



MILLERTON

Fire Company Drives By With Easter Bunny In Tow In Lieu Of Egg Hunt **A2**



PINE PLAINS

County Exec Among 350 To Get Vaccine At Clinic At High School **A5**

COMPASS

Easy Pizza Recipe; New Glenn Kaino Show At MASS MoCA; And More **B1-2**

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PHOTO SUBMITTED

VFW Post Cmdr.-Elect Maddie Fletcher

Maddie Fletcher is Dover VFW's first female commander

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

DOVER PLAINS — For the very first time in its 42-year history, a woman has been elected — with a unanimous vote — to lead the overwhelming male membership of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5444 in Dover as its next post commander. The official vote was held on Thursday, April 1, at the Post home on Route 22.

Fletcher, who is 34 and has been on the VFW's roster for six years but an active member for only three, said she is "still kind of processing" what the promotion symbolizes.

Already having broken one record last year when she became the Post's first female senior vice commander, Fletcher was nominated last month by Tod Humeston, a male member whom she described fondly as "one of the most rough and tough people" at Post 5444.

"And it was really funny," she recalled, "because when they asked for nominations, I was a bit intimidated. Tod just yelled my name from behind me. I knew he was going to be my senior vice right then."

In fact, she said despite Post 5444 being predominately male, with the military membership of 89 including

"I think it is a powerful thing in a way, to be an example for other females."

VFW Post 544 Cmdr.-Elect Maddie Fletcher

only two females — including Fletcher — and the between 20 to 30 member Auxiliary being entirely female, Fletcher said she's received an inordinate amount of support from both groups at Post 5444.

"When I came out of the room [that] night after the vote, I had a ton of people there to support me and cheer, and one of the people who came around, he gave me a little plaque that says 'Girl Boss' on it," she said. "It's nice to get that kind of reception. I still haven't really processed the whole idea, but I think it's good. I think it is a powerful thing in a way, to be an example for other females."

Fletcher, who was born in New Milford, Conn., and raised in Brewster, moved to Dover when she was 13 and graduated from Dover High School. She served in the Navy aboard the U.S.S. Waft out of Norfolk, Va., for four years as a 3rd Class Cook CS3.

See MADDIE FLETCHER, A6

Addressing anti-Asian bias

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

NEW YORK — Responding to recent reports of attacks targeting Asian Americans, New York State officials have voiced their intent to maintain an open dialogue with their communities and continue combatting incidents of discrimination as they arise.

Locals say no problems, law enforcement prepares

Reaching out to a handful of Asian American owned and operated businesses in northeastern Dutchess County, the ones contacted by this newspaper fortunately reported that they haven't had any fears, concerns or problems related to anti-Asian bias

or violence. A few other Asian-owned businesses didn't respond to our requests for interviews.

In Dover Plains, Jason Chen of Bi Kitchen said he hasn't had any issues or worries, while Lim You, owner of Yi Kitchen in Amenia, said "I heard the news but I haven't had any problems."

However, while there have been no incidents or cases of bias reported thus far, officers from Dutchess County and New York State say they are prepared to handle any issues should they arise.

"As far as the handling of these incidents goes, I will say that the Sheriff's Office has zero tolerance for bias in any form," said Captain John Waterson from the Dutchess County

Sheriff's Office, "and should we have occasion to investigate a potentially biased incident, the matter will be taken extremely seriously and the full resources of the Sheriff's Office will be utilized to bring it to a successful conclusion."

Meanwhile, New York State Police Troop (NYSP) K Information Officer Aaron Hicks said the state police are aware of the situation but not discussing it "as we have no credible intelligence at this time," adding, "we investigate hate crimes very seriously... when appropriate, hate crimes are handled by the Hate Crime Task Force created under the direction of

See ANTI-ASIAN BIAS, A6

World Peace Sanctuary asked by neighbors to consider conservancy

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

WASSAIC — From the serenity of its nature trails and open landscape to the community programming geared toward fostering peace, the World Peace Sanctuary at 26 Benton Road in Wassaic has been treasured by residents and visitors alike since it opened in 2001.

When those living within 500 feet of the sanctuary received a letter from the Amenia Planning Board about a March 24 public hearing regarding the sanctuary's application for a minor subdivision of its property (for the full story, go to www.tricornernews.com), many became concerned about what the subdivision could lead to. The peace

See CONSERVANCY, A6



PHOTO BY MATTHEW J. MCGRATH

Located at 26 Benton Road in Wassaic, the open landscape at the World Peace Sanctuary has invited many trailblazers, walkers and other visitors onto its grounds to convene with nature over the years.

New ownership group for Lime Rock

By PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
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SALISBURY, Conn. — Skip Barber has reached an agreement to sell a majority interest in the race track at Lime Rock Park (LRP) to a group of investors.

Barber was interviewed by phone on Wednesday, March 31, and met at LRP with The Lakeville Journal on Thursday, April 1, along with Dicky Riegel, who will be the chief executive officer of the park.

Barber said he will remain the largest single shareholder. He said he has had discussions in recent years with would-be investors "but they all had

something wrong with them."

This group, led by Riegel, Charles Mallory and Bill Rueckert, "are the right guys."

Riegel is the former president and CEO of Airstream and is chair of the Board of Trustees at Salisbury School; Mallory is the founder of the Greenwich Hospitality Group; Rueckert is a banker and chair of the Board of Trustees of Teachers College at Columbia University.

All three are frequent users of Lime Rock Park — a fact not lost on Barber.

"I became concerned seven or eight years ago about who would be the steward of Lime Rock Park down the road,"

he said.

Riegel and Barber said they hope to be able to open LRP for Memorial Day — subject to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Barber said Connecticut state authorities told him LRP was the "gold standard for outdoor facilities" as far as pandemic precautions.

"We'll maintain that standard."

Even with precautions in place, last year was extremely difficult for LRP. Barber said that many people who usually participate could not travel without first quarantining for two weeks, which

See LIME ROCK PARK, A6

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OPINION


Glass Ceilings Shatter At Dover's VFW Post 5444; Column; Letters; **B4**



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MILLERTON

Candy-O's indulges sweet dreams at 28 Main St.

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — As a first-time merchant, Gillian Osnato couldn't have chosen a more novel venture, or a more desired location, for a new business than a candy store on Millerton's Main Street. Located at 28 Main St. in the space formerly occupied by White Horse Collection, Osnato officially began welcoming customers into Candy-O's on Friday, March 19, with an opening day that exceeded her wildest expectations.

Like many young workers, Osnato found herself without a job when the COVID-19 pandemic first hit more than a year ago. Fortunately she was able to work with her dad, Sal, who owns the T-Shirt Farm a few doors down at 22 Main St. This past year alone, she realized some of the benefits of owning a business along with the fears and hesitations, not to mention the ways in which the village evolved during the health crisis. And although she never imagined herself as a business owner, Osnato said she came to think "Why not me?" That's when the idea for Candy-O's began to take shape.

Though it originally started as a joke between Osnato and her father — inspiring them to go off on a tangent thinking about the candies they loved — the idea eventually took hold. "At the core, I wanted to bring some joy back into my

little corner of the world and felt sweets were the way to do it," Osnato said.

Having owned his own business since the 1970s and loving his work throughout those decades, Osnato said her father is a major source of inspiration for her. Today, she said he is her biggest cheerleader.

"All day long, I have customers stop by the shop saying 'Your dad just sent us up here,' or 'Your dad said to say hello!' It is really comforting to know he is just down the street," she said.

When she heard that Roz and Richard Roney-Dougal of White Horse Collection were retiring, Osnato knew the space that once held the couple's boutique would be perfect for a candy store. Appraising the historic building's old-fashioned feel and its large bay windows, she said she knew it would be ideal as soon as it became available. Between her father and her fellow Main Street merchants, Osnato said everyone has been welcoming and supportive of her venture, adding to that sense of community that she loves so much about Millerton.

"It is refreshing as a new, young business owner to feel the support of so many others," she said.

Walking through the doors of Candy-O's today, customers will be amazed by the brilliant assortment of candies, chocolates, toys and treats on display throughout the bright, open space. The heart of Candy-O's is the nostalgia, Osnato said, add-



From left, Jane Markonic, Gillian Osnato and Jackie Osnato invited customers to explore the shelves bursting with candy, toys and other treats featured in Candy-O's, located at 28 Main St. in Millerton. Below, From Dubble Bubble, Starburst and Dots to candy necklaces, Nerds, Laffy Taffy and more, the shelves at Candy-O's are stocked with an immense variety of nostalgic and modern candies.

ing that she wanted her shop to be a place that feels modern and retro at the same time. To that end, her shop sells not only classics like Necco wafers, wax bottle nips and baskets of saltwater taffy but also Nerds, Airheads, Jolly Ranchers, Dubble Bubble gum and Pez dispensers from the show, "The Mandalorian."

Pages taken from comic books hang on the walls above shelves of appealing toys and treats to give the space a retro feel while above customers' heads a brightly colored sun

has been painted on the ceiling.

From the classic candies (like jelly beans, Starburst, Swedish Fish and Lemonheads) to the more sophisticated treats (like Belgian milk chocolate peanuts, chocolate-covered cornflake clusters and fine chocolates from Hudson Valley Chocolates), Candy-O's is stocked with enough sweetness to satisfy customer cravings of all shapes, sizes and flavors.

With warmer weather on the way, customers can also satisfy their ice cream cravings with an array of homemade ice cream from the famed Jane's Ice Cream in Kingston, with flavors like Banana Cookie, Limoncello, Killer Chocolate, Cappuccino Kahlua Calypso and Kitchen Sink (a tasty concoction of chocolate malt balls, marshmallows, cookies, chocolate covered caramel, chocolate peanut butter cups and chocolate chips). Yum!



PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

Hours of operation will run from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays through Sundays this spring, though hours may change with the warmer weather ahead.

Regarding her future plans for Candy-O's, Osnato said, "I hope that in five years, Candy-O's will be a staple in Millerton.

We will be an old friend to the locals and a new friend to visitors of the town. We will be a memory of family vacations and a place to bring joy to your child's birthday celebration."

Eventually, Osnato said she'd love to start a delivery service of candy and ice cream for the private schools in the region to offer students something special.

Easter Bunny hops to it during this year's Easter Bunny Run

MILLERTON — With help from the Millerton Fire Company, the Easter Bunny made his rounds throughout the community during the Easter Bunny Run on Saturday, April 3.

Days prior, the fire company invited families who wanted a visit from the famed rabbit to drop a note with their name, address and phone number in front of the firehouse.

Starting at 2 p.m. on Saturday afternoon, the Easter Bunny took a ride around the neighborhood, stopping at the different houses to give out Easter baskets. By the end of the run, the bunny had delivered 50 baskets to local children.

It was an alternative to the Millerton Gun Club's annual egg hunt held in concert with the fire company, which was canceled this year due to the pandemic.

— Kaitlin Lyle



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Aided by the Millerton Fire Company, the Easter Bunny delivered 50 Easter baskets to the children throughout the village of Millerton and town of North East, with a few of his special volunteer helpers, during the Easter Bunny Run on Saturday, April 3.

Correcting Errors

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

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

Check them out inside.
• CVS

MILLERTON IN BRIEF

Residents urged to take broadband survey

The Town of North East Broadband Access Committee wants to know, How's Your Internet? Fast, slow, non-existent?

Tell the committee all about it, by taking the community survey. Those who participate will help the town in its efforts to bring high-speed internet service to homes and businesses throughout the town of Millerton. Participation could also assist the town in acquiring important funding down the road. To start, go to www.townofnortheastny.gov.

There are also paper copies of the survey available at the NorthEast-Millerton Library at 75 Main St., Millerton.

The survey will be live for about two months. It went up on the town website on March 29.

For more information, call the North East Town Hall at 518-789-3300.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

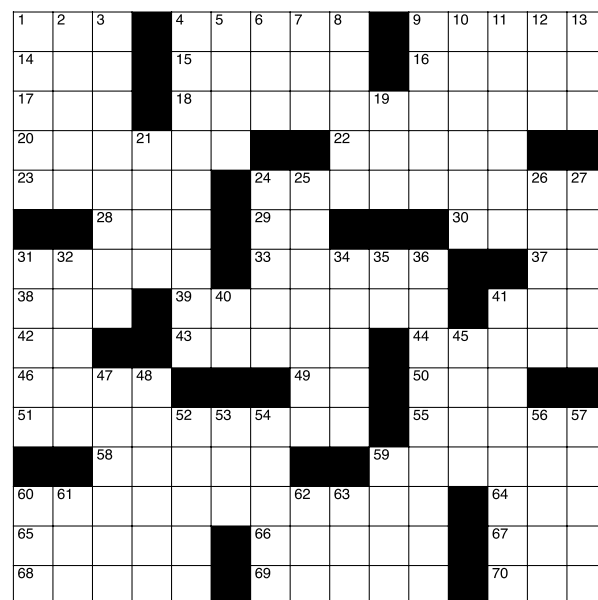
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Pituitary hormone (abbr.)
- Ceramic jars
- Monetary units
- Alias
- "Superman" actor
- Britonic tribe
- Shorten
- LA Dodgers manager
- Hoarded
- Theatrically portray
- Noah's grandson
- Dependent
- Peyton's little brother
- Cools the house
- Principle part of
- Type of wrap
- Peels
- Commercial
- Make an attempt
- Arrange in steps
- U. Utah athlete
- Old English
- Trade
- Nostrils
- Ticket seller __Hub
- Of I
- Institute legal proceedings against
- Takes apart
- Doorway
- Long int'l river
- Trailblazing athlete Gibson
- Former CBS News host
- Sign language
- Badgerlike mammal
- Thin strips of wood
- Brooklyn hoopster
- Portents of good or evil
- Footwear
- When you think you'll arrive

CLUES DOWN

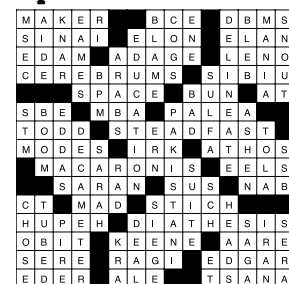
- Batflower genus
- Predatory seabirds
- Fish farm
- Arrangements
- Go in advance of others
- Bulgarian monetary unit
- "__ Maria"
- W. African ethnoreligious group
- Wild Asian oxen genus
- Vinegary
- To this
- Explosive
- Female sibling
- Orlando museum (abbr.)
- Type of hoop
- About Holy Father
- Academic environment



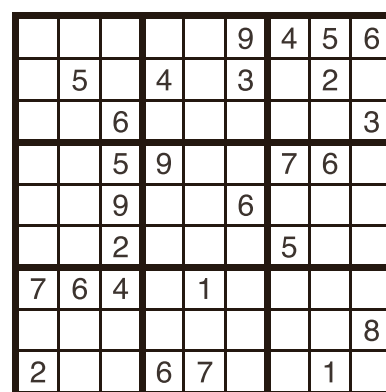
- Extremely angry
- Surrenders
- Swiss mountain pass
- Sharp mountain ridge
- Erases
- Spielberg's alien
- Absurd
- Dorm worker
- Used to make pesticides
- The sister of your father or mother
- A way to let know
- Can't produce much vegetation
- Small streams
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Weights
- Start over
- Black Sea resort city
- Wimbledon champ

- Corporate executive (abbr.)
- Unskilled actor who overacts
- Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!
- Of or relating to ears

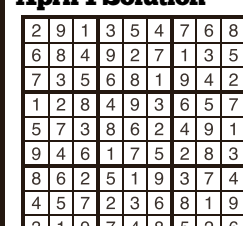
April 1 Solution



Sudoku



April 1 Solution



Level: Intermediate

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AMENIA/MILLBROOK

Millbrook budget expectations shared for the new fiscal year

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Every municipality knows what hard work and determination are required to do the yearly fiscal budget, but for 2020-21, COVID-19 brought in less revenue, created more spending and more challenges than previous budgets, as Mayor Tim Collopy expressed recently in his community newsletter.

Collopy noted in the newsletter and in a recent interview that going into the budget process there were "carry-overs" from previous budgets, including that the A-fund finished the fiscal year 2019-20 with \$100,000 more in expenses than revenues, leaving less than \$100,000 unrestricted in the fund balance in reserve.

This leads to the second issue: The current budget for 2020-21 did not include sufficient monies for base hourly wages for police and highway personnel nor estimated overtime for extra police coverage, snow plowing or off-hour clerk duties.

The mayor said there were also some unrealistic estimates for the cost of social security and New York State retirement contributions and also attorney fees. The Village Board put controls on non-emergency overtime and cut or deferred expenses whenever possible, he added.

The fiscal year 2019-20 ended with the F-fund owing the A-fund \$50,000 and the C-fund owing the A-fund \$60,000. Borrowing from one fund to another is allowed, but must be repaid within two years, he noted.

The Village Board also identified some new issues for the upcoming 2021-22 budget; one is that there are four loan payments that total \$33,000, which will begin in 2021-2022 for the purchase last year of both a new police car and a

dump truck.

The firehouse also needs a new roof, and the fire company has proposed a metal roof, due to a shallow slope and a lifetime warranty. The fire department said it will pay 50% if the village pays the other 50%, an amount of \$55,000 over a period of three to four years, for a total cost of about \$119,000.

The transfer of the Thorne Building, coming up shortly, means that the village will no longer receive \$25,000 annually from the Thorne Trust.

Additionally, there will be a cost for the implementation of the state-mandated Police Reform and Modernization Plan, which will require training and administration within the Millbrook Police Department (MPD).

It is also estimated that another \$44,000 will be needed for expected overtime for highway, police and front office personnel in the village.

The board plans to "scrub each budget category line-by-line" said the mayor, to repay the monies owed to the A-fund from the F-fund and the G-fund by July 20, to make the overall village finances healthier, increasing the fund balance and addressing the high fiscal stress rating. The goal is to eventually reach a fund balance of \$500,000. Lastly, the board has set a contingency of zero dollars.

The largest increase occurred in the MPD's budget; growing by \$47,000 or 29% due to shift coverage overtime expectations, the new police vehicle and additional retirement contributions. There are also the additional costs mentioned earlier for the Police Reform and Modernization Plan and requisite training.

Expected overtime increased by \$10,000 for the village clerk and deputy clerk.

Non-police and social security increased by \$9,000 and \$15,000, respectively; pro-

jected attorney fees went from \$10,000 to \$25,000, a more realistic amount for 2021-22, according to the mayor. The contractual cost for 24/7 ambulance coverage by Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP) increased by \$10,000.

The Highway Department budget also increased \$10,000, which covers the cost of a new dump truck. The costs listed above added to the budget, accounting for \$130,000 in increases to the budget, offset by \$70,000 of expense reductions and leaving a net increase of \$60,000 in the tax levy.

The A-fund budget increased \$62,000, to \$352,000 or 21%, to pay back the \$60,000 owed to the A-fund. That includes for the maintenance and repairs of the sewer infrastructure and will begin a capital reserve for future infrastructure improvements. The sewer bills will include an increase to customers of 16% as of April 20 and raise the Sewer Special Benefit Assessment by \$10,000.

