Hudson Valley up to Albany, New York, plus Connecticut,

Vermont and Massachusetts. Earlier this year, all major branches of the military were represented at a job fair sponsored by the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce, including recruiters from the Armed Forces Military Recruitment Depot in Torrington. Their tables were popular with the attendees.

"People are very respectful and honorable, and I think our country still believes in the military, but there is a lack of understanding of how differentiated opportunities are," said Sims. He said that while the enticements from, say, a fast food chain might look good on the surface, young people fail to compare it to what the military can offer.

"They don't think of the opportunities for upward mobility, career satisfaction and benefits, that are basically unparalleled," said Sims. "The Army is taking steps to communicate that through the 'Be All You Can Be' campaign."

He compared roles within the military to professional sports. "You need equipment managers, coaches, physical therapists, engineers, medics [...] to support our combat arms athletes in the field."

Sims, who enlisted as a medic out of high school and worked his way up the ranks, noted that "people do come in with concerns" about the possibility of deployment to a war zone.

"It is a commitment, and the possibility of seeing combat," even if a chosen career does not necessarily involve the front lines, is made very clear to recruits and their families, said Sims. "When you raise your right hand, it is because you're willing to go to conflict areas."

According to a fall 2022 poll of youth ages 16-21 conducted by the Department of Defense, physical and emotional trauma (70% and 65% respectively) are the most common reasons for not considering joining the military, followed by leaving family and friends (58%), other career interests (46%), and dislike of military lifestyle (40%).

On average, one or two HVRHS students per graduating class enlist in the military, according to Terni.

"We had two or three sign up a couple of years ago, but that was an anomaly," she explained. "Since the pandemic, a student's plan for the future has become more ambiguous between the family's decision and the student's. It's not as clear now."

SHERIFF'S REPORT

The following information was provided by the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office as the Harlem Valley area activity report for Nov. 30 - Dec. 6.

Dec. 1 — Deputies responded to Coleman Station Road near the rail trail in the Town of North East to investigate a one-car property damage automobile accident. Investigation resulted in the arrest of Edwin Macas, 43, for driving while intoxicated. Subject to appear in the Town of North East Court at a later date.

Dec. 6 — Deputies responded to 5263 Route 22 in the Town of Amenia for a report of a dog that was struck and killed by an unknown red passenger vehicle, which then subsequently fled the scene. Investigation ongoing at this time.

If you have any information relative to the aforementioned cases or any other suspected criminal activity, please contact the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office tip line at 845-605-CLUE (2583) or email dcsotips@gmail. com. All information will be kept confidential.

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

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The Lakeville Journal **FOUNDATION**

Dear Friends and Readers,

There is GOOD NEWS to report about The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News! We have added more journalists to our staff, expanded our news coverage and we are about to launch new websites for both papers with seven-day-a-week news coverage.

Like many newspapers across the country, we face financial pressures that threaten our ability to continue this vital work. Even after a successful matching campaign, we still need your help. As a non-profit news organization, we must close the gap between what we earn by selling newspapers and ads and our operating expenses. That's why we are reaching out to you, our loyal readers and community members.

The papers led the way this year in reporting on important issues to our community: Sharon Hospital, affordable housing, and environmental challenges to our lakes and state parks. And, of course, we remain the place to catch up on the police blotter, town meetings, local elections, local sports, festivals, movies, and the latest bear and wildlife sightings.

Since The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News were converted to non-profit status last year, you have kept us in business with your generous contributions. We are asking you once again to consider a tax-deductible contribution as part of your year-end giving. Every donation goes to support our journalists and the mission to deliver the stories that matter to you.

To donate, please visit www.tricornernews.com/contribute or fill out the form below and mail a check. For information on donating shares of stock, please email donation@lakevillejournal.com.

Thank you for your continued support!

Nomen Doyle

Noreen Doyle, Chair

Susan Hassler, CEO, publisher

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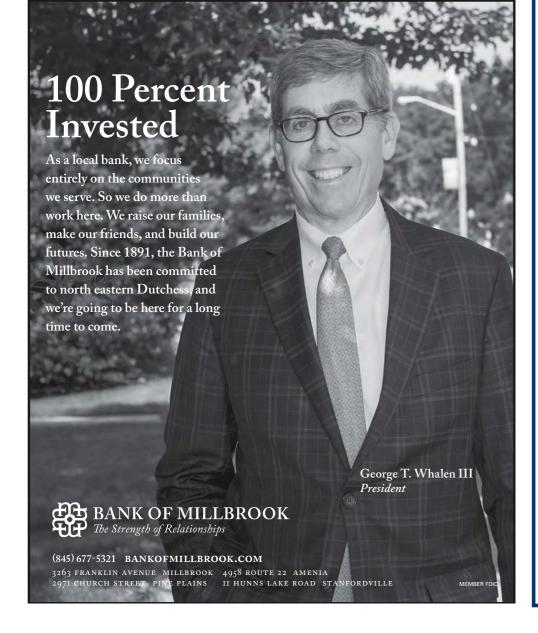
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Millerton News





The annual Town of Washington gingerbread house decorating competition took place at the Millbrook Firehouse on Friday, Dec. 8.

Gingerbread House decorators meet Santa

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK - More than 50 people gathered at the Millbrook Firehouse on Friday, Dec. 8, to meet Santa, have snacks and compete in a gingerbread house-decorating contest.

People of all ages gathered and designed the houses while Santa, aka Tony DeBonis, walked around, asking who'd been good, who'd been bad, and who wanted a picture with Santa.

The houses were provided, along with the icing to hold them together. Candy was brought in by the decorators, and the competition was for the Best Themed, the Most Traditional and the Most Original.

The winners were Oona Glasson, Most Traditional; Giulietta LaButa, Best Themed; and Miranda Moffitt, Most Original. Each was awarded with a jar of treats and a gingerbread house rep-

Houses could also be ordered for decorating at home; 92 were purchased in all. The event was sponsored by the Town of Washington Recreation Department.



Attendees ranked their favorite trees, each decorated by local merchants and organizations, from 1 to 10 at Town of Washington's first Festival of Trees on Dec. 2.

Millbrook's first Festival of Trees a success

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Those who stopped by the Town of Washington Park Recreation Center on the evening of Saturday, Dec. 2 found 10 Christmas trees decorated by local businesses and organizations

competing for votes. Opening the event was a performance by the choir singers of Alden Elementary School's third grade, led by Katherine Wimmers Donaghey; they sang holiday songs against the backdrop of a gingerbread village.

Christmas music persisted in the background throughout the festivities. There were holiday craft projects, hot cocoa, cookies, cupcakes and other treats. Each person got a pen and a ballot with a list of trees.

Reardon Briggs had a tree decorated with paintbrushes, paint swatches and measuring tape; Merritt Books' tree was book-themed; the Millbrook Early Childhood Education Center's featured ornaments handmade by children; Babette's Kitchen's had cookie cutters and coffee containers.

boutique gift shop on Franklin Avenue, for a classic red and white Christmas tree.

The event's success prompted discussion of having trees for residents to decorate next year, and possibly a second day to the event as well. Town recreation director Danielle Scalewicz said that next year, "I'm hoping to have the whole park lit up so people can walk around outside and enjoy the display."

The winner was Juniper, a

ing the sap boiling

Joseph Schaefer

NORTH CANAAN - On friends and family, much

Nov. 24, 2023, Joseph Schaefer, to the chagrin of his wife

known affection-

ately to his loved

ones as "Papa," en-

tered into eternal

first chapter of his

life as a Roman

Catholic priest for

almost 20 years,

taking pride in

grandchildren.

ing the priesthood.

guiding his community. Soon

after, he fell in love with his

best friend and partner Joan,

the woman who would help

him write the next and best

chapter. Together, they raised

three children, as well as four

Joe started working for the

City of West Haven for almost

30 years, continuing to serve

his community even after leav-

Joe was a man of many in-

terests, but he loved nothing

more than his family. From

personally curating antique

collections for each of his chil-

dren to teaching his grandchil-

dren how to body surf in the

Rhode Island waves, he was

always looking for ways to

share his passions and wisdom

with those who were special

to him. He also loved to put a

smile on the face of everyone

around him, especially those of

his grandchildren. There are

only so many times you can

consecutively put a whoopie

cushion on someone's chair

before they catch on, but Joe

always let the kids think that

they had tricked him yet again.

sian immigrant (he was not,

but he certainly fooled every-

one at Saint Clare church in

Misquamicut into thinking

so during one church service).

lector, specializing in clocks.

He frequented clock shows as

often as he could until he was

no longer able to travel for

them. Each winter, he loved

to make maple syrup for his

Joe was an avid antique col-

Joe was also a proud Rus-

He began the

whose kitchen he monopolized durprocess. Joe would always keep a sharp eye out for good maple trees during this time, even going as far as to ask permission from friends and strang-

OBITUARIES

ers alike to tap their trees with the promise of a fresh bottle of syrup in return.

One constant throughout Joe's life was his love for humanity and his sense of justice. He frequently partook in volunteerism and protests and always endeavored to make the world a better place in any way that he could. He used his affinity for languages to expand his efforts to many people, with a special focus on the Spanish-speaking community. It was important to Joe to spread love and care to all, and to make everyone feel at-home around him. He was always proud to do good in the world, and leaves behind a legacy of honor, kindness, and selfless love.

