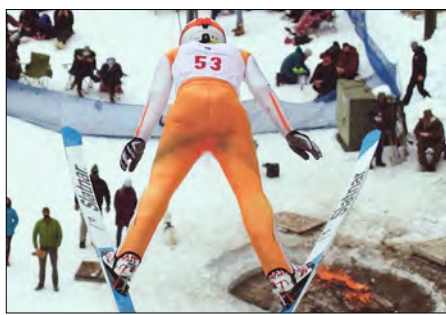




AMENIA

World Peace Sanctuary Offers Residents Sound Bath **A3**



SPORTS

SWSA Holds Successful Ski Jumps Despite Pandemic **B5**

COMPASS

A Performance By Yehuda Hanani; How To Become A Beekeeper; And More **B1-2**

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Willow Roots needs new home

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

PINE PLAINS — There's a treasure hunt going on in Pine Plains these days — but don't expect "X" to mark the spot or to find a chest filled with baubles.

The true treasure will be a new home for one of the town's most valued possessions: Willow Roots food pantry. The home grown pantry currently runs out of the residence of its founders, Lisa and Nelson Zayas, feeding residents from around the Tri-state region facing the spectre of food insecurity — more commonly known by those experiencing it as hunger.

It began on the Zayas' front porch, where families could pick up excess produce farmers left rather than burdening landfills with it; the project quickly grew into a full blown food pantry. Not accepting state or federal aid, the all-volunteer effort relies on donations of all sorts, including everything from canned goods and gently-used clothing to the occasional pheasants and venison, compliments of local hunters and a butcher who prepares the meat.

Soon, Willow Roots provided a lifeline for the burgeoning numbers of families hard hit by the pandemic, with numbers rising from a pre-pandemic average of 24 households, serving 66 people, to an average of roughly 40-plus households, serving more than

See **NEW HOME, A6**



PHOTO SUBMITTED

From left, Willow Roots food pantry volunteers Tracy Rakin, Diana Moore, Nelson Zayas, Lisa Zayas, Ray Christiansen, Liza Gold, Victoria Baluk and Julianna Baluk helped with food distribution on Saturday, Feb. 6. A number of students from Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School fulfill their school required community service by aiding the Pine Plains operation.

Pine Plains Planning Board considers zoning issue

Neighbors complain Willow Roots has outgrown its residential site, others rally

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Since they first began operations in June 2019, Nelson and Lisa Zayas have watched their food pantry, Willow Roots, gain ground as an integral part of the Pine Plains community, distributing more than 5,000 meals last year. However in the past number of months, the town has received complaints about Willow Roots from its neighbors regarding the

high volume of traffic generated by pantry clients on Saturday mornings, when food is distributed. The pantry, located at 23 North Main St. in Pine Plains, borders North Main Street and Carla Terrace, and it has legal driveways on both roads. The majority of residents who have submitted complaints live on Carla Terrace.

Planning Board hears case

Willow Roots has since submitted an application to the Pine Plains Planning Board for a major home occupa-

tion special use permit, which though a zoning issue is within the Planning Board's jurisdiction. The board has been holding virtual meetings due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it held a virtual public hearing on Wednesday, Jan. 13; it also met on Thursday, Feb. 10, to make a determination on the pantry's operation and where it fits in with the town's zoning code. At the January hearing a number of letters from residents both for and against the pantry remaining where it is were

submitted and read into the record. Residents also spoke at the public hearing in support of and in objection to the pantry's location.

Residents express support

Here are some snippets of the letters supporting the pantry submitted at the January public hearing:

As a Willow Roots supporter and volunteer, Anibal Garcia said, "An hour a week to provide necessity foods

See **NEIGHBORS COMPLAIN, A6**

VFW Post 5444 in Dover gets a special delivery

Valentine's for Veterans program

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

DOVER PLAINS — Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of Post 5444 located on Route 22, smack on the border between Amenia and Dover, received a sweet reminder that they have not been forgotten this Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, as 100 Valentine's Day cards were delivered to VFW Post 5444 Sr. Vice Commander Madison Fletcher on Thursday, Feb. 11, by Khristian Silvis, director of military and veteran affairs for U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY-18).

The two met up in Pawling at Pizza 22 last week, where Silvis handed over the Valentine's, which Fletcher later drove to the Post home to share and hang on the walls for the VFW members to read. Although Post 5444 has not been holding regular meetings

See **VALENTINE'S FOR VETS, A6**

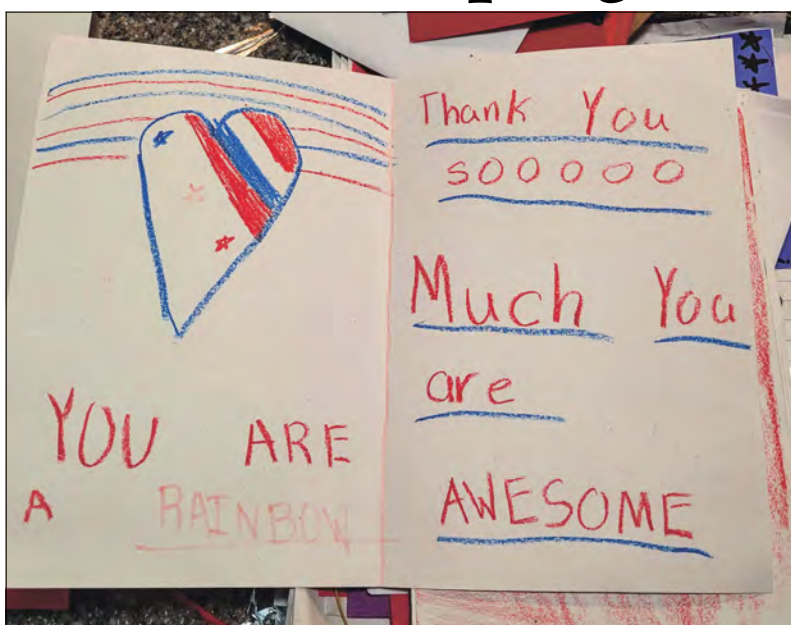


PHOTO BY MADISON FLETCHER

These are some of the 100 Valentine's Day cards sent to members of VFW Post 5444 in Dover by U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY-18), for his Valentine's for Veterans program, which he started seven years ago as "one small way to remind our vets that we're behind them."