The mayor named other key actions for the coming fiscal year of 2021-22; sewer reserve funds will be started for both the F- and G-fund budgets, preparing for future capital improvements for both water and sewer operations. The payments have been frozen for one year to the A-fund reserve accounts for ambulance, highway vehicle, police vehicle and Village Hall restorations.

The overall village budget General Fund is \$1,939,000. Revenue and expenses are equal in the budget.

Actual figures may be found on the village website, www.villageofmillbrookny.com.

Residents are invited to participate at the Wednesday, April 7, 6 p.m. public hearing on the budget, which will be held via Zoom.

Email clerk@villageofmillbrook.com or call 845-0677-3939 for the details.



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Bundled up for the cool springtime weather, local families arrived at Beekman Park at 10 a.m. for the start of Amenia's annual Easter Egg Hunt, held despite the pandemic.

Hopping along to a sunny springtime Easter Egg Hunt

AMENIA — Starting at 10 a.m. sharp, the Amenia Recreation Commission invited local families to its annual Easter Egg Hunt at Beekman Park and sponsored by Silo Ridge, Dutchess County Realty, Rebillard Public Relations, Amenia Four Brothers and Jack's Auto Service. The town held the event despite the health crisis, and organizers

tried to keep youngsters a safe distance from each other.

In the minutes leading up to the big event, children were seen walking to the baseball fields where colorful eggs laid scattered. Clutching baskets in hand and waiting for the signal to begin hunting, children ages 4 and up scattered around one field, snatching up eggs as quickly as

they could and keeping their eyes out for their next target.

In an adjoining field designated for children up to age 3, family members gave little ones a hand in finding the eggs.

After the hunt, everyone was invited to visit with the Easter Bunny who made himself available for photos in the park.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Washington Recreation Department hosts dual egg hunts for Easter

WASHINGTON — Finding foil-wrapped chocolate eggs was easy at the Town of Washington Recreation Department's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3, held at the Town Park.

The hunt had two shifts. The first shift started at the right side of the soccer field at 10:30 a.m., with a second shift starting at 11:15 a.m. on the left side of the field.

Between the two shifts, roughly 90 local children signed up for the festivities, and none went away disappointed.

Music played throughout the event. The weather was cool but fair, and a good time appeared to be had by all.

— Judith O'Hara Balfe



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

At the Town of Washington's annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3, from left, Everleigh Dwyer, 2, and Fiona Patane, 3, stayed busy filling their pails with candy.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE REPORT

The following information was provided by the New York State Police Troop K in Salt Point. All suspects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Domestic dispute call leads to multiple charges

On Thursday, Feb. 25, the New York State Police (NYSP), with assistance from the New York Police Department (NYPD), arrested Ruben A. Stella, age 27, of Millbrook, for Attempted Robbery in the 3rd degree, Aggravated Family Offense and Criminal Contempt in the 1st degree, all class E felonies.

On Sept. 9, 2020, Troopers responded to a residence on Route 44 in the town of Washington for a domestic dispute. An investigation determined Stella attempted to forcibly steal property from the victim while an order of protection was in place. Stella, who fled to the New York City area, was advised of the charges by telephone, but refused to turn himself in. A warrant for his arrest was issued by the town of Washington Court as a result. Stella was then located in New York City with the assistance of the NYPD on Feb. 25, 2021.

Stella was arraigned before the town of Washington Court and remanded to the Dutchess County Jail in lieu of \$15,000 cash bail, \$30,000 bond or \$120,000 partially secure bond. He was scheduled to appear before the court on March 2.

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

AREA IN BRIEF

Amenia Fire Company Chicken Barbecue

AMENIA — The Amenia Fire Company will be sponsoring a take-out only Chicken Barbecue on Saturday, April 10, at the Amenia firehouse, located at 36 Mechanic St.

It will be a drive-thru style event, with dinners ready for pickup between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 each and are available on a pre-order basis by calling 845-418-8633.

Child passenger safety seats will be checked

AMENIA — The New York State Police (NYSP) and the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office will host a child passenger safety seat event by appointment only at the Amenia firehouse at 36 Mechanic St. on Wednesday, April 14, from 4 to 7 p.m.

NYSP technicians will be on hand to assist with the installation of children's safety seats and answer any questions. Appointments are required.

To make an appointment, call 845-677-7331 or email at ktraffic@troopers.ny.gov.

Church Anti-Racism Book Study

MILLBROOK — On Monday, April 12, from 1 to 2 p.m. the Lyall Memorial Federated Church will begin its next six-week session of its Anti-Racism Book Study group.

RSVP by Saturday, April 10, by emailing Susan in the church office at communications@lyallmemorial.org or call the church at 845-677-3585.

Spring Programs at Silver Lake

Join us for a day of outdoor fun at camp!

\$48/person. Masks and social distancing required. See www.silverlakect.org for registration and program details.

	<p>Silver Lake Sampler April 24</p> <p>Grade 4 & older • See what it's like to spend a day at camp! Arts & crafts, garden, games, and more.</p>
	<p>Waterways May 8</p> <p>Grade 3 & older • Explore Silver Lake's stream and pond and learn how you can help them thrive.</p>
	<p>Love Creation May 15</p> <p>Grade 3 & older • Spend a day in the Silver Lake garden! Learn about where food comes from and how to take care of the earth.</p>
	<p>Silver Lake Field Day May 22</p> <p>Grade 3 & older • Engage in silly competition with friends, new and old. High-energy fun! No skills required.</p>

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SPORTS

Millbrook Marathon

New tradition kicks off April 11

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — The Eastern Dutchess Road Runners Club has just the thing to bring someone out of the winter doldrums, and the largely isolated habits most have settled into during the past year.

The race starts from 3477 Route 44 Mabbettsville, at the Town of Washington Park and Pool. The route will cover 26.2 miles, which organizers said may not be the flattest route one may ever run, but could be the most beautiful.

By then, trees should be turning green with tiny buds about to burst, and most certainly there will be song birds trilling their songs throughout the day.

Runners will have six hours to complete the course; early registrants will be given T-shirts. Racers will receive finisher medals as they cross the finish line.

Registration packets may be picked up at 6:30 a.m.; the race is from 7:30 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Awards will be given to first-place winners, male and female, in each age group.

So anticipated has this event been that the cap for runners was reached back in early February, but organizers said they expect plenty of spectators and onlookers, who may want to compete in the group's next marathon; look for more information on its website.

There also are opportunities for volunteers to man water stations; volunteers must be 18 years of age or older. Aside

from water stations, there will be port-a-potties along the way. Participants will be asked to observe a few rules in this pandemic-era marathon, for their own safety and the safety of others.

Mask-wearing is mandatory before and after the race while near others, wearing it while running is up to the athlete. Runners must stay 6 feet from other runners and from people watching by the side of the road. Viewers are asked not to stand in groups and to use hand sanitizer. Sanitizer and refreshments will be available, but attendees may feel free to bring their own if they prefer.

The weather calls for cloudy skies and 60 degree temperatures. If everyone observes the rules, the inaugural Millbrook Marathon should be an exciting and positive way to welcome spring and a new season of hope.

While participants have already paid their fees, donations can be made to the Eastern Dutchess Road Runners Club, a is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization, in a racer's name. For more information, go to the club's Facebook page or check out its website, www.edrrc.org.

The Eastern Dutchess Road Runners Club started in 2016 to promote distance running as a means of getting and staying fit. The club organizes races and marathons to benefit local charities and provides educational information and news on running with newsletters, presentations and through other educational channels. As it states online, its members "meet up multiple times a week for group runs. Everyone is welcome and no one is left behind."



PHOTO SUBMITTED

A choreographer, dancer and teacher from Liverpool, England, Pei Tong explored Chinese contemporary dance for the 2020-21 Virtual Salon Performance Series for Social Change on Thursday, April 1.

Dance group with Pine Plains roots Zooms worldwide

NEW YORK CITY — Offering an evening of original performances, Pine Plains native and part-time Ancram resident, New York City choreographer Mark DeGarmo of Mark DeGarmo Dance aired his 2020-21 Virtual Salon Performance Series for Social Change on Thursday, April 1, via Zoom.

The evening offered curated dance and movement works-in-progress performed by guest artists Silviya Diaz Brown, Nick M. Daniels, Indigo Afi Ngozi and Pei Tong. Afterward, the artists chatted with the audience.

Just a few weeks earlier, Mark DeGarmo Dance organized a three-night Virtual International Arts Festival for Social Change, showcasing 19 dancers, choreographers and performers from five countries in the Zoom broadcast.

The festivals are featured on his website, www.markdegarmodance.org.

In the days of COVID-19 when opportunities for such

performances are rare, DeGarmo believes virtual festivals provide fans a chance to see live performing arts, including dance.

— Kaitlin Lyle

OBITUARIES

Teresa (Perotti) Solan

NORTH CANAAN — Teresa (Perotti) Solan, professional seamstress and supermom, passed peacefully into Heaven on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, with her family and health aide, Love Togoe, surrounding her. She was 91.



Teresa was born on Jan. 13, 1930, and was the only child of Palma Perotti Consolini.

She was a professional seamstress and taught sewing in the 4H Club in North Canaan for more than 20 years, worked at Stadium Systems, Bianchi's, Bob's Clothing, made children's clothing for Jerry Appleyard of Lakeville, and made numbered blankets for the horses in the Kentucky Derby.

As a communicant of St. Joseph's Church, she was a member of the D of I and loved working on their chicken barbecue and Friday night Bingo.

She also worked as a teachers' aide at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in the 1970s and 1980s.

Upon her retirement, she traveled with her husband of 65 years, visiting Israel, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, Bermuda, Ireland, Branson, Mo., Idaho, Washington

state, San Francisco and Texas to keep tabs on her kids. They would spend the winters in Holiday, Fla., at their winter home, and kept in touch with Little Canaan residents on the West Coast of Florida.