Joe is survived by his son Matthew (Patrizia) Schaefer of Wallingford; daughter Carol (Collin) Bradt of Fort Meyers, Florida; and son Michael (Stacey) Montanaro of North Haven; as well as four grandchildren: Michael Montanaro Jr., Francesca Zuppardi, Christian Schaefer, and Aidan Schaefer. He was preceded in death by his parents George and Ana (McCaffrey) Schaefer; his beloved wife Joan (Zito) Schaefer; and brother George and sister Mary Schaefer.

Calling hours were held Sunday, Dec. 10, from 3 to 6 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated in St. Martin of Tours Parish, St. Joseph Church of Canaan, Connecticut, on Monday, Dec. 11, at 10 a.m.

Nancy Lou Ann Gandolfo

Nancy Lou Ann Gandolfo The Canaan National Bank for

passed peacefully in her sleep Nov. 16, 2023. God rest her soul

I'll remember her as a strong, independent, loving woman who was dedicated to her family. My momma has always been my hero and I her

champion. Coming up from humble roots, the daughter of John and Amelia Pezze, she spent much of her adult life building community.

Heavily involved in local politics in North Canaan, including elected Select Person, Registrar, Democratic Committee member, she served as the secretary for the Northwest Connecticut Rod and Gun Club for over forty years. As an outdoorsman and naturalist, she loved nature and promoted conservation. Professionally

NORTH CANAAN — my mother was employed by

many years and retired as the housing manager for Station Place in North Canaan where she made her mark with integrity.

Her presence is sorely missed in our lives but her spirit lives on all around us. She is

resting in solitude high upon a mountaintop overlooking the Salmon River at The Rockin' J Ranch in Eastern Idaho.

My mother wished that donations be made directly to The Sharon Audubon Society in her honor. "Uva Uvam Vivendo Varia Fit.'

She is survived by Jason "Jake" Gandolfo, Mario Louis Gandolfo Jr., Nanette Van Patten-Hardy-Timmins, Jack Timmins, Rebecca Hardy, Leah Alexander and Brynn

Wilmer Clayton McCauley III

MILLERTON — Wilmer Clayton McCauley III, 62, a lifelong resident of Millerton, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2023, at his home in Millerton.

Mr. McCauley worked as a professional landscaper and gardener at the Salisbury Garden Center in Salisbury for over 40 years. In his younger years he lived and worked on the Frank Perotti Farm on Silver Mountain in Millerton with his family.

Born April 15, 1961, in Sharon, he was the son of the late Wilmer Clayton "Sonny" and Patricia (Palmer) McCauley, Jr. Mr. McCauley attended Webutuck School and was a junior varsity basketball coach at Pine Plains High School for several years. He also enjoyed watching the Dallas Cowboys and the Boston Red Sox in his spare time. He will be dearly missed by all.

Mr. McCauley is survived by his brother, Ronald R. McCauley of Millerton; two nieces, Patricia and Amber; three nephews, Christopher, Zane and Ethan and his dear friends, Wayne and Dawn Conklin of Claverack, New

There are no calling hours. Funeral services will be private. To send an online condolence to the family or plant a tree in Wilmer's honor please visit www.conklinfuneralhome. com. Memorial contributions may be made to North East Baptist Church, 1 Maple Ave., Millerton, NY 12546. Arrangements have been entrusted to the Scott D. Conklin Funeral Home, 37 Park Ave., Millerton, NY 12546.

Email obituaries to johnc@millertonnews.com



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

Christ Church Episcopal in Sharon

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

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SUNDAY SERVICE 10:00 a.m. Eucharist with music (Rite II)

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The Lakeville United Methodist Church 319 Main St., Lakeville, CT 06039

9:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Open Hearts - Open Minds - Open Doors The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphouse 860-435-9496

Lakevillemethodist@snet.net **Methodist Church**

112 Upper Main Steet, North End of Sharon Green Touching Lives - Lifting Spirits 10:30 a.m. Worship Service, Nursery Care No Sunday School in Summer The Rev. Dr. Anna C. Camphous sharonumc5634@att.net

Falls Village Congregational Church 16 Beebe Hill Road, Falls Village 10:00 a.m. Family Worship

Coffee Hour A Friendly Church with 860-824-0194

The Smithfield Presbyterian Church 656 Smithfield Valley Rd. Route 83, Amenia, NY

Services every Sunday 10 a.m. www.thesmithfieldchurch.org 21st Century Theology

Canaan United Methodist Church

2 Church St., Rte 44, Canaan, CT 11 a.m. Worship Service "Open Hearts – Open Minds – Open Doors Rev. Lee Gangaware 860-824-5534 canaanct-umc.com canaanctumc@gmail.com We hope you will join us!

The Chapel of All Saints,

Holy Eucharist: Sundays at 9 a.m. Trinity Retreat Center Chapel Lower Řiver Road, West Cornwali

Congregation Beth David 3344 East Main St., Amenia SERVICES SATURDAY 10:30 AM Twice Monthly • Followed by Ones (Calendar at congbethdavid.org) ALL ARE WELCOME

845-373-8264 info@congbethdavid.org

All Saints of America Orthodox Christian Church 313 Twin Lakes Rd., Salisbury, CT Vespers Saturday at 5:00 P.M. Divine Liturgy Sunday at 9:30 A.M. Special Services Online

860-824-1340 | allsaintsofamerica.us **Millerton United Methodist Church** 6 Dutchess Avenue, P.O. Box 812

Rev. John Kreta

Millerton, NY 12546 Services on the 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10:00 A.M. 518-789-3138

The Congregational Church of Salisbury, U.C.C.

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

> St. Thomas Episcopal Church 40 Leedsville Road

Amenia Union, NY SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 IN-PERSON AND ONLINE Visit our website for links **Rev. AJ Stack** 845-373-9161 www.stthomasamenia.com
A Community of Radical Hospitality

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

(860) 435-2627 Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT

Cobble Living Room, Noble Horizons The next meeting will be Sunday, January 14 at 10:30 a.m. For information, contact Jo Loi at jokiauloi@gmail.com All are Welcome

Chabad of Northwest CT On The Green 69 West St. Litchfield, CT 06759

Childrens Camp | Shabbat Services Hebrew School | Cteen | YJP Judaism With A Smile! chabadNW.org 860.567.3377 | office@chabadNW.org

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4 North Street, Norfolk St. Joseph, 4 Main Street, Canaan

St. Mary, 76 Sharon Road, Lakeville MASS SCHEDULE Saturday Vigil 4 pm, St. Joseph Church Sunday 9 am, Church of St. Mary Sunday 11 a.m., Immaculate Conception Church DAILY MASS SCHEDULE Wednesday 6pm St. Joseph Chapel or Church Thursday 8am Immaculate Concention Church Friday 8am Church of St. Mary ALL ARE WELCOME!

For information, please call 860-824-7078 **UCC in CORNWALL**

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Warm Fellowship following Worship 860-672-6840 FB - UCC in Cornwall Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller, Minister Welcoming all - including the

LGBTQ Community **Sharon Congregational** Sunday Service 10:30 a.m.

Visit our website sharoncongregationalchurch.org for Sunday services Contact us at 860-364-5002 or

nfo@sharoncongregationalchurch.org

Promised Land Baptist Church

29 Granite Ave., Canaan, CT Where you will find: A Warm Welcome Helpful Bible Messages, A Place to Grow Sunday School - 10am Sunday Worship - 11am Wednesday Bible Study and Prayer Meeting — 7PM (860) 824-5685 VISITORS WELCOME! www.promisedlandbaptist.org



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Millerton, NY MILLERTON SERVICE CENTER





THE MILLERTON NEWS

EDITORIAL PAGE A5

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2023

EDITORIAL

Winter Solstice

e are about one week away from that planetary orbital reality, the winter solstice. As happens every day, the sun appears in the east and sets in the west. We can count on that. The observed path of the Sun crossing the sky is a result of the Earth turning on its axis. The Earth's axis tilt is what gives us seasons of the year, and the winter solstice for us in the Northern Hemisphere marks the time when our planet's pole reaches maximum tilt away from the sun. It marks the shortest day of the year north of the equator, and the beginning of longer days to come.

That event this year will occur Dec. 21, when we'll experience seven hours and 14 minutes of daylight. At 10:27 p.m. EST, Earth's axis will be titled the farthest away from the sun.

Down through the ages, the winter solstice has given rise to countless festivals and celebrations, as well as a host of myths, superstitions, supernatural explanations and religious beliefs. Old traditions surrounding the solstice, especially festivals of light, have continued in altered forms today, including Christmas and Hanukkah, honoring the ancient notion of the "return of the sun." Brittanica lists a half dozen solstice traditions still honored today across the world.

A common thread running through the traditions that mark the seasonal change — the established rhythm of life on our planet — is a celebration of community. It is a time when people come together, gathering to sing carols on doorsteps or to encircle a tree as it is lighted on a town green.

Driving along our roads after dark these days is a visual feast of colored lights and decorations — lights outlining houses and rooflines, and trace the gestures of bare trees; lantern-like Santa balloons bob in front yards; menorahs, reindeer, Grinches and sleighs beckon memories of childhood, and for children, fuel imaginations.

In community after community, people come together and connect on common ground, even as the nation grows more polarized than ever. America's partisan divide continues to widen on issues such as gun control, abortion, global warming, conflicts abroad, immigration, education and the role of the federal government, to name a few.