County police reform hearing eyes Millerton

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Members of the Millerton Village Board said they were impressed by the number of community members who tuned in to share their thoughts on the Dutchess County Police Reform efforts during a virtual public hearing held on Monday, Feb. 8.

Cuomo's Executive Order

Working in conjunction with the Executive Order (EO) that Governor Andrew Cuomo enacted last June on the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative, Dutchess County assembled a group of stakeholders to create a unified, county-wide law enforcement plan. The EO mandated that all municipalities statewide work with their police departments and conduct a comprehensive review of policies, procedures, prac-

tics and strategies and develop a plan to improve them.

The goal? To address their communities' needs, promote community engagement and "address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color." The call for police reform was a direct result of the social justice movement that took off across the country in the wake of George Floyd's death on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minn., at the hands of an ex-white cop. Cuomo gave communities an April 1 deadline; those that don't come up with a police reform plan by then risk losing state funding.

The EO calls for municipal leaders to meet with police agency heads and community stakeholders to develop the reform plan, to then present to their communities for public com-

See **POLICE REFORM, A6**



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OPINION

Working To Improve Something That Already Works; Columns; Letters **B4**



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MILLERTON/AREA

Joint Police Committee considers policies for reform plan

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — To better enhance its knowledge of the Millerton Police Department's (MPD) existing policies and procedures and what should be

addressed in its police reform plan, the Joint Village of Millerton and Town of North East Police Committee gathered for an informational meeting over Zoom on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

The 6 p.m. meeting was live-streamed to the "Village of Mil-

lerton VOM" Facebook page. In addition to the committee members, Mayor Debbie Middlebrook and town Supervisor Chris Kennan attended, though Village Clerk Kelly Kilmer said they were there as audience members only.

After the meeting was called to order, Trustee and committee member Matthew Hartzog thanked those attending for their feedback at the Dutchess County Police Reform public hearing on Monday, Feb. 8 (for more on the public hearing, see article on the front page).

Addressing a request to make the department's policies more available to the public, Hartzog said the village intends to post the MPD policies on the village website, www.villageofmillerton.net, and that he hopes the town will do the same.

Village Trustee and committee member Joshua Schultz noted the 55 MPD policies currently in place that could easily be put online, where they could be redrafted and updated when needed. He said they should be posted on the website for the sake of transparency and to get community input.

"I think the sooner that we could see it, the better, because we don't have a lot of time to get this plan created," North East Councilwoman and committee member Lana Morrison said.

Committee members turned their questions regarding the MPD's existing policies and procedures over to Millerton Police Officer in Charge Mike Veeder. Though some questions were inspired by what was discussed at the county's public hearing, committee members also asked about the department's procedures for stops and arrests; its community engagement and outreach efforts; whether the force has a mission statement; and the MPD's role versus the role of the New York State Police and the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office.

Hartzog asked Veeder to walk those present through the process of what happens when an officer's body camera is turned on, how the information is uploaded to the server and how long the information is kept on the server.

In addition to the body cameras, Veeder said the police have a dash camera system on their vehicles' dashboards and a rear seat prisoner camera, and that it's the officers' responsibility to test the equipment at the beginning of each shift to make sure it's operational. Listing the various triggers for turning on the cameras, Veeder said the cameras are turned on anytime an officer encounters the public and the information from the cameras automatically syncs back to the server.

Responding to Councilman and committee member Ralph Fedele's question about performance evaluations for each officer, Veeder said a benefit of the body camera system is that he can go through the videos and review with his officers what they've done well and where they can improve.

Since the MPD is a part-time force, Fedele asked if its schedule could be changed to include more daytime shifts. Veeder said that's difficult as the officers have other full-time obligations — some work in other departments during the day — but added he could move hours around to try to accommodate more daytime schedules.

Responding to Fedele's question about the normal procedure for a stop, Veeder said he typically introduces himself to the driver and asks for their license, registration and creden-

tials to identify them, though he mentioned "there's no set in stone [procedure] for how you need to talk to motorists on a traffic stop."

Hartzog asked if the department has any policy for dealing with hate crimes, to which Veeder said it depends on each incident and specific crime. If there's an incident and the MPD believes it needs to contact the Sheriff's Office for support, he said the Sheriff's Office will set up a crime scene, a technician will come and process the scene for them or the MPD can turn the scene over to the Sheriff's Office, since it has more capability and manpower to handle it.

Schultz reminded the committee that it has until Thursday, April 1, to adopt the police reform plan under Governor Andrew Cuomo's mandate that all police agencies statewide adopt a police reform plan by that date or risk losing state aid, which means the committee needs to have a draft by mid-March.

Morrison commented that reviewing the MPD's current policies and procedures is a good starting point, after which time the committee must figure out how to augment and organize the information. The committee, noting the tight schedule it has to accomplish its goal, agreed to get together once a week until its mission is accomplished.

For more on the state's push for police reform, read this week's front page article about the county's public hearing on the MPD's policies and procedures and make sure to check out this week's editorial on the issue on Page B4.



PHOTO BY ALLISON GRAY

Betsy Clark and Jack Otterson volunteered at The Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville, Conn., just on the border of Millerton, to help those dealing with food insecurity in the Tri-state region get the resources they need during the coronavirus pandemic.

Corner Food Pantry lends a helping hand to Tri-state region

LAKEVILLE, Conn. — The Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville, Conn., on the border of Millerton, has no residency requirements and serves families from both New York and Connecticut. Hours are Friday from 2:30 to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m.

Pre-pandemic, the pantry served an average of 40 families weekly, but that number has now increased to 85 families — an average of 350 to 375 people — with a recent high of 98 families and 401 people, according to volunteer Betsy Clark. The high for the past year was 134 families and 573 people during this past

Thanksgiving.