Teresa was predeceased by her husband, Joseph; and her son, William "The Big Dog" Billy. She leaves behind her daughter, Theresa Belter and husband, Tom, of McKinny, Texas, and their two children and three grandchildren; her son, the Rev. Deacon Peter Solan of San Francisco; her son, Richard, and his son; and her special AFS student son, Josef Jungo of Zurich, Switzerland, and his family, whom she kept in touch with since 1976.

At her request, calling hours will be on Tuesday, April 6, from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at Saint Martin of Tours Catholic Church in North Canaan at 11 a.m. Burial will be in Lakeville at St Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, Teresa requested that donations be made to SVNA Hospice Care.

Joan Boyd (Barnett) Loper

HARON — Joan Boyd (Barnett) Loper, 85, of Sharon and formerly of Lakeville, passed away peacefully at her home on March 29, 2021.



A graveside service will be held at Ellsworth Cemetery at a date and time to be announced.

Pastor Margaret Laemmel of Sharon and Lakeville Methodist Churches and Brian Kenny of Kenny Funeral Homes will officiate.

Joan was born in Sharon on Sept. 7, 1935. She graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School and continued on to attend college in Vermont.

Joan was married to Ralph Everett Loper, the love of her life, on July 1, 1972; they were married for 48 years (28 years if you go by Ralph's death in 2000 — since they were only widowed, not divorced).

Joan worked for General Mills Food in Chicago, Ill., and

Sharon Hospital and was treasurer for the Town of Sharon over the years. She enjoyed traveling, spending time with family and friends, reading and knitting.

Joan is survived by her daughter, Chaffee T. Loper of Sharon; her granddaughter, Emma Grace Fecteler; her sister, Cynthia (Barnett) Smith (and her husband, Clayton Smith) of Lakeville; her brother, Peter Barnett (and his wife, Jeanne Burke Barnett) of New Jersey; as well as many nieces, nephews and other family and friends.

Joan was predeceased by her husband, Ralph E. Loper; her parents, William and Mary Barnett; her in-laws, Howard and Winifred Loper; and her twin brothers, John and William Barnett Jr.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Kenny Funeral Homes in Sharon.



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Salisbury Bank and Trust has nearly completed its new office on Bissell Street on property that was for many years the home of The Lakeville Journal.

SB&T prepares to fully open new building

By PATRICK L. SULLIVAN patricks@lakevillejournal.com

and desks. The latter can be raised and lowered at the touch of a button.

LAKEVILLE, Conn. — Salisbury Bank and Trust's new building at 33 Bissell St. in Lakeville, Conn., is just about finished. Bank President Rick Cantele showed this reporter around the modern, light and airy building on Friday, April 2.

The site is the former home of The Lakeville Journal.

Cantele said at first the idea was to renovate the old building.

But it soon became apparent that a new building was the wiser course of action.

The new building has two floors, is about 15,000 square feet, and cost roughly \$4 million.

As Cantele and the reporter entered, a workman was standing on a ladder, fiddling with something.

Bearing left, where The Journal newsroom used to be, the eye beheld a work area with partitions

This area is the call center. Employees Cathy Devoti and Noemi Medina were standing at their stations, fielding calls.

Ultimately, Cantele said, the building will have about 115 employees in it. Right now, between COVID-19 precautions and workers completing the final touches, the building is at one-third capacity.

Many of the employees were working in basements at the bank's main branch (which is steps away on Bissell Street), and will doubtless appreciate the design of the new 33 Bissell St., with its atrium allowing natural light and pleasant conference and break rooms grouped around it.

Cantele said he hopes to have the building at full capacity by the end of the summer.

Worship Services
Week of April 11, 2021

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

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Sunday Service 10:30 AM
Kidz Konnection
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Pastor Trip Weiler
413-229-8560
www.greenwoodschurch.com

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
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Trinity Lime Rock Facebook page
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Rev. Heidi Truax
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(860) 435-2627
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Unitarian Fellowship of NW CT
Join our virtual service on
Sunday, April 11 at 10:30 a.m.
"Love"
For information, contact Jo Loi
at jokialo@gmail.com
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The Lakeville United Methodist Church
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PINE PLAINS

Vaccination clinic pops up at Stissing Mountain High School

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

PINE PLAINS — Though the forecast predicted a dreary spring day, area residents remained hopeful as they headed into the Pine Plains Vaccination Pop-Up Clinic held at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School to receive their shots and protect themselves against COVID-19.

Organized through Dutchess County and the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DCDBCH) in partnership with the Pine Plains Central School District, the recent pop-up clinic was one of the county's many efforts to reach local communities and target individuals with transportation issues who might otherwise not access larger vaccination sites.

So far, Dutchess County Commissioner of Emergency Response Dana Smith said pop-

up clinics have been held in East Fishkill and Beacon, with more to come, though its all depends on vaccine availability.

"I think this is one of the key principles of government to help the community, to protect them... to simply help people," Smith said. "By providing vaccinations, we're helping protect the community from COVID-19."

"The supply we're getting from the state has not yet met demands, but our efforts have been to get vaccines as close to those who need them most," said Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, who was among the 350 people to receive a vaccine at the pop-up clinic that day.

Also lending a hand to those in need of transportation and other assistance, the North East Community Center (NECC) in Millerton offered residents having trouble registering for vaccine appointments on top of transportation support for se-

niors, shut-ins and other individuals. Utilizing its Dial-A-Ride program, NECC staff helped transport a number of local residents to the clinic throughout the day.

A total of 350 doses of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine were administered in Pine Plains that day, between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"It was easy and I would even say pleasant," said Millerton resident Inzan Rose about her experience. "Everyone was really nice and encouraging. They were all very kind and upbeat. Other people we live with had to drive to SUNY Oneonta — we just had to drive 18 minutes."

"It was very pleasant," said Molly Prentiss, a resident of Milan who qualified for the vaccine under the 30-year-old age group. "Everyone was so nice and welcoming — the shot hurt more than expected."

"It was a great, really smooth process," said Forrest Lewinger,



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro was one of the 350 people to receive his COVID-19 vaccine at the Pine Plains Vaccination Pop-Up Clinic held at Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School on Wednesday, March 31.

Prentiss' husband, who also qualified under the age 30 group. "I mean, we were in and out in probably 30 minutes."

"We feel so lucky: We were planning on driving hours and dealing with the hassle... but instead we got an email and got an appointment the next day," Prentiss added. "It was really efficient."

The county executive said he

thought last week's clinic went very smoothly.

"It was so well run and so seamless that we hope the state will continue to give us increased doses so we can continue," he said. "We need more doses and that's consistently our message to the state. Now 30% of our population has received their first dose and we're starting to see more progress. We're getting

more doses and we're administering at more places."

"The Pine Plains Central School is happy to partner with Dutchess County in hosting this pop-up vaccination clinic," Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler said later. "This clinic provided a great opportunity for our residents to receive vaccinations, particularly those with limited access to transportation."

Easter Bunny makes house calls

PINE PLAINS — For the second year in a row, the Pine Plains Fire Department helped get the community into the Easter spirit despite the pandemic by giving the Easter Bunny a ride around town as part of its Easter Egg My House event on Saturday, April 3.

To give local families a heads up about the event, the fire department uploaded a poster for this year's Easter Egg My House onto its Facebook page and encouraged families interested in receiving a visit from the Easter Bunny to reach out with their names, addresses and number of children.

With assistance from the Pine Plains Police Department, the fire department transported the Easter Bunny around town in a firetruck to 24 different homes, starting at 8 a.m. and finishing around 11 a.m.

Upon his arrival, the Easter Bunny laid eggs out on their lawn for children to collect and posed for photos with them.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

From left, Jaavion, Laylaa and Ayaan Brescia were among the many Pine Plains children who received a visit from the Easter Bunny on Saturday, April 3, as part of the Pine Plains Fire Department's Easter Egg My House event.

"I thought it turned out pretty good," said Pine Plains Fire Department President Brenda Jackson. "This is our second year that

we did this and it's great to see the smiles on the kids' faces and their being all excited."

— Kaitlin Lyle

STANFORDVILLE IN BRIEF

Stanford Grange hosts Penny Social, Meatloaf Dinner on April 10

Stanford Grange #808 will host its Annual Spring Penny Social (revamped for COVID-19) on Saturday, April 10, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82, Stanfordville.

Due to COVID restrictions, the Penny Social will be slightly different. Prizes for the Penny Table, \$1 Table, 50/50 Drawing and Theme Baskets will be displayed inside the Grange Hall.

Bidding will take place between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.; bid-

ders are welcome to come to the Grange Hall to purchase tickets and bid on items. Numbers for all tickets will be recorded. Only eight to 10 bidders will be allowed in the Grange Hall at one time. All CDC Health Guidelines will be followed.

The Grange Hall and prize bidding closes at 6 p.m. A Facebook Live drawing on will take place starting at 7 p.m.

Also on Saturday, April 10, the Stanford Grange #808 will host a Meatloaf Dinner at the Grange

Hall.

A \$15 donation is asked for each dinner. The dinner will be take out only, and dinners will be available for pick up at 5 p.m.

For reservations or more information, call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton at 845-868-7869.

For more information on the Annual Spring Penny Social, and information on bidding, call the same number.

BRIDGING DIVIDES HEALING COMMUNITIES

SPEAKER SERIES

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All virtual sessions are open to the public but registration is required

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MADDIE FLETCHER *Continued from Page A1*



PHOTO SUBMITTED

VFW Post 5444 Commander-Elect Maddie Fletcher geared up in flight gear for a helicopter patrol while stationed at HSC-26 in Norfolk, Va., in 2007.