While as a people we may struggle to agree on political, cultural and other matters of society, it is an indisputable fact that the Earth rotates around the sun and that on Dec. 21 at 10:27 p.m. EST, the Earth's axis will be tilted the farthest away from the sun. This celestial event is one that we share, just like the town holiday parades over the past few weeks and the roadside holiday decorations that make the season bright, appealing to us with a warm and sometimes whimsical spirit of community and meaning.

Let's welcome the winter solstice.



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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The season of goodwill - thanking a community

As the weather cools quickly at this time, and we accelerate toward the yearend, we celebrate the holidays, and hope to negotiate around snow storms and work, while clicking on the computer to get those packages shipped in time, and the treats ready to share with family and friends. All of which takes a commu-

Thinking back to earlier times, some of the mainstays of communities, especially small towns such as ours, were the people who live and work around us, who are often our friends and neighbors. That has changed little.

The foundations of our communities are the local residents, particularly those who share their skills and time to work in local areas, often providing the dedicated and key roles we rely on.

Especially at this time of year, let's appreciate and give a thank-you, to everyone who works long hours, sometimes in bad weather or away from their families, to deliver our mail, and massive numbers of packages.

Let's recognize all the larger, and small business owners and workers.

The health care workers and emergency care provid-

The farmers and growers. The power and utility pro-

The teachers, educators, and support workers.

The local service providers like waste collection, gas stations, tow services, and plow drivers.

Local government and elected officials.

Religious organizations. Our volunteer services,

and paid services of fire protection, and law enforcement.

Not to forget all of the nonprofit foundations and organizations who work hard to support our communities and fill much needed roles. including our local news and media.

[I apologize for any omissions to this list!].

If any of these people were not there, our lives would be much harder!

Please join me in taking

time to thank any of these folks as you see them around this season.

It is probably their busy season, but they do their jobs all year. Now is just a good time to say thanks!

If you get an odd parcel delivered to the wrong address, or mail runs a little late, please give the carriers a break! It will turn up. Going on local social media and having a rant is not helpful or nice.

I am submitting this letter to our local newspaper, but feel free to share it on your social media post if you wish.

Happy Holidays to everyone.

Wassaic

Andy Durbridge

An optimal return from the hospital means not going back

hospital trip for a medical emergency may save a life, but do you or the person you care for want to repeat the experience? Probably not. That's why OFA wants to make an older adult's return home from the hospital less challenging, to break the pattern of return hospital trips.

The Office for the Aging coordinates with care teams at local hospitals, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities and urgent care centers to reduce the risk of

wish all you patriotic Vet-

eran's Corner followers

and your families a very,

very Merry Christmas. As you

sit down to Christmas dinner

please reserve a little heartfelt

thank-you to those nostalgic

individuals serving their

country who won't be sitting

down with family and loved

ones. They will improvise

their celebrating depending

on conditions and duty sta-

tions whether it be shipboard,

Be assured the military

will move Heaven and Earth

to provide them all a sumptu-

ous Christmas dinner even if

it involves delivery to a COP

(combat out-post) under en-

emy fire. They will celebrate

but their hearts and souls will

be with Christmas meals past.

airborne or land-based.

Homes away from

home at Christmas

GOLDEN LIVING Todd N. Tancredi

return hospital trips.

Regardless of whether your hospital visit was planned or not, these four steps can help improve the likelihood of successful re-

1) Measure your risk: Older adults and their caregivers can advocate for them-

VETERAN'S

Larry Conklin

live in a free country.

They are the reason we still

and our military a special Mer-

ry Christmas and thank-vou

to our Millerton News editor

John for providing me a plat-

form to represent us. God bless

you all and to all a Good Night.

Till next month and next year.

Larry Conklin is a Vietnam

veteran and a member of both

the Millerton American Legion

Post 178 and the VFW Post 6851

in North Canaan, Conn.

Town of North East resident

On behalf of we veterans

CORNER

selves simply by asking about the risk for repeat hospital visits. Health care professionals use tools to identify which older adults are most likely to return to an emergency department after leaving the hospital.

2) Have a care plan ready before discharge time: Don't go home from the hospital without asking health care providers about what kind of plan will meet an older adult's unique needs as they continue their recovery. The Office for the Aging can be a key part of planning a successful recovery by working with hospital care teams. Since beginning this effort in 2019, more Dutchess older adults have sought out OFA services for just this reason. It's a trend we expect will continue in 2024.

3) Listen to that wakeup call: In the case of an unplanned hospital visit, a combination of lifestyle factors and undiagnosed ailments may have led to an older adult's current situation. It's never too late to quit smoking, improve diet and exercise, and eliminate other substance use to improve your quality of life and reduce repeat hospital trips. OFA's website (www.dutchessny. gov/aging) has plenty of tips available in our "Nutrition Services" and "Health and Wellness" sections to find out more.

4) Get the pharmacist in the mix: Anybody taking multiple medications is at risk of drug interactions that lead to serious side effects, especially as they age. The phenomenon is called "polypharmacy." To prevent it, a pharmacist can review medications and help align

timing and dosage for desired effectiveness. If a change in medications is ordered, OFA can direct you to local resources where you can safely dispose of medications that are no longer needed. There's a list of local law enforcement agencies that operate safe-disposal facilities at dutchessny.gov/aging. For homebound individuals and their caregivers, Deterra brand drug disposal kits are available while supplies last at OFA Friendship Centers throughout the county. The kits cannot be mailed. Please call a Friendship Center to arrange a suitable pickup time.

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

THE MILLERTON NEWS

(USPS 384600)

An Independent New York Newspaper

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(Webutuck) Central School District and Millbrook Central School District
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Mission Statement The Lakeville Journal Company, Publishers of

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

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In Appreciation **Publisher Emeritus**

PHOTO BY JOHN COSTON

Alight in the dark



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Journal Company, LLC, PO Box 1688, Lakeville, Connecticut 06039-1688

Trinity Pawling tops Salisbury 78-57

By RILEY KLEIN rileyk@lakevillejournal.com

SALISBURY, Conn. -Trinity Pawling School basketball rolled to a 78-57 win over Salisbury School on Saturday, Dec. 9.

Salisbury School kept even with the Lions for most of the first half, but the Pride ran away with it in the second.

Having started the season with four losses, the Knights looked determined to right the ship in front of a home crowd. The Knights played TP even at the start, tripping up the Lions with zone defense and forcing several turnovers.

Salisbury pulled ahead 21-20 midway through the first when Chris Redhead lobbed an alley-oop to Bailey Coleman. It would be their only lead of the night.

Just before halftime, TP caught wind and scored eight unanswered points. By the break, the Lions led 40-30.

Salisbury's lack of reserve players added to the pressure of the starters, who appeared to be running on fumes after a physical first half. TP kept adding to its double-digit lead as tensions rose on the court.

With about two minutes to play, Redhead exchanged words with Trinity Pawling forward Benedek Maly. The scuffle resulted in a shove



Aaron Muhikwa of Trinity Pawling rose above the competition when the Lions faced Salisbury School's Knights in Salisbury, Conn., on Saturday, Dec. 9.

from Redhead and an immediate ejection by the refs.

The game concluded 78-57 in favor of Trinity Pawling. The Lions were led in scoring by Jaice Martabano with 27 points. Salisbury's top scorer was Bailey Coleman with 20

7. Clothing

brand

8. Dishwasher detergent

9. Former French republic

14. Men's fashion accessory

13. Single lens reflex

20. __ up: intensifies

27. People of southern

28. Decorate a cake with

31. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)

32. Records brain activity

33. Car mechanics group

37. Brought up to snuff

38. __ faire: Economic

39. Phil ___, former CIA

22. Body of water

17. Consumed

18. Marry

Benin

frosting

(abbr.)

approach

40. Affixed

Sudoku

29. Snag

points including a pair of colossal dunks.

Salisbury moved to 0-5 on the season while Trinity Pawling advanced to 2-1.

The Knights will play the Lions once again in Pawling on Jan. 6. Tip off at 4 p.m.

41. Period of adolescence

44. Baked without its shell

47. Parts per billion

42. Substance

43. Danced

(abbr.)

48. Satisfaction

58. Swiss river

Dec. 7 Solution

49. Balkans river

51. Christmas carols

52. Partner to tonic

53. "The Godfather"

character Johnny

Recent property sales in the Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook

The Millerton News will periodically publish a listing of residential real estate sales in eastern Dutchess County and adjacent towns.

Actual October sales of single-family homes and land in the Town of Washington show the market demand for more modest houses with all closings recorded at below \$400,000.

Meanwhile, properties listed at over \$1 million continue to be added to Washington's inventory of 23 residences for sale; only three are listed below that number.

The most expensive piece of property sold in October was in the Village of Millbrook, where 3318 Franklin Ave. changed hands in a private transaction for \$1,127,500. In the last 10 years, only two single-family residences have sold at a higher price. In the village, there are only three houses are currently listed for sale and none are below \$500,000.

Town of Washington, October 2023

Jameson Hill Road, a rural vacant lot of 10.19 acres, sold for \$162,500

5013 Route 82, a 3-bedroom, 1.5-bath house on 6.8 acres, sold for \$180,000

5003 Route 82, a 3-bed-



This village property at 3318 Franklin Ave. sold for \$1,127,500 in October and has two residential units on .31 acres. It was last sold for \$425,000 in January 2018.

room, 2-bath house on 9.9 acres in two parcels, sold for \$325,000

256 Hammond Hill Road, a 3-bedroom, 2-bath house in the Dover school district, sold for \$395,000

Village of Millbrook, October 2023

3318 Franklin Ave., a 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom house in the center of the village, sold for \$1,127,500

Town of Washington and Village of Millbrook real estate sales recorded as sold between Oct. 1 and Oct. 31, 2023, sourced from Dutchess County Real Property Tax Service Agency. Information on active listings taken from Mid-Hudson MLS. Property details on 3318 Franklin from **Dutchess Parcel Access.**

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

COMING SOON!