Donations are always appreciated with coffee, tuna, pasta sauce, cooking oil and cereal being in short supply.

For a complete listing of area food resources, go to www.tricornernews.com/food-pantries.

— Carol Kneeland

Millerton merchants hold meeting

MBA explores plans for virtual 2021 Earth Day celebration

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — After several months of separation due to COVID-19, the Millerton Business Alliance (MBA) was eager to get back to work on Thursday, Feb. 4, devoting the first half of its meeting to discussing the village of Millerton's plans for Earth Day.

The meeting was held via Zoom at 10 a.m. due to the pandemic. After giving an overview of the local Climate Smart Task Force's goals for the community, Jennifer Dowley led the MBA's discussion on Earth Day, noting the task force is building a program around the celebration. Though Earth Day formally falls on Thursday, April 22, she said the village's celebration will be held on Saturday, April 24, to make some in-person events possible for the community.

With "Restore Our Earth" chosen as this year's theme, Dowley said people are invited to participate "in ways that make sense to them." As an example, North East Community Center (NECC) Executive Director Christine Sergent and Community Program Director Nathan Briggs are developing programs that will involve cleaning up around the community center and the Harlem Valley Rail Trail.

Oblong Books & Music will be working with the NorthEast-Millerton Library to present a virtual children's book author reading event; the library will also present a lecture by a Bard College professor about climate change.

Around the time of the celebration, Dowley said NECC's Farmers Market should have its first outdoor appearance, depending on the weather.

Regarding other merchants' thoughts on Earth Day, Dowley shared that Thorunn Kristjansdottir from Main Street Magazine and Dana Rohn from Montage had talked about having flowers in the windows of local businesses. They also raised the idea of having merchants collect contributions on Earth Day

to plant trees in Eddie Collins Memorial Field, with each tree priced at \$600. Dowley said Rohn showed an interest in designing a sign for participating merchants to advertise the idea in their store windows.

Rohn said Townscape of Millerton and North East would later provide bronze plaques at the base of the trees to say the trees were donated by the village of Millerton through funds raised on Earth Day. The planting of these trees will likely occur sometime in the fall. People who contribute more than \$100, Dowley said, may be given a baseball cap featuring an image of Millerton, though she noted that the Climate Smart Task Force is still toying with ideas.

Dowley also revived the idea of handing out metal water bottles and canvas tote bags, reminding the MBA that both ideas were discussed at previous MBA meetings. She noted that merchants purchased a good number of the bottles and tote bags last year for Earth Day only for the village's celebration to be canceled due to the pandemic. Over the course of the year, she said all of the water bottles and tote bags were sold primarily through Irving Farm and that Irving Farm is going to continue to sell them, which Dowley considered a good way to market the village through climate-friendly products.

Kristjansdottir said she and Rohn had considered the idea of having merchants put something bright and colorful in their windows to show they're celebrating and coming together as a community and to welcome everyone to the village both for Earth Day and in general.

"I think that's a lovely idea — it would be so nice to see another aspect of our town look beautiful," said Katja Schultz, owner of The Dig.

With help from McEnroe Organic Farm, Schultz said The Dig is creating a space where they'll show people what they compost, such as egg shells and coffee grinds. She said they're also going to invite Webutuck

students to do an art gallery in the store's back space, perhaps taking on this year's Earth Day theme. Though the Iroquois Schoolhouse at the Rail Trail's Main Street entrance won't be open by Saturday, April 24, the historical site's founder and director, Ralph Fedele, said he'd certainly open it up just for the day and join in any celebration.

With the deadline for Earth Day ideas set for Monday, March 1, Dowley said the Climate Smart Task Force is hoping to gather everyone's suggestions in order to create a poster. With Tom Parrett working on a website for the Climate Smart Task Force, she said they'll augment the MBA's individual and collective efforts to create a larger community shout-out.

MILLERTON IN BRIEF

Saturday STEM with NEML

Every Saturday in March, the Bard College Center for Civic Engagement will be hold a STEM program through the NorthEast-Millerton Library, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., with a different Kiwi Co. box and theme. Each student will get their own box with all the materials necessary for a hands-on STEM project and will be guided through the process by a Bard STEM fellow over Zoom.

For children 11 to 14 in grades six through eight, spaces are limited, so RSVP. Students may sign up at www.tinyurl.com/2br9pkxj.

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

Check them out inside.

• CVS

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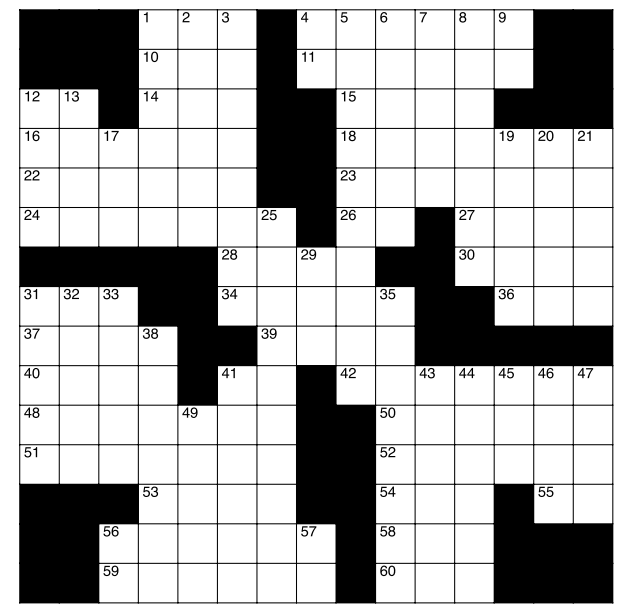
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- Big tech firm
- Picked
- Type of whale
- A woman of refinement
- New England state
- Common gibbon
- Tall coniferous tree
- State capital
- Making a liquid muddy
- Vinegary
- Peninsula
- Thee
- Atomic #55
- Used in units of measurement
- Welsh female name
- Arab ruler title
- One's mother
- Trap
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Assn. of oil-producing countries
- Holy fire
- Emit coherent radiation
- Atomic #81
- Orthodox Jewish college
- Herbs
- Ran after
- Begin again
- Named
- Barbary sheep
- Unwell
- Postscript
- Drivers
- One point east (clockwise) of due north
- Prim
- A facility equipped for sports or physical training