She also graduated from the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) in Hyde Park and has worked in 4-star restaurants but has since shifted gears and is now pursuing a teaching career; she will graduate from Dutchess Community College this semester and then transfer to either Marist College or West Conn.

In the meantime, Fletcher also bartends part-time at Post 5444, where she said she gets to hear all of the veterans share their war stories — a privilege and honor she treasures.

Mom to a 9-year-old daughter, Brooklyn, and 26-year-old step-daughter, Devanie, Fletcher said she and her husband decided to return to Dover to be close to her family, as her husband’s family is in Jamaica, too far away to consider living there.

The promotion will become effective on Thursday, May 6, when she takes her oath of office. It can set an important example — especially for Brooklyn — who is just learning that women earn less for doing the same work as men and often have less rights than their male counterparts, said Fletcher.

“I think it is great to be a role model for her, and for her to have someone to look up to who wants to help other veterans,” she said, noting she helps council other veterans struggling after returning from combat and works with the national Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) through its peer to peer classes. Fletcher also volunteers with the Homefront Program for friends and families of veterans and is a member of Student Veterans of America; she plans to speak to Congress in October about veteran issues on their behalf.

When asked what she would say to her daughter specifically about the historical significance of her promotion, Fletcher paused for a moment.

“I would say that we don’t have to limit ourselves, that we can push for the sky and there are no limitations on what we can do,” she said.

When asked if she ever encountered sexism when in the

military, her response came much more quickly.

“One-hundred percent,” said the commander-elect. “When I first got in the military, having females on ships was a new thing. I entered the military in 2004; when I was in, we still weren’t allowed on submarines.”

Women weren’t admitted to the VFW for some time, either. In fact, according to the organization’s national website, www.vfw.org, “While female World War I nurses began qualifying for [VFW] membership in 1921 following the war, it wasn’t until 1978 that women were formally admitted to the VFW.”

The VFW goes back to 1899, “when veterans of the Spanish-American War [1898] and the Philippine Insurrection [1899-1902] founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for their service. Many arrived home wounded or sick. There was no medical care or veterans’ pension for them, and they were left to care for themselves,” stated the website.

There are more than 1.5 million members of the both VFW and its Auxiliary today, it added.

The VFW and its Auxiliary advocate for many veteran issues; they helped pass the Veterans Access and Accountability Act of 2014 and continue to fight for improved conditions and services for men and women at VA medical centers.

The best part of her new command, said Fletcher, is continuing to promote Post 5444 — a place where she’s consistently found support — no matter her gender, no matter her young age (at 34 she’s one of the youngest veterans, if not the youngest, to ever take charge in Post 5444’s history) and no matter her title.

“The VFW, to me, is a place where veterans can go and find home,” said Fletcher, asking readers to be on the lookout for events and fundraisers in the near future to help back the organization. “We’re a program that supports veterans and supports our community, not only the veteran community but the community in general.”

To read our thoughts on Fletcher’s historic journey, turn to this week’s Opinion Page, Page B4.

ANTI-ASIAN BIAS *Continued from Page A1*

Governor Cuomo. Again, we will always work tirelessly to bring those who break the law motivated by hate to justice.”

Human rights webinar follows slew of incidents

On Tuesday afternoon, March 30, the New York State Division of Human Rights organized a virtual webinar, “Challenging Anti-AAPI Bias: How Targeted Communities Have Responded to Hate” to discuss recent attacks against members of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities and how they fit into historical patterns of hate crimes. It can be viewed in full on the “NYSHumanRights” YouTube channel.

New York State Division of Human Rights Interim Commissioner Jonathan Smith called the attention of those watching to a recent video published online and showed an attack on a 65-year-old Asian American woman in broad daylight in midtown Manhattan.

Just a couple weeks prior to that incident, Smith recalled another incident in which an 83-year-old Asian American grandmother was approached by a stranger in Westchester County who proceeded to spit in her face and punch her in the nose, leaving her unconscious on the ground.

“The NYPD has reported that, this past weekend alone, there have been 27 anti-AAPI bias incidents in 2021 so far compared to eight during the same period from last year,” Smith said. “Ac-

cording to the group Stop AAPI Hate, there have been over 3,800 incidents of anti-Asian bias nationwide. Nearly 10% have involved physical assault, approximately 70% have targeted women and approximately 13% of those incidents have occurred here in New York State — and these numbers don’t even begin to capture all of the many other incidents and attacks that have occurred but are not reported to law enforcement or to groups like Stop AAPI Hate.

“All of this is tragic, all of it is heartbreaking and all of it is completely unnecessary,” he added.

In addressing these incidents,

Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul said part of what needs to be done is to show up, listen and engage and then act. Between COVID-19 and the discrimination “that reared its ugly head because of the disgusting experience we just went through with the previous administration where they mischaracterized the whole origins of the COVID pandemic,” she said a cauldron of anger and angst against innocent AAPI individuals was created.

Angered by the incident involving the 65-year-old Asian American woman, Hochul said the bystanders who just watched the violence unfold offended her almost as much as the incident

itself. “If that’s the people we are, then I’m sorry, we have to change our character starting now,” Hochul said, “because we should be ‘upstanders,’ not bystanders.”

Cuomo creates \$10M fund

Governor Andrew Cuomo and state lawmakers just agreed to create a \$10 million fund in the budget to fight discrimination against Asian Americans. A reported \$10 million in grants will be distributed to community and social service groups to stop bias crimes committed against Asian Americans. Funding is also slated for bystander training programs, to detect and report discrimination and to fund civilian patrols.

LIME ROCK PARK *Continued from Page A1*

effectively ruled out participation.

Riegel said that LRP, operating within the state and federal pandemic guidelines, will do everything possible to offer activities this summer.

“It’s incumbent on us to try our best to give people the opportunity to get out of the house.”

Asked about the future of LRP, Riegel said “the plan is for growth and better opportunity.”

He said the investment group is quite conscious of its role as stewards of Lime Rock Park — emphasis on the word “park.”

“It’s called a park for a reason,” he said. “It’s unique. We’ll do things a little bit better, a little bit differently.”



PHOTO BY LANS CHRISTENSEN

A new trio of investors has taken charge of the race track at Lime Rock Park. They promise to protect the park-like setting that makes the race venue unique while expanding activities there.

CONSERVANCY *Continued from Page A1*

sanctuary has since stated that it intends to sell 128 acres and hold onto only 26 acres, feeling that will be sufficient for their needs.

Neighbors have since banded together and formed Save the Sanctuary Wassaic (SSW); they’ve approached the sanctuary to consider alternatives to selling to the highest bidder.

“What we’re trying to do is to keep this really important natural resource available to the public as a green space,” said Patricia McGrath, a Wassaic resident and founder of SSW. “The sanctuary’s encouraged community events there, encouraged community access, and so we would really miss it if it were gone or changed.”

As former chair of America’s Conservation Advisory Committee (CAC), Tonia Shoumatoff said when the sanctuary acquired the land in 1988, it was considered as holy as Mount Fuji in Japan. Masahisa Goi is the late founder of the World Peace Sanctuary; he’s from Japan, home to the sanctuary’s original site and creator of its well-known message, “May Peace Prevail on Earth.”

From its wetlands, aquifers and forest land to the timber rattlesnakes, bog turtles and other endangered and protected species found at the Wassaic sanctuary, McGrath emphasized the value of preserving the land as “a wealth of natural resources

in a large space, which she said “offers us the chance to walk through nature, to feel connected to something larger than our current troubles.”

“I have danced on that land, I have sung on that land, I have beat drums on that land,” she said. “I have talked to Mother Nature on that land. It feels like a dear old friend to me that I don’t want to lose. Really, it brings tears to my eyes when I think about not being able to visit there.”

When McGrath learned of the subdivision application, she said she was heartbroken, though hopeful things might change.

Like McGrath, Shoumatoff said she was disappointed to hear the news from the town and not the sanctuary’s parent society in Japan and San Francisco, which may be in charge of making the final decision as to the sanctuary’s future.

SSW has eight members hoping to preserve the sanctuary site; McGrath formed the group to provide the sanctuary options so it won’t have to sell to a potential developer who could ultimately put up a large housing development. Aside from reaching out to land conservancy organizations like Dutchess Land Conservancy (DLC), SSW has made other suggestions.

If it’s too costly to maintain the property, the group has offered to fundraise to cover expenses; SSW members also offered to volunteer and personally help provide maintenance.

“We’ve tried to get them to talk to us about what it is that they need because we will do whatever they need to help meet that need so they don’t have to sell the property and preferably

not even have to subdivide it,” McGrath said. “Until we know what we need to do, we can’t do it.”

Meanwhile, McGrath has sought legal counsel to determine how to best protect her home — directly across from the sanctuary’s entrance — from any potential issues that might arise from any development down the road. Water run-off is a special concern as it has been an issue in the past, flooding nearby homes.

“That would be, in my opinion as the former CAC chair and the former watershed director for the area, a tragedy,” Shoumatoff said, “because not only is that land sacred land, especially in these difficult times of COVID-19, people walk every day. We need open space where people can go to find solace and reflect and find peace.”

Though she was unable to comment on the sanctuary property specifically, DLC President Becky Thornton said DLC is always happy to talk with landowners about conservation options.

Meanwhile, World Peace Sanctuary Administrator Ann Marie Robustelli did comment.

“It’s not even subdivided,” she said. “That’s what’s important here, it hasn’t even been subdivided,” though she acknowledged “it’s clear we are pursuing a subdivision,” and “once that’s obtained and authorized, we will be putting up... 128 acres for sale.”

Whether the peace sanctuary would consider putting its land into conservation, Robustelli said that she had no comment, as “we are not in a position to make that decision.”