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LEGAL NOTICES

Brain Teasers

- **CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Mimic
- 4. Payroll firm 7. Perform in a play
- 10. Opine: philosophical
- 11. Crony 12. Political action
- committee
- 13. 1991 Wimbledon winner
- 15. Affirmative 16. Exclamation of
- disgust
- 21. A way to calm
- 23. Especially fine or
- decorative clothing 24. Walked proudly
- 25. Group of people related through male
- 26. Supplemented with
- difficulty
- 27. Soft touch
- 30. Erases 34. Spanish river
- 35. A princess can detect
- 36. Clouds of gas
- 41. A way to get through
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. Southwestern US state
- 47. Fields where rice is
- grown 50. Area in Ghana
- 54. Sayings
- 55. Involve deeply
- 56. Compels to act
- 57. "Ignore all rules"
- 59. Indoor entertainment space
- 60. Born of
- 61. Back muscle 62. Sea dweller
- 63. Tools that resemble an axe
- 64. Prefix denoting class or kind
- 65. Tooth caregiver

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Inspiring
- 2. Put into a box
- 3. Breathes out
- 4. Pacify
- 5. Patriotic society for women 6. Fell down
- 9 6 2 8 4 9 5

5

	Dec. 7 Solution									
- 1	П				_		_	_		_
1		8	9	7	4	6	3	5	1	2
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٦		4	2	1	8	7	5	3	9	6
		7	5	9	6	3	1	4	2	8
		3	8	6	9	4	2	7	5	1
Ц		1	4	2	3	9	6	8	7	5
		6	3	8	5	1	7	2	4	9
		9	7	5	2	8	4	1	6	3

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Legal Notice

Hazy Rafa LLC filed Articles of Organization with the NY Department of State on November 14, 2023. Its office is located in Dutchess County. The Secretary of State has been designated as agent of the Company upon whom process against it may be served, and a copy of any process shall be mailed to 55 Locust Grove Road, Apt 1, Rhinebeck, NY 12572. Its purpose is any lawful business.

12-07-23 12-14-23 12-21-23

12-28-23

01-04-24

01-11-24

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of a Limited Liability Company (LLC). The name of the LLC is:LQPCONSULTING,LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) office on: November 1, 2023. The County in which the Office is to be located: DUTCHESS. The SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: 20 LINDEN COURT, MILLBROOK, NY 12545. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

11-23-23 11-30-23 12-07-23 12-14-23 12-21-23 12-28-23

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, on Thursday, December 21, 2023 at 7:00 PM, or soon thereafter as possible, in the Town Hall, 19 North Maple Avenue, Millerton, New York, on the application of Edmond

G. Loedy Architecture P.C., representing Angela and Jeffrey Reynar, owners of tax parcel # 7070-00-250935-0000, for variances of Sections 180-14D, 1 and 6 of the Zoning Law of the Town of North East, requesting reductions in the required side yard setbacks of 50 feet from the side property lines in order to enlarge an existing front entryway to an existing non-conforming one-family residence. The parcel is located at 58 Tripp Road in the A5A Zoning District of the Town of North East.

The above application is open for inspection at the Town Hall.

Persons wishing to appear at such hearing may do so in person or by attorney or other representative. Communications in writing relating thereto may be filed with the Board at such hearing.

Julie Schroeder Chair, North East Zoning Board of Appeals 12-14-23

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Intricate Carpentry, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/13/23. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brandon Smith 124 Sharon Road, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

11-30-23 12-07-23 12-14-23 12-21-21 12-28-23 01-04-23

Legal Notice

Please take notice that the organizational meeting for the Pine Plains Fire District of the Town of Pine Plains, County of Dutchess, New York, will be held on the 3rd day of January, 2024, at 7 o'clock P.M. on that day at the firehouse, 7 Lake Road, Pine Plains, NY.

By order of the Board of

Fire Commissioners of the Pine Plains Fire District.

12-14-23

LEGAL NOTICE West Main Street Apartments LLC Articles of Org. filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) 5/30/2023. Office located in Dutchess Co. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Ave, Suite 202, Brooklyn NY 11228.

Purpose: any lawful activity. 12-14-23 12-21-23 12-28-23

01-04-24

01-11-24 01-18-24

TOWN OF PINE PLAINS DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held by the Town of Pine Plains Zoning Board of Appeals on the 19th day of December 2023 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199, Pine Plains, New York, for the purpose of hearing all persons for or against the area variance application submitted by Elaine and Amber Rennie for property located at 17 Hammertown Road, Town of Pine Plains, Dutchess County, Tax Map ID #6971-00-011968.

All interested parties will be given the opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed action requesting the front yard placement and setback of a proposed shed to be 50 feet, in lieu of the required minimum of 75 feet. The application is available for review at the Pine Plains Town Hall during regular business

By order of: Scott Chase, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals 12-14-23

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Last Minute Holiday Shopping

Shop locally! Find the perfect gift for your loved ones and support your friends, neighbors and communities.

Into the Light' holiday show coming up

By LEILA HAWKEN leilah@lakevillejournal.com

AMENIA — Following intense rehearsal and practice, local students are ready to perform their production of "Into the Light" for family, friends and everyone

The performance is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 17, at 3 p.m. in the Webutuck High School Auditorium. The snow date is Monday, Dec. 18, at 6 p.m.

The holiday performance will showcase the talents of local second through fifth grade students, who will share the spotlight with life-size

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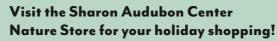
puppetry, live musicians and professional dancers.

The multicultural holiday show is a presentation of The Vanaver Caravan and Armof-the-Sea Theater. Students have been attending in after-school workshops on multiple aspects of theater arts as they have prepared for the show, including instruction in lighting, acting, scenic movement and choreography.

The performance has been funded through a grant from the Northeast Dutchess Fund of the Berkshire Taconic Foundation and the town of Amenia. Admission is







Enjoy special discounts each day! Thur-Sat: 9-4:30 & Sunday: 1-4:30 Through December 23

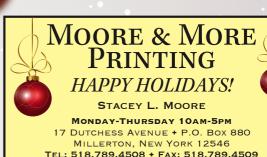






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Community Health & Wellness Center is excited about opening our beautiful new facility at 6-8 East Main Street in North Canaan, conveniently located right across the street from Stop & Shop! We anticipate opening our doors in early spring to offer the Northwest Corner Primary and Preventative Medical and Behavioral Health Services! As an award-winning Federally Qualified Health Center, we accept nost insurances, including Medicare and

Husky, and no one is ever turned away. To become established as a patient, please call us at 860-489-0931.

www.communityhealthandwellness.org

This publication does not express the views of the Department of Mental Health and Au Services or the State of Connecticut. The views and opinions expressed are those of the





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MOVIEHOUSE Continued from Page A1

The Fergusons sent their children to PS 41 in the city and raised them in Washington Square, but summers were always spent up at the lake. As the children got older, however, it got harder and harder to entice them away from their social lives and the allure of the city. Then Mrs. Ferguson had an idea.

Mr. Ferguson recalled her saying, "We have to do something to get the girls up here, and we can get rid of the adult movie house at the same time."

At the time, the Millerton movie house (called the Millerton Theater prior to 1978) was a porn theater.

In December 1973, The Lakeville Journal ran a story reading:

"Are you aware of the type of motion picture you are coming to view?' Richard Masters asks this of everyone who comes to purchase a ticket for the XX-rated movies in Millerton, N.Y. Apparently some people have different expectations and do not realize the type films that are being

"Richard and Barbara Masters, formerly employed at the Canaan Drive-in in Connecticut, took over as managers of the Millerton theatre on Monday Nov. 26. The Victory Theater Corporation, which bought the Millerton Theater back in June, can explain the run of sex-based movies.

"Jim Severin, spokesman for Victory, said. 'No theater goes to X policy through preference, only through darn necessity.' According to Mr. Severin, the Millerton Theater has lost over \$5,000 since August: 'at this point we're just looking to meet house expenses. With X-rated films our take is a little bit better."

In the early '70s, Mr. Ferguson had a client in the United Artists theater corporation. That client was Egyptian-born Salah M. Hassanein, who began his career as an usher at a movie theater in New York and rose through the ranks to become president of United Artists Eastern Theaters and subsequently president of

Warner Brothers International Theaters.

In the summer of 1975, The Fergusons decided they would rent the movie house from the Victory Theater Corporation with motivation that was twofold: to stop the showing of the X-rated movies and to entice their four daughters to spend their summers with the family in Lakeville.

For the next two summers (1974-1975), the four Ferguson daughters, aged about 11-19 at the time, ran the theater.

"At the beginning, they didn't like us," said Marcia, referring to the men in town who had frequented the porn showings.

"At the beginning, bras and tampons got thrown into the lobby because it was four girls running the theater!" The sisters laughed, and Marcia continued, "Laura, my oldest sister, had the idea to take advantage of all the male attention and would get them to help sweep the lobby. The next thing you know, they were our 'protectors."

The girls came up with all sorts of ways to entice the men to their advantage because, as it turned out, running the theater was a huge job.

"Laura, the oldest, was the manager," explained Marcia. "Sharon sold tickets and made popcorn, and I was the projectionist."