CLUES DOWN

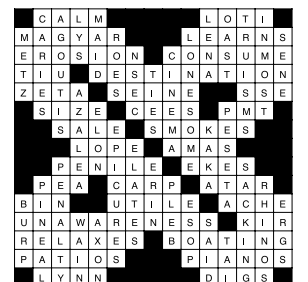
- Small islands
- Skullcap
- Unexplained events
- One hundredth of a meter
- Beloved baseball announcer
- Repulsive
- Northern European languages
- Match or surpass
- Northeast
- Chew the fat
- Innovative industry
- Land to put down to grass
- Products
- Nostril



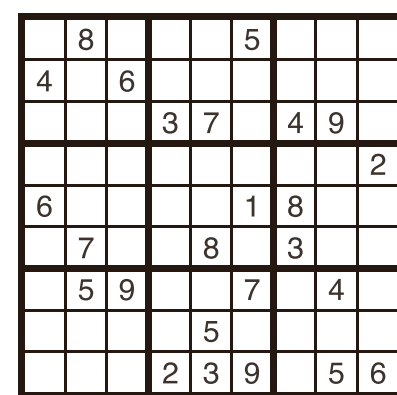
- Surprise Icelandic politician
- Conclusive acts
- Inform on
- Grinding tooth
- Keep up
- Tablelands
- Raising
- Mythical creature
- Hums
- Mountain in Antarctica
- Neighborhood in Manhattan
- Distinctive practice
- Vice president
- Contributes to
- Small bones
- Oil company
- Empire State

Look for the solution in next week's issue.

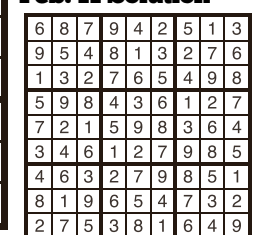
Feb. 11 Solution



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Feb. 11 Solution



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Webutuck BOE reviews COVID-19 vaccines and high-risk sports

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — The Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) kicked off February discussing the winter sports season, bidding farewell to several beloved teachers and looking into getting Webutuck staff vaccinated against COVID-19.

BOE members convened at 7 p.m. over Zoom on Monday, Feb. 1, due to the pandemic. Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani delivered an update on COVID-19 vaccines and mentioned Webutuck is scouring different sites daily to see how many vaccines are available and offering it to its staff.

Taking into account the dramatic shortfall in vaccines, Castellani said the federal government and New York State have not released more vaccines and the county is struggling with the overwhelming number of people who still need to be vaccinated. Given the number of Webutuck teachers, regular and support staff, faculty members and administrators who need to be vaccinated and how quickly the vaccination appointments are filling up, Castellani said there may be days when the district will have to declare a half day of school, a snow day or “an emergency type of day.”

The week prior, Castellani said 16 people in the district had signed up to be vaccinated, and the schools wouldn't have been able to function without those workers. The appointments didn't pan out, however. Go-

ing forward, he said the district will get updates from the county when vaccines are available and sites are open.

On that note, the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) announced on Wednesday, Feb. 3, it received 700 doses of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine from New York State and scheduled appointments online at www.dutchessny.gov/COVIDvaccine for eligible individuals in Phase 1a and 1b as determined by New York State's Phased Distribution Plan. The vaccination clinics were held in Poughkeepsie on Thursday, Feb. 4, and locally in Dover Plains on Saturday, Feb. 6 (for more on that story, go to www.tricornernews.com).

High-risk sports

Bringing up Governor Andrew Cuomo's announcement that winter sports, including high-risk sports, were allowed to begin on Feb. 1 (for more, go to www.tricornernews.com), Castellani said that for Webutuck, high-risk sports includes just basketball. He added a great plan has been put together to keep students 6 feet apart from one another during practice and each student will have their own basketball.

While the district is looking to see how many student athletes will sign up for basketball, Castellani said there will only be a handful of games, so it won't be a long winter sports season. Additionally, spectators won't be allowed to attend and students visiting the school district from

away teams will have to follow safety protocols from their home school.

Though she was excited to hear students will soon be able to move and play with each other, BOE member Nikki Johnson acknowledged, “I just can't for the life of me figure out how we're going to do it with the hybrids and how we're going to get the remote kids in, or if the kids are only there Monday and Tuesday, do they not go on Thursday and Friday?”

Castellani explained that it's been worked out: If the students are in hybrid instruction on certain days, then they're allowed to come back to the school and participate in sports since it would involve smaller groups of students. With seven to 10 students on a varsity team, he said the district can spread them out and work with them.

Though students would be responsible for making sure they have a ride to the school, he said the district would ask its Transportation Department provide students with a ride back.

Johnson asked if students are allowed to play sports if they're in remote instruction, to which Castellani confirmed that they could.

“They're still our students — if they choose, if they want to be involved in an athletic sport, they're allowed to do so. We need kids back in school — it's simple. There's a lot of hesitation and I understand... but I believe that it's important to those students to get back to some type of normalcy and if we can do it

safely, which I believe we are, then why not?”

With basketball considered a contact sport, BOE member Rick Keller-Coffey asked about the logistics of remote students whose parents decided that they can't come to school during the day still being allowed to come to school to play a contact sport. Castellani explained that Webutuck only goes by what the Dutchess County Department of Health (DOH), the state, the governor and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have allowed the district to do. He noted Cuomo went from a staunch position last March through the summer that was against high-risk sports to allowing counties and schools to now do what they want.