LEGAL NOTICE

Legal Notice Village of Millerton NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Millerton will hold a public hearing to be held online via Zoom and on the Village Facebook Page, links to which can be obtained by contacting the Village Clerk at (518) 789-4489 or clerk@villageofmillerton.com, on Monday, April 19, 2021, at 6 o’clock p.m., Prevaling Time on Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2021, entitled “A Local Law Amending Section 170-41 ‘Signs and billboards’ of the Village of Millerton Zoning Law to Prohibit Profane Language on any Sign, Billboard, Flag or Banner in the Village.”

By order of the Village Board of Trustees Kelly Kilmer, Village Clerk 04-08-21

For more Legal Notices, turn to Page B3.

More sports stories online

HARLEM VALLEY — This week, The Millerton News has a number of sports stories to report on: Some can be found on Page A4, but due to a lack of space, the rest can be found online, at www.tricornersnews.com. Below are the highlights of those stories posted online.

Virtual heart walk

The 2021 Dutchess-Ulster Heart Walk Digital Experience is Saturday, April 17. Organized by the American Heart Association, the aim of this annual

walk is to raise awareness of heart health and disease. The American Heart Association’s (AHA) main priority is also to fundraise for research toward both goals. Registration information is online.

Webutuck soccer match

The Lady Warriors soccer team laid it all out on the field at an away game against Ellenville on Thursday, April 1, but struggled throughout the match. In the end, Webutuck fell to its opponent, losing 6-1.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Arts & Entertainment

COOKING WITH KIDS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Spring Vacation Will Start Soon; Pizza Can Help

There is of course no actual reason to make your own pizza, from a culinary point of view. Your average pizza professional will toss a much better pie than anything you can make in an afternoon at home.

There is nonetheless one very compelling reason to try making the food favorite (which some legislators are trying to make the official state food of Connecticut): Making pizza is fun and a great activity to do with children.

Spring vacation is coming soon for students in Region One. That means that children of all ages will be bored and hanging around the house (especially if it's cold and muddy outside); plus, you will have to feed them.

PIZZA IS HERE TO HELP

This is a project that checks a lot of activity boxes:

- It can be enjoyed by all age groups, from teens to toddlers.
- It has several educational components. For instance, all cooking projects teach children to count, to measure and to follow instructions. Ideally, you will model good behavior by getting all the ingredients out ahead of time,



PHOTO BY CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Making pizza can be very easy if you don't fuss over it too much, and it offers children a fun and delicious indoor activity.

pre-measuring them and reading the instructions aloud together.

Another educational component is to talk about pizza's origins in Italy. This is a moment in cooking history when we talk about cultural appropriation; before you get cooking, do some internet searches for Italian pizza (or watch the excellent television show "Stanley Tucci, Searching for Italy." In the episode about Naples you can watch a mouthwatering demonstration of how true Italian pizza is made).

• For older children, learning to make a favorite food is a confidence booster. Maybe your teens will even invite friends over for their own pizza party.

• Any project that involves yeast is automatically a lesson in life science. Yeast is alive. It's fun to watch what it does to flour and water.

• Making pizza falls into the category of "decorative craft projects." Children above all else love to

decorate things, and any child of any age can enjoy arranging cheese, basil, sauce on a crust canvas.

As the parent, your job is to keep your hands off; don't tell them how to decorate unless they ask for your help. You'll have enough to do preparing the ingredients and cleaning up; let them create the edible art. This is about doing an intergenerational project that, in the end, will also provide you with lunch or dinner.

TRIGGER WARNINGS

It's important to warn your pizza makers that the pretty pizza they put in the oven will be less pretty after it's been exposed to 450-degree heat for a quarter of an hour. Children who love monster films might be thrilled by this; younger children might be disappointed.

This recipe is adapted from a recipe at www.allrecipes.com by Chef Rider. I made several changes, including leaving out the

sugar. Bakers use sugar to be sure their yeast is active (to "proof" it), but if you use an unexpired packet of yeast you shouldn't have any problems.

I use SAF instant yeast (I buy it at Sharon Farm Market in Sharon, Conn.), which gets mixed right in with the dry ingredients. You can do the same with active dry yeast, in spite of what the package says.

However, if your young chefs will find it exciting, by all means begin by combining one packet of active dry yeast with a teaspoon of white sugar and your warm water. Let the mix stand for 10 minutes until it puffs up. Then mix it with the other ingredients.

This recipe calls for bread flour, but I made it with all purpose flour because I think that's what most people have at home. If you have bread flour and want to use it, go ahead; it will improve the texture. But I found the all purpose crust to be crisp and tasty.

You'll need a strong stand mixer for this; I used my fancy high-power KitchenAid mixer and the dough was so stiff it shut my engine off. If you don't have a sturdy mixer, you can knead the dough for a few minutes but really don't worry about it too much. You want it to be smooth but it doesn't have to be professional quality.

EASY PIZZA

Adapted from www.allrecipes.com
Makes four small pizzas

- .25 ounces of dry yeast (or one packet of active dry yeast — note it is .25 not 25)
- 1 ¼ cup of warm water (heat it to 110 degrees; if you don't have a thermometer, it should feel warm not hot if you put a drop on the inside of your wrist)
- 2 ½ cups of all purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 teaspoon of salt

Toppings can include tomato sauce from a jar, pesto sauce, fresh or shredded mozzarella, good-quality ricotta (drain it over a colander first), olives, mushrooms, fresh basil, peppers, artichoke hearts — you know what you like.

Combine all your ingredients (except the toppings) in the bowl of a stand mixer and mix for about 5 minutes until the dough is smooth. You can knead it instead; don't worry over it too much, it doesn't have to be perfect, just smooth.

Let the dough rest for a half hour in a warm spot (80 degrees is ideal but again, don't worry about it too much). If you have an Instant Pot, wipe the inside of the pot with olive oil on a brush or paper towel, and then put your dough inside. Do not lock the cover on, just put a plate on top of it. Heat your dough on the yogurt setting for 30 minutes.

If your chefs are antsy, you can skip the rest period and go ahead and roll out the dough — but it will be stiff and uncooperative.

Meanwhile, preheat your oven to 450 degrees. After your dough has had its 30-minute rest, it should be puffy and tender. Divide it into four roughly equal pieces with a heavy knife or a pastry cutter. Lightly cover three of the pieces with a damp dishtowel or a sheet of plastic wrap.

Take the fourth piece of dough and roll it gently into a ball, then stretch it and flatten it into a disc. Put it on a sheet of parchment paper and roll it out gently. You probably won't make a perfect circle; feel free to make shapes (make a rabbit and give it mozzarella whiskers and a fluffy white mozz tail).

Shape the other three balls.

Give each young chef a pizza crust and some ingredients to work with. It's best if they can decorate their pizza in 15 minutes or less; if it takes longer, the dough can dry out and start to puff up. Make sure they stay on the parchment paper.

If you want to give your pizza a little more flavor, brush it lightly with olive oil and sprinkle on some salt and pepper before you start decorating.

Slide your pizza and parchment paper on a cookie sheet and put it in the oven. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes, until it looks done. Don't let anyone burn their mouth on the hot sauce and cheese. This pizza reheats beautifully (325 degree oven).

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ELEVATING HUMBLE MATERIALS

Sculptor Henry Klimowicz, owner and curator of The Re Institute in NorthEast, N.Y., on Boston Corners Road, has three new pieces in a group show at Lightforms Gallery and Art Center in Hudson, N.Y., called Moving Forms/Dynamic Balance. The show opened April 9 and will remain up until July 3.

For more information on the show, go to www.lightformsartcenter.com/exhibitions.

Like A Lichen #2 is one of three new pieces by Henry Klimowicz in a show at Lightforms Gallery in Hudson, N.Y.



PHOTO BY HENRY KLIMOWICZ

DAY TRIPS: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

A Museum Visit With Something For Everyone

The gang's all there: Shirley Temple, Popeye, Batman, the Simpsons and Betty Boop. Also, The Hulk, Barbie, Wall-E, Harry Potter, G.I. Joe, Charlie McCarthy and Howdy Doody. Visitors will also encounter Mickey and Minnie, the Three Stooges, the California Raisins, the Pillsbury Doughboy and too many other childhood characters, superheroes and legends to name.

From the moment you walk past the life-size statue of Po from the movie "Kung-Fu Panda" as you enter the Barker Character, Comic and Cartoon Museum in Cheshire, Conn., you're in for a trip down memory lane — or a flashback to the beloved Saturday afternoon cartoons of your childhood. It's a sure cure for cabin fever and a fun spring break outing for the entire family.

Nostalgia on steroids is a fitting way to describe the experience, sure to delight the young and the young-at-heart, whether 8 or 80.

"We're pretty much like a nostalgia machine over here," said museum docent Blake Bassett with a laugh. "We love to watch people's expressions when they see a toy they remember from the '30s or '40s. They can often tell you exactly how it works."

A common lament that usually follows, she said, is, "My mother threw mine away."

Not so for museum owners Jerry and Stephen Barker. The 3,500-square-foot space includes the personal collection of their late parents, Gloria and Herbert Barker, who amassed about 80,000 items over more than four decades, includ-

ing toys that their children had played with. A small number of items have also been donated by collectors.

Disney characters, famous actors, television shows, musicians, pop culture icons and marketing and sci-fi figures are represented through a dizzying assortment of toys, dolls, records, books, playing cards, rotary phones, comics, wagons, watches, games, lunch boxes, action figures — even animated films, posters and original artwork.

ELEPHANT RAMP WALKERS FROM 1873

The Barkers started their collection by visiting tag sales at a time before people realized that cast-off toys had an intrinsic value and interest for future generations. While the items were considered run-of-the-mill in their day, they are coveted collectibles today.