A young man in town, Jason Schickele, who had worked as the projectionist at the Mahaiwe and Colonial theaters, showed Marcia, 14 years old at the time, how to run the projectors.

"He was patient," Marcia said, showing her again and again everything about the machine. "You were running celluloid," she explained, "So you'd watch for the little dot in the right-hand corner called 'the changeover,' and when you saw that, there was a second dot. That's when you had to change the film."

She continued, "If there was a crack in it, you could fix it with just, you know, regular old scotch tape, but you'd have to run it with a little viewfinder so you could see where the problem was."

She continued: "It was really fun to work those machines. I mean, they were elaborate. You would bang together the carbon. It might take a few times for it to light, but when it did, you couldn't really look at it. It's like looking at the sun. It was so powerful."

"We had so many mishaps," Sandy laughed.

Marcia continued: "Jason saved our bacon so many times. We would have a full house, having sold all these tickets, and the thing would break, and I'd be completely panicked. Then he'd come over and help us."

When asked which years they ran the theater, there's a lot of back and forth about whether it was '74-'75 or '75-

"I try to set the memory of that time by the movies that we showed because Salah gave us second-run movies. We were a couple of weeks behind," said Sandy.

"It was movies like 'Monty Python and the Holy Grail, 'Young Frankenstein,' 'Jaws,'" said Sandy, with Marcia jumping in: "One of the really popular ones was when they gave us 'Gone with The Wind."

"That was the very first movie we showed," Mr. Ferguson interrupted, returning to the busy kitchen from another room in the house. He went on to proudly say, "These girls had it running at a profit for those two summers."

The girls had constantly evolving, entrepreneurial ideas of how to make it a sustainable business, and the theater was a success.

"We placed ads in the paper all the time," said Marcia, "like 'Thursday dollar night.' When it rained, if we woke up and it was raining, we'd call the summer camps and say, 'bring the campers,' and we'd go run whatever we were running."

"We made a profit," Marcia continued. "And at the end of the two years, I got a stereo

of the idea, Marcia said: "Mom

The Salisbury Housing Trust has

been asked how does affordable

was in it to get us home for the summer. I mean I was 14 so I was gonna be home anyway, because we didn't have money for camp. We were not camp kids. This was our camp."

When asked why they didn't continue, Mr. Ferguson said that after the two initial summers, they floated the idea around of buying the theater. He explained that he "wanted to buy it, but Marianne [his wife] said, 'Carr, the kids are graduating. They're not gonna run it. I'm not gonna run it. You're not gonna run it."

The space lay empty again until Bob and Carol Sadlon purchased it in October 1977, renovating and opening it once again in 1978.

"There's such a wealth of documentation now with our phones," said Carol Sadlon when asked about the state of the theater when she and her husband purchased it. "But it's too bad there isn't more of the way it was then."

She went on to say: "It was a single theater with 300 seats. There was no heat, no air conditioning. It was in just terrible condition."

She said: "Laura [Ferguson] and I had a wonderful conversation years ago, as I recall, because we were both very interested in the preservation of theaters like the Moviehouse, of course. [The Fergusons] have so much enthusiasm, and it really is just extraordinary what they were able to do."

Several of the Ferguson women have gone on to have lives in performance. Marcia recently retired from the theater department at the University of Pennsylvania and has performed in numerous

HOLIDAY Continued from Page A1

youngsters and continues to give for a lifetime.

Amenia Library

3309 Route 343, Amenia 845-373-8273 amenialibrary.org

Story Hour with Beth! (0-5 years old) - Mondays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

LEGO club (children and teens) — Thursdays, 2:30-4:45

Marimba Trails: A Musical Look at Amenia with Diana Herold and friends — Mon-

day, Dec. 18, 6 p.m. Winter Paint Night (children 6 and up, teens and adults) — Wednesday, Dec. 20, 5 p.m.

Painting ceramic figurines, Wednesday, Dec. 27. All day. LEGOs and Perler beads - Thursday, Dec. 28, all day. Build Your Own Clay Snowman — Friday, Dec. 29,

Millbrook Library

3 Friendly Lane, Millbrook 845-677-3611 ext. 3 millbrooklibrary.org

Holiday silent auction closing party — Saturday, Dec. 16, 3:30-5 p.m.

Art opening for Anne Pomeroy — Sunday, Dec. 17, 1:30-2:30 p.m.

Chair yoga with Lyette — Monday, Dec. 18, 9-10 a.m. Walking club at Bennett Park — Wednesday, Dec. 20,

10-11:30 a.m. Bake and decorate wreath doughnuts — Wednesday,

Dec. 20, 4 p.m. Let's Make Snow Slime! — Wednesday, Dec. 27, 4 p.m.

NorthEast-Millerton Library

Main building: 75 Main St. The Annex: 28 Century Blvd. 518-789-3340 nemillertonlibrary.org

Welcome Winter Solstice for ages 8-13 — Sat., Dec. 16, 1:30-3 p.m.

Ping pong and board games in the Library Annex - Saturday, Dec. 16, 10 a.m.-

Holiday wine pairings in the Library Annex — Friday, Dec. 15, 6-8 p.m. Registration required; \$25 per person.

American Mahjong — Library Annex, every Tuesday, 1-3 p.m.

3D printing workshop — Thursday, Dec. 27, 6-7:30

Noon-Day Eve party "Ringing in of the New Year" (ages 5-12) — Saturday, Dec.

30, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Story Hour with Ms. Lynn — every Tuesday and Satur- 16, 1-2 p.m. day in December, 11 a.m.-12:30

Pine Plains Free Library

7775 S. Main St. 518-398-1927 pineplainslibrary.org

Kids Maker and Play Hour Thursdays except Dec. 28, 4:30-6 p.m.

Accessible yoga with Chrissy — Thursdays except Dec. 28, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Tech time with Annie — Fridays, 2-6 p.m.

Mid-Hudson Youth Writers' Workshop (for teens) - every Saturday on Zoom. Contact agallagher502@ gmail.com for link and time.

Story time with Molly (babies through age 6) — Saturday, Dec. 16, 10-11 a.m.

Tai chi with Curt — Tuesdays, noon-1 p.m.

Gentle yoga with Curt — Tuesdays, 1-2 p.m.

Kids game night or movie night (alternating weeks) — Tuesdays, 4:30-6 p.m.

Story and Create Time with Ms. Samantha -Wednesdays, 10-11 a.m.

Teen nights — Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m.

Cookbook group with Lenny — Wednesday, Dec. 27, 6-7 p.m.

Roeliff Jansen **Community Library** 9091 Route 22, Hillsdale

518-325-4101 roejanlibrary.org

For the Birds! — Create treats of cranberry and popcorn garlands and bird seedcovered pinecones. Registration required. Saturday, Dec.

Qigong and tai chi — every Thursday, 10:30-11:30 a.m. English language tutoring

- Thursdays, 6-7:30 p.m. by appointment

Cookbook club — Every third Saturday, 2-3:30 p.m. Tea Time at the Library —

Every fourth Thursday, 2:30 Octagon club — Every sec-

ond Thursday, 1-2 p.m. Book club — Thursday, Dec. 21, 1 p.m.

Diversity teen group -Thursdays, 7 p.m. LEGOs — Thursdays, 12-8

Playtime with Tia -

Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. Homeschool Wednesday

Storytime with Tia — Sat-

urdays, 10:30 a.m.

Stanford Free Library 6035 Route 82 845-868-1341 stanfordlibrary.org

Yoga with Mia — Saturdays, 10 a.m. Weekly registration required.

Teens create custom buttons, keychains or jewelry using a button maker -Wednesday, Dec. 20, 6-7:30 p.m. Registration required.

Make an ornament (grades pre-K to 1st) — Thursday, Dec. 22, 3:45-4:45 p.m. Registration required.

Babysitting class (ages 10 and up) — Thursday, Dec. 28, 5-8 p.m. Registration required. Repair café - Saturday, Jan. 6, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

system."

In returning to the origin

films and in theater; Sandy (now Huckleberry) is an artist with the Boston-based artists' collective Mobius. The Moviehouse again closed its doors in March 2020, until its highly antici-

pated reopening by David Maltby and Chelsea Altman, who have managed to honor the Moviehouse's history while bringing a new energy and vision to the space.

HOUSING Continued from Page A1

property, would create traffic for the property. flow problems; that a decision to accommodate HRH's plan would lead to "spot zoning" because there are no contiguous parcels with the zoning designation being requested; that the septic system on the parcel would be uphill from neighbors' properties; and that the 14 new housing units would require 42 additional post boxes at the Amenia post office, putting stress on available parking.

La Rosa's comments were representative of other neighbors' positions on the Spruce Hill project.

Charlie Miller, chairman of the Housing Board, spoke in support of the HRH plans

HRH, a 40-year-old nonprofit, first proposed the development at a public forum on affordable housing in October 2022, at which residents met to discuss the need for affordable housing in Amenia.

Amenia currently has no affordable housing. The Housing Board is currently working with the town, hoping to develop what would become the town's first unit of affordable housing, a single family home on Lake Amenia Road being considered for purchase by the town. The Wastewater Committee also hopes to locate a modern wastewater facility on land adjacent to that site.