“He's passing and punting the ball to the counties. The counties, under great scrutiny from parents and the athletics, are now punting the ball to school districts, so all of the schools in our section are going with the minimum of basketball right now,” Castellani said. “We're just following what the DOH and the county and the CDC and the governor and the state have laid out for us.”

Retirements

Combining all of the agenda's instruction resignations in a single motion, the BOE accepted the resignations of Carol Gribble, Jennifer Jaffe, Mary Murphy and Jay Bradley. All of the resignations were for the purpose of retirement and will come into effect on Wednesday, June 30, of this year.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROB SCHLEIFER

Participating in the international celebration of the 19th Annual World Sound Healing Day, the World Peace Sanctuary in Wassaic invited community members to take part in a Sound Bath workshop on Sunday, Feb. 14, where they found a new way to reach a relaxed physical and mental state and forge connections with their inner selves through the combination of sounds.

The sweet sound of peace

WASSAIC — In celebration of the 19th Annual World Sound Healing Day, the World Peace Sanctuary invited guests to partake in a Sound Bath workshop held on Sunday, Feb. 14, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the sanctuary at 26 Benton Road in Wassaic, led by certified sound practitioner Cristina Reyes-Schleifer.

Reyes-Schleifer created her

own form of “sound bath” by combining the sounds of Tibetan singing bowls, tuning forks, chimes, bells, gongs and other instruments.

Through the workshop, participants found a way to experience a deep, relaxed physical state and forge a connection with their inner selves.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Town Board assesses Usource's Community Solar presentation

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

AMENIA — Starting at 7 p.m., the Town Board opened its meeting on Thursday, Feb. 4, to a presentation by the company Usource, during which time Town Board members were invited to explore the potential benefits of the Community Solar program.

Identifying himself as an energy advisor with Usource, Jeff Baxter spoke of Community Solar and some of its possible benefits. Joining him for the presentation, Baxter introduced his friend and colleague Steve Birndorf, who he said has more than a decade of experience as a solar executive developing, financing and advising projects for municipalities, school districts and commercial and industrial organizations. Birndorf said he recently came to Usource as an advisor “sitting on your side of the table,” which he believes gives him a unique perspective in thinking about projects, how they get built, what the benefits and risks are and how to quantify those risks.

Birndorf said Community Solar refers to a New York State program run by New York State Energy Research & Develop-

ment (NYSERDA) and NY-Sun that dovetails with the legislation and regulation enacted by the state to “achieve very aggressive” renewable portfolio standard (RPS) goals. He explained these RPS goals mandate carbon-free energy and promote the development of renewable assets like solar, wind and hydro power. Birndorf said developers through this program capital are attracted to energy projects and work to build solar arrays off-site. No solar panels would be on town land or property and there would be no requirements for panels on town buildings.

Effectively through this financial investment, Birndorf said clean electrons would be added to solar grids. The town would subscribe to a particular array built by a particular developer and receive energy bill credits. Typical savings would be around 10% of the town's energy bill, and the risks would be controlled and mitigated.

“It's one of these programs that sounds almost too good to be true,” Birndorf said. “You sign up, you enable solar renewable energy and you save about 10%.”

Describing Community Solar as a well-regulated, well-run program, Birndorf said that in New York State, they're antici-

pating over the next five to 10 years about \$6 billion of investment from outside capital for such projects.

Councilwoman Vicki Doyle noted that Amenia residents would likely want to know whether they can do this at their own homes or if it would be just for the town as a municipality. Birndorf said he believed the board should look at it through the lens of how Community Solar can help the town of Amenia, rather than individuals. However, as part of the request for proposals (RFP) process, should the town choose to move forward, he said it can tell the developers if it's interested in residential subscribers and to eventually develop such a plan.

Among Community Solar's benefits, Birndorf said there would be no need for roof or land space and no up-front or out-of-pocket costs. Additionally, the town's energy bills would be reduced and solar usage in the state would increase.

Birndorf said Usource would do the “heavy lifting” and work with the town as its advisor. Representing Amenia in the marketplace, he said Usource would go out and work with its pool of developers; the town would tell Usource who

it wants to work with. Usource would then solicit proposals and discuss the town's energy usage and needs, after which time it would receive and evaluate offers, in terms of certainty of credit delivery as well as construction competencies, interconnection issues and issues concerning financing, tax equity and managing downside risk. He said it typically takes four to eight weeks to tie up the process.

Birndorf said Usource would get paid on a contingent basis by the winning developer. Charging the typical industry standards of 4 to 5 cents a watt, he said the company would put out a transparent fee.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

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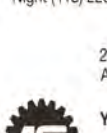
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Pine Plains BOE receives detailed overview of 2021-22 school budget

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — After catching up on the latest reports from the Pine Plains Central School District, the Board of Education (BOE) turned its attention to an overview of the 2021-22 school district budget as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Business and Finance Michael Goldbeck on Wednesday, Jan. 20.

Starting at 7 p.m., the BOE met via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic; that meeting can be seen online, at www.ppcsd.org. As he prepared to deliver an overview of next year's budget, Goldbeck reminded the board that nothing was final and the numbers were meant to give the BOE a look at where the district stands at the moment.

Focusing first on the 2020-21 school district budget, Goldbeck said last year's goal was to hold budget growth to 2.75%. The ac-

tual budget increase was 1.81% (or \$596,572) while the actual budget was calculated at \$33,525,450. Meanwhile, he pointed out the 2020-21 allowable tax levy was the actual tax levy for last year at \$24,189,676 with a levy increase of 2.43% (or \$574,104).

For the 2021-22 school year, Goldbeck said the allowable levy growth factor is "the lesser of one plus the inflation factor or one and two-one-hundredths" while the annual change in urban consumer price index (CPI) is 1.23%. The 2021-22 allowable tax levy has been calculated at \$24,710,043, marking an increase from the 2020-21 school year of \$520,367 or 2.15%. Goldbeck projected a slide of the tax levy calculations for the BOE's benefit as well as a slide demonstrating a 10-year history of the tax levy limit.