Two of the oldest toys in the collection prove that gravity works: They are the cast-iron elephant ramp walkers. Manufactured in 1873 by the Ives Toy Company in Bridgeport, Conn., they were the first automatons to be powered by gravity. One hundred and forty years later, they work as well as ever and lumber obligingly down even the slightest incline.

Barrett said what makes them even more interesting is that the Ives Company originally produced guns and ammunition during the Civil War, but once the war ended, they turned to toys. The ramp walkers, explained Barrett, are made from melted-down bullet casings.

"What a segue: weapons of war to children's toys," she mused.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BARKER CHARACTER, COMIC AND CARTOON MUSEUM

Visitors of all ages enjoy posing for pictures with The Simpsons.

Another item with an eye-opening history is an unopened tube of Mickey Mouse toothpaste from 1933.

"It was made with a special milk of magnesia flavor, and comes in a lead tube; they didn't know the dangers" of lead toxicity back then, she said. At the time, lead was considered an inexpensive and easy metal to mold into toys.

PRIZES, PROMOTIONS AND BETTY BOOP

Child stars of yesteryear are also represented here. Back in the day, Shirley Temple generated not just ticket sales, but a great deal of toys and associated items.

Prizes from old cereal boxes and promotions are a hot ticket as well. From 1934 to 1942, cobalt blue table settings, manufactured by the Hazel Atlas and U.S. Glass Companies, were given away as premiums for Wheaties and Bisquick, and are prized by

today's collectors.

Remember Betty Boop, Bimbo the dog and Koko the Clown? Betty, the feckless flapper who danced through life with her canine boyfriend Bimbo, first vamped her way into the public's hearts as a sexy chanteuse in 1930 and continued to lift movie-goers' hearts throughout the Great Depression with her song-filled adventures.

Among the most popular attractions with all ages are an 8-foot-tall statue of the Marvel superhero The Hulk, which served as a promotion for the 2008 movie of the same name; and life-size characters from The Simpsons. Both invite plenty of selfies and family photos.

"They only made about 200 Hulks," noted Barrett.

THEIR VALUE BEYOND NOSTALGIA

While all the museum items include price tags to give visitors an idea of their current value, none of the

items are for sale. One of the most expensive items is a Popeye heavy-hitter toy valued at \$14,000, said Barrett. The toy mimics the popular carnival game where people test their strength by wielding a hammer, causing a bell to ring if successful.

Since the museum opened in 1997, the Barker family has welcomed visitors from around the corner and around the world. The collection, which spans the years from 1873 to the 2020s, stimulates discussion among the generations in a way that few museums can. Every generation will find favorite toys; historians can savor an unusual glimpse into styles and trends of the past.

In addition, the Barkers were dedicated to preserving America's rich cartoon heritage, and founded the largest retail animation and entertainment art gallery in the world, Barker Animation Art Gallery.

Barker Animation had its Grand Opening in West Hartford, Conn., in 1993; and in 1994, operations moved to the Barker complex in Cheshire, Conn.

The gallery maintains a collection of vintage and current artwork from artists in the fields of animation and pop culture. To give this artwork more exposure, Gloria and Herb opened an additional gallery at The Tanger outlets at Foxwoods in 2016.

IF YOU

DECIDE TO VISIT

The Barker Character, Comic and Cartoon Museum is at 1188 Highland Ave. in Cheshire, and is open by appointment only (call 203-272-2357). Face masks are mandatory.

Each visitor to the museum receives a self-guided tour booklet, and while there can peruse the vast collection of animation art, fine arts and collectibles available for purchase in the gallery next door.

Visitors can also enjoy a scavenger hunt, and stroll the grounds and pose for pictures with life-sized cartoon character cut-outs.

"You get the whole museum to yourself for the entire hour, for a more personal, interactive experience," said Barrett.

ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Kaino's Multimedia 'In the Light of A Shadow' Now at MASS MoCA

Often, art work that has a social message is so abstract that it's hard to find a place in.

The work of Glenn Kaino, which is featured in a new show at MASS MoCA that opened April 3, is concrete and accessible while also commenting on the world and the hopes, struggles, dreams, successes and failures of the humans who inhabit it.

The centerpiece of the show is a cage made of metal bars; when you touch the bars with a baton, you can play the tune to the Irish band U2's mega hit, "Sunday Bloody Sunday." Kaino also worked with others to produce a video to the song (featuring the cage) in which Deon Jones sings the song.

Jones is both a singer and an activist. He ended up in the hospital with wounds from a police attack on him, as he protested the killing of George Floyd.

Also in the show is a

A new show of work by Glenn Kaino at MASS MoCA talks about conflict, struggle and activism. One part of the exhibit shows the breakup of the Shadow V, destroyed by the IRA, with "debris" from the bombing reimaged as small ships.

work based on the Shadow V, a boat on which Lord Mountbatten was traveling when it was bombed by the IRA. In Kaino's show, the debris from the bombing turns into other boats, or what the show notes describe as "tiny satellite ships."

At a time when racism against other races including Asian Americans is recently in the news, Kaino is a fourth-generation Japanese American.

MASS MoCA carefully observes COVID-19 re-

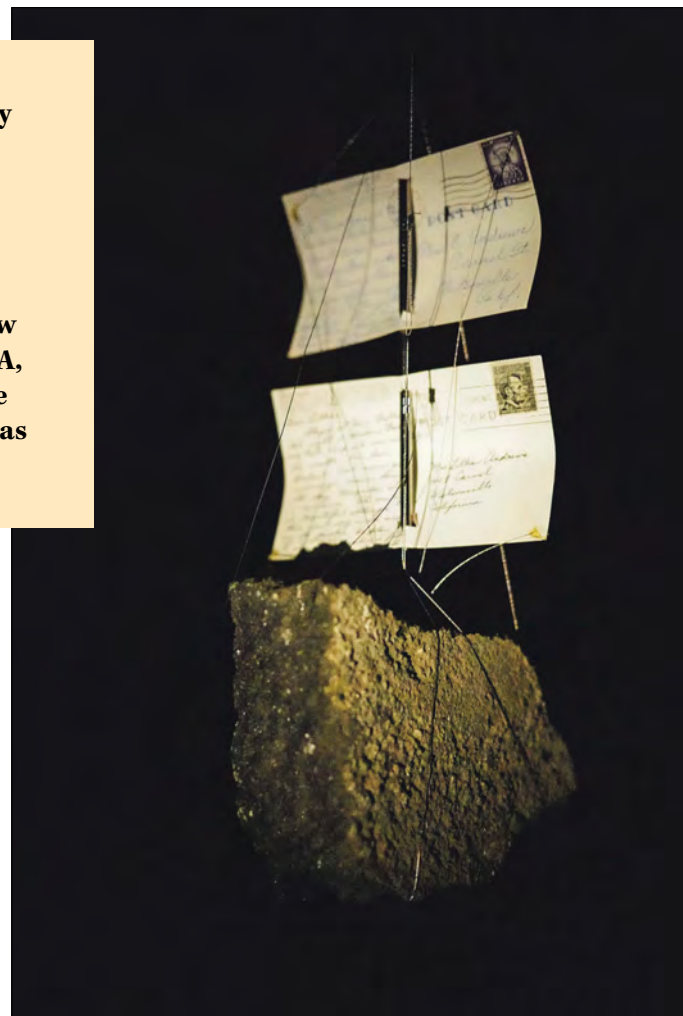


PHOTO COURTESY MASS MOCA

strictions. If you have been vaccinated, bring your card.

The show will remain on exhibit at MASS MoCA

until spring 2022. For more information, go to massmoca.org/event/glenn-kaino-in-the-light-of-a-shadow.

ART TODAY: THE GOOD, THE BAD & THE NFT IN A ZOOM TALK

The 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Criticism was awarded to art critic Jerry Saltz "for a robust body of work that conveyed a canny and often daring perspective on visual art in America, encompassing the personal, the political, the pure and the profane."

Saltz will share his views on "What Art is Today: The Good, the Bad, and the Very Bad," in a free Zoom Webinar hosted by the Salisbury Forum of Salisbury, Conn., on Friday, April 23, at 7:30 p.m.

A resident of South Kent, Conn., Saltz has been called "the people's critic" for the ways he makes the mysteries and the arcane practices of the art world visible. Since 2006 he has been art critic for New York magazine and its online site,

www.vulture.com.

This freewheeling one-hour discussion will touch on a variety of topics from the fundamental question of where is art today to an exploration into the use of NFTs in the art world (and what is an NFT?).

Saltz will share his views on how the art world will recover from a year of lockdown, whether expensive art schools are just a racket, and whether print magazines can survive. These and many other questions will be addressed by the award-winning critic in his inimitable passionate fashion.

Go to www.salisburyforum.org for a link to the webinar.

Copies of his latest book, "How to Be an Artist" are available for purchase from Oblong Books & Music.

TRI-CORNER CALENDAR

Look for a new calendar of events at our website, www.tricornernews.com/events-calendar. We will also include the calendar in our print edition as space allows.

EDITORIAL

Shattering glass ceilings at Dover's VFW Post 5444

The best thing about Navy 3rd Class CS3 veteran Madison Fletcher's promotion to commander of the VFW Post 5444 in Dover Plains is probably that she "never really considered it being about male versus female."

Fletcher, who tells just about everyone she's ever chatted with for more than a minute to call her "Maddie," said the magnitude of the being elected the first female to lead the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) for those who live in the towns of Dover, Amenia and surrounding Harlem Valley communities in its 42-year history, struck her as almost an afterthought.