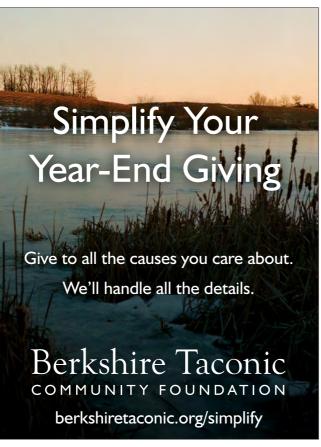


housing affect the property values of neighboring properties? We are fortunate enough to have Ingrid Ellen here in Cornwall who is the Faculty Director at the NYU Furman Center, which focuses on housing, neighborhoods and urban policy. Basically, her studies have shown that in strong neighborhoods that already have relatively high property values, there is either no impact or a positive impact when a relatively modest number of affordable housing units are built. The key is the quality of design and construction together with the maintenance and management of the properties to support property values. For more information, please go to: www.furmancenter.org/files/ media/Dont_Put_It_Here.pdf



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Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

HOLIDAYS: JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Wreath-making workshops

oodsmoke curling above the small, weathered barn and, within the faded green doors, the smell of fresh-cut pines and cider warming on the woodstove made a perfect setting for the annual wreath-making workshops at Great Mountain Forest (GMF) in Falls Village.

For decades, folks have enjoyed creating their seasonal masterpieces using evergreens, berries, and pine cones gathered from the woods nearby.

On Saturday, Dec. 2, the first pair of workshops took place at the Mountain House Barn on Canaan Mountain Road under the expert guidance of GMF staff: director of programs and operations Matt Gallagher and office manager Vicki Muni Nelson. [The second set of workshops took place Saturday, Dec. 9.]

Participants in the wreath-making ranged from two women who learned about the workshops from a friend they met at Yellowstone to a local family with two young daughters, and to everyone's delight, U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5) and Barbara Ellis, her friend and campaign manager at Friends of Jahana Hayes, arrived ready to join the fun.

Gallagher welcomed the 20 or so wreath makers and explained the names and origins of the various pine branches lying on the rough floor in great piles. A blaze of red winterberries in a large bucket stood next to baskets filled with pine cones gathered from various types of conifers that grow in the



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ALMQUIST

Barbara Ellis and U.S. Rep. Jahana Hayes (D-5) made wreaths at Great Mountain Forest on Dec. 2.

GMF. There were large bows of various ribbons: red, shiny gold, brocades, patterns of vintage trucks, burgundy velvet, and even some reindeer images. The staff had made educational signs with the specific names of the conifers and cones, listed with their Latin names.

Muni Nelson demonstrated the methods of wreath making, which involved metal rings, spools of green garland wire, wire cutters, hot glue guns for adhering the cones, and wired stakes for the bows. A patient teacher, Muni Nelson worked with each maker during the session. A father and mother said they were making some good family memories. After some guidance, the two girls set right to work making their own wreaths that they held up proudly at the end.

Hayes said she was happy to spend time with her friend and, yes, have some personal time, which is in short supply. After another difficult vote in Congress the day before, Hayes felt respite in the barn working with her hands. She laughed as she twisted her greens with wire and created a festive bow: "You must know that I am very competitive, even with crafts!" Later, she wrote on her social media page: "I have found another CT-05 gem! Had a fabulous afternoon at **Great Mountain Forest** holiday wreath making workshop. Craft, laughs, and hot apple cider-a great way to get into the

holiday spirit!"
Norfolk artist Bevin
Ramsey came with his
petite mother, Maureen, who had traveled
from Ottawa to spend
time with her family
and celebrate a granddaughter's birthday. The
joy between them was
contagious.

Each worktable was a flurry of activity. Ellen Walsh of Winchester Center showed off her steel-toed work boots as she tackled her huge wreath.

Journalist Avice Meehan chatted with Hayes, both having recently attended former Gov. Weicker's memorial service. Meehan had been his press secretary. Susannah Wood from Norfolk worked solo, while Norfolk tax collector Sarah Bruso shared her table with Martha Mullins.

According to The New York Times in a Dec. 25, 1988, article: "Ancient Pagan people, endowing trees with spirit, sheltered the branches of life-preserving evergreens through the frozen winter. Early Romans gave gifts of green branches at New Year's, bestowing the wish for health and vigor upon family and friends. The evergreen wreath its circular shape an emblem of perfection, unity, and the enduring sun-later became a symbol for Christ's suffering. Evergreens embody eternal life...today's wreaths communicate a sense of joy and a desire for peace."

As they joined in spirit with an ancient, symbolic and traditional craft, the Norfolk makers proudly hung their wreaths on the gray barn walls for the group to admire. One by one, the jolly revelers walked away through the surrounding meadow bearing their festive wreaths home to grace their doors and windows.

Saturday

Dec. 16, 4 pm

St. Paul's Church

Stockbridge MA



Carey Mulligan and Bradley Cooper in "Maestro."

FILM: ALEXANDER WILBURN

The Triplex Returns with Movies, Music and 'Maestro'

hanks to a dedicated group of film-loving residents, the onceclosed Triplex Cinema in Great Barrington, Mass., turned its projectors on again this November.

The three-screen theater is moving full steam ahead with plenty of winter programming to bring audiences back to the movies. On Sunday, Dec. 17, Nina Bernstein Simmons, Leonard Bernstein's youngest daughter, will join a live conversation following a screening of the new **Bradley Cooper-directed** film, "Maestro." Cooper plays the late American conductor and composer, co-starring with Carey Mulligan as his wife, Felicia Montealegre Bernstein, and Matt Bomer as his friend and collaborator, the late American clarinetist David Oppenheim. Nicki Wilson, president of Triplex Cinema's new board of directors, discussed the upcoming events.

Alexander Wilburn: How did the programming with Nina Bernstein Simmons come about?

Nikki Wilson: We knew "Maestro" would be a significant release when it opens at The Triplex on Friday, Dec.

RENAISSANCE • Byrd Tallis Rossi TRADITIONAL • Carols with Earth-Conscious Lyrics CONTEMPORARY & HANNUKAH • Levine Ticheli Porter

Crescendo Chorus & Soloists • Tricia van Oers, recorder Douglas Schmolze, guitar • Christopher Belluscio, trumpet Directed by Christine Gevert

www.CrescendoMusic.org

Sunday

Dec. 17, 4 pm

Lakeville CT

Trinity Church

15, as much of it was shot in the Berkshires at Tanglewood. So why not honor Leonard Bernstein himself? So, in addition, we're screening all of the films that he composed music for: "On The Waterfront," "West Side Story" and "On the Town." We reached out to Nina and invited her to come to the Triplex and do a talkback after the screening of "Maestro" on Sunday, Dec. 17, at 1 p.m. Deborah Reinisch will be interviewing her after the film. She taught film at NYU and Columbia. Deborah will lead two other talkbacks during the week: "West Side Story" and "On The Waterfront." To complete the Bernstein on Film series will be Julianne Boyd, the former artistic director of Barrington Stage Company. She was responsible for "On the Town's" production in The Berkshires and bringing it to Broadway. So she'll be coming to talk after the film's showing on Thursday, Dec. 21, at 2 p.m.

AW: How did the revival of Triplex Cinema come about?

NW: The Triplex closed this year in June, and it was going to be a dark theater, but a grassroots group came together. We raised over \$1 million with the help of over 1,000 donors and purchased The Triplex from the longtime owner Richard Stanley. With buying the theater, there was a lot to renovate, so we're in an active campaign to continue fundraising. On Nov. 15, we opened the doors and started screening "The Holdovers." On Dec. 15, we will open the third, largest screen to start showing "Maestro."

Continued on next page



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Serving North Canaan, CT, Sheffield and South County, MA

ART: ALEXANDER WILBURN

The 12x12 Art Show Turns 12

he annual "12x12" art sale at the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village celebrated a thematically relevant anniversary as the display was unveiled Saturday night, Dec. 9 — the show is now in its 12th year of displaying small works by area residents.

Hung clustered on the library walls, the "12x12" show, as the title would suggest, showcases work on uniform 1-foot by 1-foot canvases. However, some artists chose to break the mold while staying within the obligatory dimensions. Yonah Sadeh, a recent graduate of Bard College at Simon's Rock, offered a vintage-style photograph of The Great Falls from his hometown of Falls Village, oxidized over a white porcelain square. Sadeh's documentary, "In Our Backyard," detailing the lack of affordable housing in Falls Village, was recently awarded first place in the Berkshire Film and Media Collaborative's Bridging Divides, Healing Communities Youth Film Challenge.

Other notable pieces included an abstract tetraptych by Sam Posey of Sharon. The 79-year-old painter is a neighbor of American artist Jasper Johns and was honored at Lime Rock Park in Salisbury with the front straightaway named after him in a ceremony held in 2013. An accomplished former race car driver, Posey was also the voice behind a series of Formula One narrated



PHOTO BY ALEXANDER WILBURN

12x12 submission by Danielle Mailer

montages for the NBC Sports Network.

Salisbury resident Terre Lefferts is known for her bright New England scenes of barns in Sheffield, Stockbridge streetscapes, and festive depictions of children at Christmas in the style of the late American "painter of light" Thomas Kinkade. Here she showed a more minimal, stripped-back still life of pears scattered on white linen.

The Hunt Library also included a whimsical rooster by Danielle Mailer in the year-end show. Mailer has been an instructor of art at both Indian Mountain School and Salisbury School. Salisbury residents will

recognize her largescale animals on display at the front entrance of Scoville Memorial Library. Mailer was profiled in The New York Times in 2016 when the city of Torrington teamed up with her to create an enormous aquatic-themed mural as part of a public art project near The Warner Theatre.