The current 2021-22 budget has been calculated at \$34,532,231, indicating an increase of 3% or \$1,006,781. Along

with pointing out the increase in the Dutchess County Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) refund, Goldbeck said they were short on the revenue side by \$375,000, which means he'll have to work hard to get the budget down if he possibly can as his first goal. His second goal would be to find another source of revenue, which Goldbeck said would ultimately be appropriating more fund balance toward that, assuming the number in the budget needs to remain the same.

"We're not all done with the budget," Goldbeck reminded the BOE. "A lot of numbers haven't come through yet, particularly the BOCES number... we also don't know about any potential retirements, which would maybe save some money on the other end, so there are still a lot of question marks about where we're going to be, but this is a good starting point for discus-

sion."

Planning ahead

In terms of what the BOE needs to do for budget planning, Goldbeck said it needs to look at the revenue shortfall, whether it's going to cut the budget or appropriate more fund balance. While he said he doesn't believe there's any significant sources of revenue the board can look for, he said it also doesn't know what the final state aid number will be until the legislative budget is released in April. The BOE will also need to look at district salaries, health insurance, possible retirements, what the Employee Retirement System and the Teacher Retirement System will look like, special education costs, final BOCES costs, fuel and utilities and actual state aid and federal grants.

Factoring in the state

Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler reported that Governor Andrew Cuomo recently came out with the state's FY2021 Enacted Budget. While the district can ordinarily glean from the state's budget what the starting point is for state aid, Handler remarked that "frankly, his education budget is pretty convoluted and even our experts... they're kind of scratching their heads and saying 'What?'"

Handler explained that he thought Cuomo was trying to consolidate expense-based aid (such as special education costs, BOCES and transportation) and lump them into a single aid category and cap it at the wealth ratio. "Rural districts like ours that

depend heavily on transportation and BOCES, for that matter, are going to be disadvantaged," said the superintendent, "so our associations are going to kind of gear up to fight that one."

Turning the board's attention back to the budget planning process, Goldbeck said the school board and the district administration need to develop the expenditure and revenue guidelines and consider instructional and budgetary goals, such as staffing; estimated state aid; anticipated tax levy limit; whether the district can count on other revenue sources; and use of fund balance and reserves. Regarding the anticipated tax levy limit, Goldbeck said his assumption is they can go the full limit as they have the last several years.

2021-22 budget calendar

Along with guiding the BOE through a month-by-month review of the budget process, Goldbeck highlighted significant dates in the budget process, including the BOE's anticipated budget adoption for the 2021-22 fiscal year on Wednesday, April 15; the public hearing on the budget is on Wednesday, May 5; the annual meeting for the budget vote, voter propositions and BOE member election is on Tuesday, May 18, from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Come Wednesday, May 19, the BOE will hold a meeting in which the vote results will be ratified.

For more information on the 2021-22 school budget process in Pine Plains, look for future stories in The Millerton News and on www.tricornernews.com.

AREA IN BRIEF

Chicken Marsala Dinner Feb. 20

STANFORDVILLE — Stanford Grange #808 will host a Chicken Marsala Dinner on Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Stanford Grange Hall, 6043 Route 82.

All dinners are take out only at 5 p.m. The menu will consist of chicken marsala, buttered parsley rice, green beans, dinner roll and cherry crisp for dessert. A donation of \$15 per dinner is requested.

Drive to the back door of the Grange Hall, pay for your dinner, get your food through your car window, and take it home to enjoy.

All CDC health guidelines will be followed including the wearing of face masks.

Call Grange Secretary Ryan Orton for reservations at 845-868-7869.

Storytime with Tia, plus art

COPAKE — Enjoy Storytime with Youth Services associate Tia on Zoom Saturday mornings at 10:30 a.m. from the Roloff Jansen Community Library.

Storytime is paired with an easy art project. Children can pick up the activity kit at the library during the week.

Go to www.roejanlibrary.org/kids-events/ to learn how to access Zoom; the passcode is 989288.

For more information, call the Roe Jan Library at 518-325-4101.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Making sweet music together

Just in time for Valentine's Day, The Stissing Center invited residents from around the region to tune in for a special reprisal performance by married musical duo Christopher Brelochs and Elizabeth Gerbi as part of its Video of the Week series. The couple had previously performed Jerome Kern's "How'd You Like To Spoon With Me" at its 2020 Stissing Summer Variety Show. Impressed by their performance, The Stissing Center invited the duo to return when its Video of the Week went live on Wednesday, Feb. 10, now online at "The Stissing Center" YouTube Channel and on The Stissing Center website at www.thestissingcenter.org.

Roe Jan Library has the recipe for fun in the kitchen, and online

By CAROL KNEELAND
Special to The Millerton News

COPAKE — Technology is making things cook at the Roloff Jansen Community Library, with recipes and online classes designed to improve computer literacy.

Let's get cookin'

Youth Librarian Tia Maggio came up with the idea of patrons sharing recipes by way of a COVID-19 Cookbook Project after her family spent a good deal of time sharing and creating new recipes during the health crisis.

Maggio said she is a bit concerned that with the all of the social isolation people have experienced due to the pandemic continuing for so long, patrons might just be tired of cooking and want to go out for their meals rather than digging into a cookbook. Yet she is hopeful that there might be some enthusiasm for the cookbook project, even though so far there has not been a huge response to her call for recipes to be submitted to the library.

Originally, there was thought of publishing a hard copy cookbook, but Maggio said she feels it might now be worthwhile to begin with an online version — especially fitting in today's age of Zoom and everything being done virtually.

Recipes can be for any meal or snack and feature anything from warming drinks to savory side dishes to entire entrees to sweet desserts.

Original recipes as well as treasured family secrets or even suggestions from publications may be included but, if they are from another source, credit should be given. Novice cooks, expert gourmets, or those who may just occasionally want to



COURTESY ROE JAN LIBRARY FACEBOOK PAGE

What have you been making during COVID-19? Share your recipes, like the one for the Bundt cake above, with your neighbors through the library's cookbook project.

share what they do in the kitchen on a daily basis are encouraged to contribute.