"I never really put it into perspective," she said after being officially voted in on Thursday, April 1. "It's a person thing, but having females come up to me and say, 'You're the first female, that's awesome, we support you 100%', and seeing the joy on their faces, that means more to me than being the first female."

Fletcher has come to recognize that the road she is paving for those who follow is significant, as she can serve as a role model for other females potentially considering serving in the military — once only open to male applicants — who may later join veterans' organizations like the VFW. While the VFW began "qualifying" women for membership in 1921, it didn't formally admit females until 1978.

The Navy veteran's new role at Post 5444 will undoubtedly serve to inspire girls of all ages — including her 9-year-old daughter, Brooklyn. Fletcher wants to prove to all women in the area that they, too, can make their mark in other male-dominated fields. Hopefully those who learn of her story (to do so, read this week's front page article) will appreciate the positive experience she had moving up the ranks at the Dover VFW.

In fact, Fletcher said she was fully supported by her mostly male comrades — 89 of them, in fact — as well as the only other female veteran at the Post — throughout her journey: During her six years she moved from being merely on Post 5444's roster to being an official member to being its first female senior vice commander in 2020-21 to now, becoming its first female commander-elect (due to be sworn in on Thursday, May 6). She was unanimously elected when voted in — unanimously.

Only a single person gave Fletcher grief about being a woman in charge of the traditionally male-run veterans' organization — and that person was neither a man nor a veteran — which both surprised the commander-elect and momentarily put doubts in her head — but only momentarily.

"Every other person I spoke with, all of the other veterans, male and female, all supported me. They were like, we got your back no matter what happens... and it's not an issue now," she said. "They all cheered for me and gave me hugs. My mom and dad texted me, and my step-dad texted me and said, 'You know what, we are super proud of you.'"

It was even one of the Post's veterans with a reputation for being rough around the edges who initially nominated Fletcher last month for the commander position. She said she was taken aback when she heard his gruff voice shout her name from the back of the room, and was overwhelmed by the show of support and confidence he had in her leading the Post — something that has historically always been done by a man, and usually a much older man at that.

Not only will Fletcher be the first female in charge of Dover's VFW, at 34 she will be one of the youngest — if not the youngest — commanders in Post 5444's history. It's a role she relishes taking on, and one she hopes to hold for many years to come.

Fletcher spoke about what she values most in being a part of the VFW and tried to describe what it's like to belong to Post 5444.

"It's a family," she said. "In the military, we have a different bond than other people... [We] have this camaraderie, without a doubt... my post is my priority."

That much is crystal clear, as is that under Fletcher's guidance, VFW Post 5444 will be in very capable hands.

To learn more about the national VFW, its history and its mission, go to www.vfw.org; to learn more about VFW Post 5444, call 845-877-6300 or go to Facebook, to www.facebook.com/VFWAuxiliary5444.



Carla Terrace resident unhappy with Willow Roots articles

In response to Millerton News articles regarding Willow Roots (WR) food pantry: Your articles, in some form, stated that residents of Carla Terrace (CT) are complainers. Your articles have belittled our concerns by simply labeling them "Quality of Life Issues." Pantry co-founders Lisa and Nelson Zayas have used your paper to foster half-truths and lies by omission, too numerous to mention here. Our character is being portrayed as uncaring, cold-hearted and in doing so, you have fueled the flames vilifying us.

You have not interviewed us to provide information and context as to the root of our complaints. Had you interviewed me you would have found that I will oppose any business that would demand a special Planning Board approval to enter Carla Terrace from North Main Street. You could have reported that this is really about zoning, property rights, retaining assets and values, traffic patterns on our dead-end cul-de-sac, staving off the aggression of the Zayas as they again try to acquire a pass thru "asset"

utilizing CT, adding immense value to their property at our expense.

You failed to report that CT is a 1960s residential subdivision within which are seven taxed, deeded lots on a dead-end road specifically to serve those seven owners, not properties outside it. In the subdivision's 60-year existence, no adjacent owners have claimed a personal or commercial access to it, except during the Zayas' 15 years of ownership when they tried, and were denied, well before the creation of WR.

Utilizing a town issued, 2004 permit allowing their winter RV to be parked in their back yard, the Zayas called the Pine Plains Highway Department in 2006 and parlayed that permit into a parking space for a rental apartment over their garage. This was done informally, without a permit. Zayas gave that apartment an address. As recently as June 2014, the rental was advertised on the website www.hotpads.com (Google it). The listing describes 10 Carla Terrace as a "private entry with separate driveway on a

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Will avoid towns where hate signs are flaunted

I was recently ambushed in the same day by two ugly messages that are a sad indicator of the southward direction our collective moral compass seems to be taking. Motoring through Dover last week, I drove by a gentleman holding a home-made placard which he flashed at me just as I was passing. It read, in large hand-written block letters, JEWS WANT YOUR GUNS. (This was, mind you, only a day after 10 people were murdered in cold blood in a Boulder supermarket.) Later that day, as I was entering Miller-

ton, I passed a house with a large banner proclaimed to it that loudly proclaimed "[Expletive] Biden." While several miles separate Dover from Millerton, there is little distance between the intent and ill heart of the people wielding these signs. One trafficker in hate speech (anti-Semitism, to be specific), the other in contempt speech: contempt for the president, contempt for the neighbors and visitors who elected him to office, and contempt for the social contract that enables us all to live side by side in peace.

For all the words of tolerance and good will that are presumably being dispensed at the many houses of worship that list each week in The Millerton News, it would appear that at least two of our neighbors have not gotten the memo.

Hate speech and contempt speech are different sides of the same coin, minted in fear and ignorance. However abhorrent to the eye and ear, they are both protected by the First Amendment. So I guess we are stuck with them.

Or not. If some residents of certain communities wish to exercise their right to free speech in such hostile and uncivil terms, those of us who take offense can choose to give those communities a wide berth. Once we are blissfully over this pandemic, there will be many other restaurants to dine in, many other movie theaters to attend, many other shops where we can get our goods and services, all in towns that don't throw out the You-Are-Not-Welcome mat as soon as you arrive. Simple as that.

So, in the spirit of peaceful counterprotest, I choose to take an extended time out from Dover and Millerton, leaving open the possibility of returning some day in the distant future when its local warriors have hopefully had enough time to work through their repellent hate and anger management issues.

Jan Stuart
Millbrook

cul-de-sac."

You reported two drive-ways: one at 23 North Main (NM) for usage by the residents and one at the back of the property for usage by tenants. The public should know that WR car traffic enters at 23 NM and drives thru, off the front pavement, over a back lawn area (now barren), onto the back of the tenant driveway onto the CT dead-end cul-de-sac.

Mr. Zayas mentions the approval of his tax-prep business. In the Pine Plains Planning Board May 2014 minutes, the business was approved; access into CT was denied.

The Zayas knew they needed a permit for WR from the town, but, in my opinion, they weren't willing to risk denial for a third time so they just did it. Pre-COVID, the Zayas were banking on the Pine Plains Planning Board not stopping them. No room here, to share a disturbing September conversation with Mrs. Zayas and her stated personal influence within the Planning Board.

Sheila Jamieson
Pine Plains

Connectivity to the internet

Part of the problem we all face in this new age with 90% of commerce being totally dependent on the internet is the connection we all need (I do not use the word enjoy for a reason) to survive and prosper. There is no phone call, no email, no SMS, no Facebook, no TikTok, no factory systems control, nor any Instagram or any other means of communication that is not 100% dependent on the internet.

If you need an analogy consider this: Without water you cannot exist. Without the internet and a decent connection, similarly, you cannot exist in the modern world.

With new devices coming from all the major companies — virtual reality, 3-D design and sharing, constant connection glasses, Zoom meetings, distance learning, expandable cell phones, amongst a thousand new inventions — the need for faster, more reliable connections becomes critical. It's like a water pipe. Currently we're at the trickling stream going past your house stage — every once and a while you go out, dip a bucket in and carry water to the sink or bath. The internet connection we need is in-house plumbing: limitless, on tap in every room, full pressure.

Several companies are working on this. Elon Musk's Space X is launching thousands of satellites that not only promise but — in early connections — deliver 1,000 megabits or 1 giga-

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

bits of download and uploads of 20 megabit (MB). Where? Everywhere, every farm, every road, every field, every town, every city.

They got \$886,000,000 from Congress some years back (heavy lobbying ensued) to set this up, to help solve the "rural connectivity" issues.

Space X is manufacturing 120 satellites a month (yes, a month) to achieve low earth orbit blanket coverage. As the older satellites' orbits decay and fall in a fiery ball to earth, they simply launch more.

In all, there are 180 companies that dipped into the Fed's \$9,200,000,000 fund to bring connectivity to rural areas in the U.S. and Pacific Islands. Space X wasn't the largest beneficiary either. Meanwhile, while these new means of connectivity grow, the current internet providers like Verizon, AT&T and Comcast are making every effort to up their speeds, revise their exorbitant monthly charges and — in desperation — incentivizing existing customers to keep on paying through the nose. We've all seen this before with the TV-only cable companies. Along came DISH and Direct TV and cable companies had to either lower process or

provide DVR capability and other gimmicks (like "bundling" services) to keep their customers. Now the internet free access to television and movies and subscriptions with producing entities (like Hulu, PrimeTV, HBO and Netflix) are closing down cable companies' marketing schemes for that set-top box they always rented.

Where will it all end? Sadly, as long as commercial enterprises have an edge, they'll overcharge, even if their entry into the market was paid with

taxpayer dollars. There will continue to be something unsavory about Space X, Verizon, Comcast, AT&T and others charging for your connection to the internet — originally developed and backboned by taxpayer dollars decades ago. Their leverage? They know you cannot survive without their "water" supply. You'd die of thirst without them and they know it.

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

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