"Ms. Mailer's fish trout, to match those found in the river —

carry intricate patterns and bright, almost neon colors," wrote Jan Ellen Spiegel. "[The fish] mimic the longstandiing style in her earlier paintings, which are packed with dense patterns and vivid color reminiscent of Frida Kahlo combined with cutouts by Matisse, among Ms. Mailer's favorite artists."

The "12x12" show is on display at The Hunt Library through Jan. 12, 2024.



PHOTO BY COLIN BAZZANO

Hither Lane is located in the front space of the refurbished Colonial Theatre in North Canaan.

HOLIDAYS: JOHN COSTON

A pop-up finds immersion

ell me two things about a person, and then let me tell you what to get."

Those are the words of Jacyln Ryan, the proprietor of Hither Lane, a pop-up in the Colonial Theatre building on Railroad Street that is one of the latest incarnations of the North Canaan renaissance.

Ryan, who is from Ancram, New York, has strong roots in retail and said that she "really likes meeting customers on the floor."

Her shop, located in one of the street-facing rooms of the Colonial, offers an eclectic mix

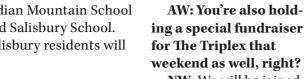
of kitchen, barware and pantry-focused gifts that are in a price range that is accessible, she noted, ranging from \$7 to \$100. Some of her specialty items include vases, cheese plates, salts, olive oils and chocolate bars.

The store is open Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ryan started Hither Lane about one year ago as a business centered around an at-home model. She said that she has had difficulty finding rental spaces while looking around Hudson, New York, and in Dutchess

Continued on next page

...triplex cinema Continued from previous page



NW: We will be joined by actors like Jayne Atkinson, who was on many television shows like "Criminal Minds" and "House of Cards," Michel Gill from "The Gilded Age," and David Rasche from "Succession." Maureen O'Flynn,

DONNELL LEAHY:

A CELTIC FAMILY CHRISTMAS

SUN DEC 17 AT 7PM

an international opera singer, will join the group. She's been on all the world's great stages. Our program is going to present scenes from famous holiday films, but acted live, as well as songs performed from holiday films, including "The Sound of Music," which has nothing to do with the holidays but is considered the Number

One holiday film people watch on television each year on CBS. It will be a fun-filled evening for people of all ages at Bard at Simon's Rock's beautiful 300-seat McConnell Theater in Great Barrington. The event will have two showings on Dec. 16, one at 3 p.m. and an encore at 6 p.m. The script is so much fun. There are scenes from "Elf" and "Love Actually," and some of the

Showing

12/15, 16, 20, 21

7:00 pm

"PRISCILLA" R

old classics like "Shop Around the Corner," "Miracle on 34th Street," and what's a Christmas show without a scene from "A Christmas Carol," with Scrooge saying "Humbug, humbug." David Rasche is even going to be crooning "White Christmas."

Tickets for the special screening of "Maestro," the "Bernstein on Film" screening series, as well as "Bring Back the Movies: Holiday Edition" live at Bard at Simon's Rock are available at www.thetriplex.org



CONTACT SANDRA LANG

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At The Movies

48 MAIN STREET, MILLERTON, NY

Moviehouse SHOWTIMES & TICKETS FRI 12/15 > THU 12/21 (518) 789-0022 themoviehouse.net **PETER PAN** Sat. December 16 1:30 PM **MAESTRO** The original 1924 silent film with live musical THE HOLDOVERS accompaniment & effects by Donald Sosin & Joanna **PRISCILLA** Seaton. **FUN FOR THE WHOLE NAPOLEON** FAMILY!

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Items are printed as space permits. All entries can be found at www.TriCornerNews.com/events-calendar. To submit calendar items, email editor@lakevillejournal.com

DECEMBER 15

Dinner with Santa and the Grinch

Cornwall Consolidated School, 5 Cream Hill Road, West Cornwall, Conn.

Park and Recreation invites everyone to a pasta dinner with Santa and the Grinch at Cornwall Consolidated School, Dec. 15 from 5 to 8 p.m. Enjoy food, crafts, cookie decorating, and a gift basket silent auction to benefit the eighth grade class trip. Suggested donation \$5. Canned food items or arts and craft supplies will also be accepted. Children 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

Sandy Hook Vigil

In front of The White Hart Inn, Salisbury, Conn.

Please join us in remembering the victims of Sandy Hook and all victims of gun violence on Friday, Dec. 15 from 5 to 6 p.m. Meet in front of The White Hart Inn. Please bring your own candle.

Poetry Workshop with Sally Van Doren

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

On Friday, Dec. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m., there will be a poetry workshop with Sally Van Doren at the Scoville Memorial Library.

This intensive, immersive workshop is designed to give writers the time we need to generate new work and to hone in on whatever it is that is begging us to bring it to the page. Guided by prompts and in-class writing assignments, we will dive deep and emerge transformed. Workshop leader Sally Van Doren is the author of four books of poetry and a winner of the Walt Whitman prize. To register, visit scovillelibrary.libcal. com/event/11516492.

■ DECEMBER 16

Carols for the Earth — Festive Old and New Holiday Music

St. Paul's Church, Stockbridge, Mass. and Trinity Church, Lakeville, Conn. crescendo.

Crescendo will present
"Carols for the Earth
— Festive Old and
New Holiday Music"
on Saturday, Dec. 16, 4
p.m., at St. Paul's Church
in Stockbridge, and on
Sunday, Dec. 17, 4 p.m.,
at Trinity Church in
Lakeville, Conn.

For more information and tickets, visit Crescendo's website: crescendomusic. org/programs/ liveperformances/.

Book Signing

The Wish House, 413 Sharon Goshen Tpke., West Cornwall, Conn. wishhouse.com

The Wish House will be hosting a Children's Book Signing on Saturday, Dec. 16, 3 to 4:30 p.m. with local author Caroline Nastro and her new book Outside Amelia's Window to benefit the Cornwall Child Center. More info at wishhouse.com.

ExtraSpecialFabulicious Saturday Morning Storytime with Miss

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

On Saturday, Dec. 16 from 10 to 11 a.m., join Miss Rita in the Buttons Garden or around the storytime rug in the children's library for stories and sweets! Please register for this program to ensure there are plenty of sweet treats to eat! For parents preferring to bring their own treat, there is no need to register.

Mindfulness and Meditation for the Holiday Season

Hotchkiss Library of Sharon, 10 Upper Main St., Sharon, Conn. hotchkisslibrary.org

Take some time for yourself in the countdown to Christmas. Join Marion Williams Saturday, Dec. 16 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. to learn simple mindfulness techniques that you can easily integrate into your daily routine. She will lead you through a soothing meditation. No previous meditation or expressive arts experience is required.

If interested in registering please visit: hotchkisslibrary.libcal. com/event/11601888

Storyfaces: An Innovative Storytelling and Art Performance

Scoville Memorial Library, 38 Main St., Salisbury, Conn. scovillelibrary.org

On Saturday, Dec. 16, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., come by the library after the early dismissal from school to see Christopher Agostino paint the faces of audience volunteers to illustrate stories as he tells them.

DECEMBER 17

Twelve Days of Christmas West Cornwall, Conn.

From Dec. 17 to Jan. 7, works by local artists will be tucked into windows throughout downtown West Cornwall. Participating artists and institutions: Eama Andrews, Lory Bevans, Cornwall Consolidated School, Cornwall Library, Bill McClane, Treasa Pattison, Rebecca Schultz, Melissa Silvetti, Connie Steuerwalt, Sally Van Doren, Rita Vitalis, Ben Wiseman and Brian Levy. Opening party on Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m.

Speaker Series

Boys.

Triplex Cinema, 70 Railroad St., Great Barrington, Mass. thetriplex.org

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"Maestro", Bradley Cooper's new Netflix film about Leonard Bernstein, which opens at the Triplex on Dec. 15, the Triplex will begin the "Bernstein on Film" series revolving around Mr. Bernstein's life and film work. The first talk, following the 1 p.m. screening of "Maestro" on Dec. 17, will feature Nina Bernstein Simmons, the younger daughter of Mr. Bernstein, in an intimate conversation with Stephen Wadsworth, a longtime collaborator

of Mr. Bernstein, with whom he wrote the opera "A Quiet Place". Visit us at thetriplex.org.

■ DECEMBER 18

City Meadow Public Meeting

Norfolk Hub, 2 Station Place, Norfolk, Conn.

A meeting to discuss the next steps for City Meadow (norfolkfoundation.net/ town-of-norfolk-citymeadow-project) has been called for Monday, Dec. 18, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Norfolk Hub. Land care consultant Michael Nadeau will join the conversation on what needs to be done, including invasive remediation and control, proposed yearly maintenance and future plantings.

■ DECEMBER 20

Christmas Services at Church of St. John in the Wilderness, Copake Falls

Church of St. John in the Wilderness, 261 NY-344, Copake Falls, N.Y.

On Wednesday, Dec. 20, 7 p.m., there will be a Blue Christmas Service at the Church of St. John in the Wilderness in Copake Falls, N.Y. All are invited to this low-key service designed for those who may be grieving a loss or for whatever reason find Christmas a difficult season, and anyone seeking a quiet respite from the hustle and bustle.

There will also be a Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on Sunday, Dec. 24, with carols at 7 p.m and service at 7:30 p.m.

DECEMBER 23

The Audubon Presents: Birds of Prey!