Detailed recipes may sent to youth@roejanlibrary.org. If possible, photos of the process or final product are encouraged.

Tech tips

For those who are anxious to improve their use of technology as they deal with the continuing isolation imposed by COVID-19, the library is offering a series of online classes for every level of user.

The free classes are held Thursdays at 5:30 p.m., and are open to all ages. Participants are encouraged to sign in 15 minutes early in case there are connection problems.

On Feb. 25 sign up for, "Google Search Tips: Utilize

Tags," and learn how to use quotes and hyphens to search, find pages and websites.

The March 4 class, "Cyber Security," is designed to teach password management and protection from hackers and scams.

Although online instruction can be useful, users who are having difficulty or need more direction can call the library at 518-325-4101 for more nuanced instruction or come in for safely conducted one-on-one help.

For more information about any classes or programs offered by the Roe Jan Library, go to www.roejanlibrary.org. Also go to the library's website for the Zoom link for all Thursday tech classes; the Meeting ID# is 826-782-227 and the Meeting Password is 370455.

OBITUARY

In Appreciation:

Josh Wilkinson

As the song goes, "Only the good die young."

I cannot seem to get Josh out of my head since he left us last week.

Why is this? Josh worked with me since he was a young boy, along with my son, Matt; they were best friends. I always say "work with" and not work for; I never liked the term "work for" — I feel we all worked together, we just had different positions within the company.

Although Josh had health complications, you would not know this. He worked every day to the best of his ability. He was never afraid to "take the

bull by the horns" and do the task at hand.

He was devoted not only to his family, but also his friends. His heart was bigger than life, and was there for whatever anybody needed. He helped me personally many times.

He would come to work early and stop in my office to talk over the local gossip while eating a bag of chips, and wash them down with a soft drink. Josh, I would say, you should lay off that stuff. Yeah, yeah, while he was peeling open a Slim Jim. Josh did it his way, and was happy with the way he lived his life.

I miss him already, although recently I have not seen him as much as I used to. That shows the kind of impression he left on people; he was just a great guy.

Josh, I know you deeply cared for your family. I am sure your boys will grow up to be responsible young men, following in their dad's footsteps, protecting their mom and grandma.

I cherish the time we had knowing and working with each other, and wish I could thank you for being you, to your face.

Until we meet again.

Don Hosier

Sharon

For Josh Wilkinson's obituary and others, see page A4

The Lakeville Journal Company

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

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In return for your Community Contribution, we regret that we cannot offer a tax deduction at this time.

NEIGHBORS COMPLAIN *Continued from Page A1*

to local families and seniors in need can never be deemed an inconvenience."

Pine Plains resident Adria Couse expressed her gratitude to the Zayas for opening Willow Roots out of the kindness of their hearts to help the community.

Having received fresh vegetables from Willow Roots in the past, Thom Christopher praised Lisa and Nelson Zayas in his letter as residents "whose social consciousness is without question and beyond the call," and that in these "horrendous times in our nation, there should be no questions proffered about this volunteer organization... To have even a murmur of displeasure from anyone in Pine Plains regarding 'feeding those in need' does not speak well of them or Pine Plains."

As another recipient of Willow Roots' services, Pine Plains resident Bruce Silvernale wrote, "It is my privilege to hold the high watch and pray for them and the community of Pine Plains. Why do you think we can become annoyed at someone needing extra assistance? Turn this into a channel of love relying on one another to live, grow, survive and thrive."

The root of the complaints

The majority of those who spoke in January said their prime concerns had to do with safety and the increased traffic on the residential Carla Terrace when pantry clients come from around the Tri-state region, as Willow Roots does not have a residency requirement to obtain food at the Zayas' front porch, where they hand out groceries and other essential items each week. Though neighbors expressed their appreciation for Willow Roots' services, they shared how the impact of the heavy traffic has affected their community, adding it shouldn't be their burden.

Given that the size of the parcel on which Willow Roots is located is merely for a single family home (where the Zayas reside), Sheila Jameson, a Pine Plains homeowner, remarked the traffic on both sides of the food pantry, which she described as a business, is "really inappropriate" in the middle of the neighborhood. She remarked it isn't appropriate to have traffic last for two hours in a single day, and that deliveries arriving on

both sides of the road shouldn't be dumped on the dead-end road.

"The issue for me is we are part of somebody's business plan," Jameson said. "I really think as a Planning Board, you need to look at the business, how it operates, how it affects its surroundings and you need to make your decisions based on the rules of the road on your side, and we need to not get caught up in the emotion of what this is. It's not about what it is, it's about what it's doing to 23 North Main."

Good works not the issue

"It's really not a matter of what the Zayas are doing — we can all attest to the fact that what they're doing is amazing," Genesis Campbell, who lives on Carla Terrace, said, "but it's really more of a fact here that this is about convenience and the convenience is now taking away from the people that live on a dead-end road."

Having volunteered at Willow Roots, Pastor Ryan Larkin from the First United Presbyterian Church of Pine Plains, acknowledged the "pandemic aspect" of the traffic flows, but said he's never observed any poor driving on behalf of the clients entering and exiting the street.

Neither have Pine Plains Police reported any dangerous driving while they patrolled Carla Terrace, said town Supervisor Darrah Cloud, according to comments she told this newspaper.

Meanwhile, Pine Plains resident Tori Soracco said the property developers could have chosen to make the road a private one, but did not. Carla Terrace remains a public road.

"This is not just a period of time like any other period of time," Soracco said, referring to the COVID-19 pandemic. "The poverty is staggering, and as inconvenient or as unhappy as it may be for some of the residents at Carla Terrace, I feel like they may have to endure it for a little time. We all have to endure to help one another."

Past permits and practices

Walking the Planning Board through the pantry's previous permit applications, Nelson Zayas said he bought the property at 23 North Main St. in 2003 and submitted an application in 2004 for a driveway on the property leading to Carla Terrace, which

was approved. In 2014, he started a tax preparation business and received approval on his special use permit. Willow Roots submitted its most recent permit application at the end of 2020.