Kent Memorial Library, 32 North Main St., Kent, Conn. kentmemoriallibrary..org

On Dec. 23, at 11 a.m., in Kent Memorial Library's Junior Room, learn all about bird biology, conservation, ecology, and adaptations for survival through the use of live birds of prey and bird-related props. Various species of live hawks and owls will accompany Sharon **Audubon Center** Staff to demonstrate their beauty, power, and connection with the natural world. Similarities and differences of these amazing birds of prey will be discussed and several props will also be on hand for viewing.

Kent Memorial Library is located at 32 North Main Street, Kent, Connecticut, 860-927-3761. Visit kentmemoriallibrary.org for more information.



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PHOTOS BY COLIN BAZZANO

Kitchen, barware and pantry-focused gifts at Hither Lane in North Canaan in the Colonial Theatre are in a price range from \$7 to \$100.

and Columbia counties.

She opened the popup before Thanksgiving and said it will be in the location through the end of December.

But Ryan, who moved to the region from Brooklyn during the pandemic, also has been charmed by the sense of rejuvenance in North Canaan.

"I'm drawn to the small towns around here, and I want to experience the renaissance," she said. "I certainly feel that's happening here."

Railroad Street re-

cently has become home for Ilse Coffee and a new branch of Covered Bridge Electric Bike, which has locations in West Cornwall and Kent. Down the street, Homegrown Cafe offered pretty much only source of smoothies for miles around, but plans to close. Not to forget, the Colonial Theatre is becoming a big draw as a community space.

Ryan's message is: "We have gifts for anyone in your life without having to think too hard." One display in the shop offers

ideas for "beer lovers, cheese lovers, spice lovers and cocktail lovers."

She said her experience in this holiday pop-up is making her consider a longer-term relationship.

"I'm being convinced by the community to stay," she said. "Maybe expand into other categories and become something like a general store."

"It has been touching to become immersed in this community," she said.



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A variety of holiday musical favorites and new compositions, performed by the 14-member Smithfield Chamber Orchestra, welcomed the season at The Smithfield Church on Saturday, Dec. 2. The occasion was the 18th annual Christmas Concert and Tea.

MUSIC: LEILA HAWKEN

Christmas Concert delights at **Smithfield Church**

ow celebrating its 18th consecutive year of holiday music, the Smithfield Church's annual Christmas Concert and Tea packed every pew and left more standing.

The traditional event was begun by local realtor, the late Katharine Dunlop, and now continues as a part of the Bang Family Concert Series.

A variety of holiday pieces, some old favorites and some new compositions, were performed by an assemblage of 14 gifted regional musicians comprising the popular Smithfield Chamber Orchestra under the direction of Matt Finley.

The concert, held in the festively decorated historic sanctuary, opened with a poem, "It's All in the Music," composed and read by Kevin T. McEneaney, poet laureate of Smithfield Valley, followed by a new arrangement of "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

There were the sprightly notes of "The Nutcracker" played by the ensemble; "White Christmas," was performed as a clarinet solo by Norman Baker.

Finley welcomed the audience, noting their importance to the occa-

"Were it not for the audience," Finley said, "these musicians would just be here as if for a practice session." He noted that some of the performers have been at each of the 18 preceding years, and that trombonist Steve Hubbert was new this year.

Contemporary pieces and Brazilian jazz interpretations were also performed.

"If there is something

that you don't like, just wait a couple of minutes and we'll be on to something else," Finley quipped.

The concert concluded with Handel's "Hallelujah" chorus. Finley had told everyone at the onset that it would not be necessary to stand, as King John was assuredly not present.

They stood anyway at the end, and were rewarded with an encore of "Sleigh Bells."

THEATER: MAUD DOYLE

Ancram Opera **House becomes Ancram Center** for the Arts

ncram Opera House is becoming Ancram Center for the Arts, announced co-directors Paul Ricciardi and Jeffrey Mousseau and board President Cathy Redlich at a community open house Saturday, Nov. 25.

"Paul and Jeff's vision was never just about producing theater; it was about creating a space where storytelling in all its forms — from plays to music to personal narratives — could enrich and connect a community," said Redlich in her remarks.

"As it has grown, Ancram Opera House's offerings to the public have kept pace, with free workshops, programs, and events. The new name, Ancram Center for the Arts, not only captures the breadth, depth and creativity of its diverse programs but also serves as an umbrella for the Center's future growth."

Mousseau said, "The change aligns our identity more closely with our vibrant array of performances and community events."

He also described the team's vision for the new Annex building:

"Our new campus will comprise the existing Ancram Opera House building, with accessibility upgrades, and a recently acquired

neighboring house, built in the 1780s, that we're calling The Annex. Once rehabilitated, The Annex will provide much-needed space to house interns and guest artists, as well as space for the community programs that are core to our vision."

The Annex will provide space for workshops in playwriting and storytelling for local adults.

The Annex community room will also be put to use for the storytelling workshops that Ricciardi created for fourth, fifth, and sixth graders at Taconic Hills Elementary School, which have been part of the school's curriculum since 2020.

Work on improving accessibility has already begun, with the conversion of office space off the theater lobby into an accessible restroom. Next is the construction of permanent ramping to the theater's entrance, to be followed by parking upgrades and a covered porch between the two buildings.

"The evolution of Ancram Opera House from when it reopened its doors eight years ago to today has been nothing short of astounding," Redlich said.

For more information go to www.ancramcenter.



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Taconic Learning Center winter courses open

SALISBURY — Registration for the Taconic Learning Center winter term 2024 is now open.

Classes run mid-January through late February and early March at Geer Village in North Canaan, Noble Horizons in Salisbury, or online.

Upcoming courses include:

Miles Davis' Kind of Blue: The Greatest & Most Influential Jazz Recording of the 20th Century.

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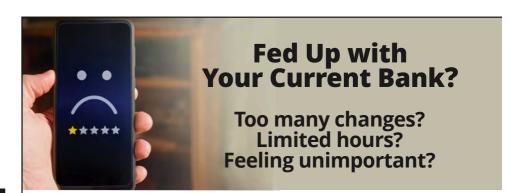
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MUSIC: NATALIA ZUKERMAN

Celtic Chrismas Carols at Amenia Town Hall

n Saturday, Dec. 9, the Amenia Town Hall Auditorium offered a heartwarming gift to the community, transforming into a hub of Celtic melodies and Christmas cheer.

The free Celtic Christmas concert featured a lineup of exceptional artists, led by David Paton and Joseph Sobol, along with their talented friends.

Paton, inheriting the rich folk music legacy of his parents, Sandy and Caroline Paton, graced the audience with his expertise on the hammer dulcimer and English concertina. Joining him was Sobol, a recent Amenia resident and nationally recognized player of the cittern, a 12-stringed instrument resembling a lute that dates from the Renaissance. Sobol also played a 12-string cutaway acoustic guitar, offering a beautifully warm tone and complex harmonies.

The concert also fea-

tured guests Isa Simon, a wonderful fiddler and singer from New York City, and Ambrose Verdibello, who played both the fiddle and mandolin. All of the instruments and deft musicianship created a tapestry of melodies, with a repertoire ranging from holiday songs to dance tunes, both familiar and new.

The evening showcased Andrew Forbes on flutes and percussion, whose opening bagpipe tune magically transported the audience to the rolling hills of Ireland. The concert featured an intriguing mix of performances, from Yeats poems set to song to melodies from British accordion player Chris Wood, like "Mrs. Sags." A highlight of the night was the humorous and engaging "Miss Fogerty's Christmas Cake," a song about the perils of fruit-

John Nowak, a local music promoter and custodian at the Town

Hall, was the mastermind behind the festive gathering. The idea was born from a casual conversation with Sobol, who came into Town Hall in November to pay his water bill. Town Supervisor Victoria Perotti had shared with Nowak that she was disappointed there wasn't going to be a holiday event at Town Hall this year because the usual children's program is taking place at Webutuck. Nowak floated the idea to Sobol, and the evening took shape quickly

The nucleus of the band plays every Sunday at the Bulls Bridge Inn in Kent, and Paton, a regular at these Sunday gatherings, provided the sound system for the evening. The event came together organically and was a delightful gift to local residents, who packed the auditorium, filling it with a warm, celebratory atmosphere. Nowak aptly remarked, "Everyone is going to

and seamlessly.

walk away from this evening saying, 'Wow."

Indeed, the concert was more than just a musical event; it was

a beacon of warmth in challenging times. The blend of Celtic tunes, holiday spirit and communal joy served as a

reminder of the power of music to bring people together, offering joy and hope in the heart of the holiday season.



PHOTO BY NATALIA ZUKERMAN

The free Celtic Christmas concert was held on Saturday, Dec. 9.

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THETOWN OF KENT: is seeking candidates for its Park and Recreation Director. This is a full-time position and the person is responsible to coordinate, promote, supervise and evaluate a comprehensive, year-round recreational program for the children, teens, adults, and seniors of the Kent community, including but not limited to sports and seasonal programs, after-school program, bus trips, community and special events, and maintenance of the parks. Works with the Parks and Recreation Commission to develop long-range plans for programs, parks, and facilities to accommodate town goals and recreation needs. Candidates should have a Bachelor's Degree and/or relevant life experience and interest in Park and Recreation. Salary range is \$60,000 to \$63,000. The full job description is available at www.townofkentct.org. Send cover letter, resume and three references to adminassist@townofkentct. org prior to Jan. 5, 2024.

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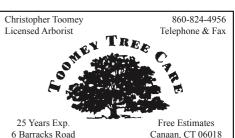
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