Distributing food from his front porch once a week on Saturdays from 11 a.m. to noon, Zayas said the 15 to 20 Willow Roots volunteers typically show up around 10 a.m. and are usually finished by 12:15 p.m. Though last year was successful in terms of distributing more than 5,000 meals throughout the Tri-state region, Lisa Zayas shared how their work in feeding the community has been amplified by COVID-19 to the point of exhaustion.

Pre-pandemic, the pantry served an average of 24 households a week, about 66 people. Since COVID-19 hit, it's served about 38 to 40 households weekly — about 103 to 106 people, with record highs of serving as many as 69 households and 210 people a week.

"I am so sorry for inconveniencing everyone, but at this time I have to do what I have to do and I will continue to do that in the best way I can," Lisa said. "One day, you might not need us and that will be fine. We'll be happy to close shop because I would love to have my Saturdays back with my husband."

Planning Board's decision

With the advice of its attorney, Warren Replansky, Planning Board Chairman Michael Stabile said the application for the pantry doesn't fit into the major home occupation definition as written in the town's zoning code.

In the board's draft resolution, a major home occupation is defined in the code as "any non-residential use conducted wholly or partly in a dwelling unit or

accessory structure thereto by the owner of the same... where customers, clients or sales representatives enter the premises and in which not more than three nonresidents are employed." In his opinion, Stabile said the collection of goods that are given away by Willow Roots fits within the definition, but not the distribution of operation.

"It's hard because of the good work that this organization does for the community," he said. "That being said, whenever any application comes to us, we have to interpret it, make decisions on it based on how the law is interpreted, how it's written."

Given the pandemic, Planning Board member Dick Hermans said the board can't go by the close definition and needs to "let up a little bit."

In defining what can and can't be done, he said, "The point is we want this activity to go on, we want it to be done safely and we're doing the best we can to accommodate that."

Board members then considered other town operations that could be labeled "major home operation"; safety issues connected to Carla Terrace and directing the flow of traffic; the distinction of the pantry's distribution of goods; and possible limits to its hours of operation. Hermans said the draft resolution on Willow Roots' application will be revised based on the board's comments and will be discussed at its meeting on March 10, at 7:30 p.m.

The Zayas later remarked, "We will continue as long as we can. If the Planning Board does not grant us the permit, we will have to close our operations right away. The same thing if they issue a permit with an end date, and we don't have a commercial space to move into at that time."

POLICE REFORM *Continued from Page A1*

ment, then to their local legislative body to ratify or adopt no later than that April 1 deadline.

Millerton officials informed village residents on the municipal website, www.villageofmillerton.net, the Feb. 8 public hearing would be the only meeting on the topic prior to the adoption of the Millerton Police Department's reform plan. The meeting was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic at 6 p.m. and live streamed to the "Village of Millerton VOM" Facebook; it can be viewed now.

The public hearing

Mayor Debbie Middlebrook explained the hearing was a special meeting for the board to listen to public comment with regard to the EO outlined by the governor. She noted Millerton's police reform document isn't yet completed and this was just one step in the process rather than the end of the process. Village Clerk Kelly Kilmer said each speaker was limited to three minutes.

Public comments

Millerton resident Daniel Goldenhagen said he participated in the county police reform plan workgroup. He said it was difficult not knowing what currently exits in terms of local police procedures. He shared that one of the key areas discussed focused on police officer recruitment and training, and one point that stood out was how often the county recruits people with military backgrounds. Goldenhagen said these warrior/protector mentalities are key qualities to look for when recruiting officers.

Speaking from his role as a member of the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights, Goldenhagen said police departments should have a better understanding of how to deal with hate crimes, not only in Millerton but throughout the county. Just as local municipalities hold annual sexual harassment training, he recommended ongoing training for racial discrimination and hate crimes — and how officers deal with such situations.

After disclosing her family's involvement in law enforcement and her own support for statewide police reform, Millerton resident Meg Winkler shared her belief that the Village Board has

been tasked with an "extremely important obligation to fulfill, not only representing the people of the village but also the town of North East."

However, she said she still didn't understand why the village runs the police department "when it only covers 0.6 square miles, versus a town that has approximately 46 square miles."

Though she supported using the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office police reform plan with some tweaking due to Millerton's part-time police department and its "unusual" approach of policing the region, some of the main points Winkler said she'd like to see included in the village's plan focused on transparency as well as continuing the recently-created joint village-town oversight police committee and creating a citizen oversight group between the village and the town.

She stressed the two municipalities need a tailor-made plan. "There is a need for a plan to be developed for communicating clear roles and responsibilities of local and county law enforcement," Winkler said. "We need guidance."

Millerton attorney Joshua Douglass weighed in, agreeing localized language is important.

"I think we can all work together to do what the EO expects us to do and has basically commanded us to do," he said, "and I think the language as an attorney working out of Millerton is

NEW HOME *Continued from Page A1*

100. It has served as many as 69 households, feeding up to 210 individuals.

By January, when the weekly Saturday morning distribution began to have an impact on the quiet adjacent street, residents who, while admiring the work being done by the Pine Plains couple, were concerned about their changing quality of life, appealed to the Pine Plains Planning Board.

Demonstrating a spirit of understanding, Lisa said, "Maybe we don't belong in this area anyway. Maybe it's a godsend showing us we should probably move... some place in the area where we could have the pantry" and eventually other programs.

The acknowledgement led to a search for a new location for either a dual use or a commercially zoned building — anything from a house to a barn — which could be equipped with electricity to handle the pantry's refrigeration needs. Despite having reasonable funds for rent and associated expenses, nothing suitable was found.

Lisa also noted that although the town does have its long-running Pine Plains Community Food Locker at the Methodist Church, located at 4146 E. Church St. (Route 199) that's affiliated with the Regional Food Bank of New York, stairs at the church make for difficult access for seniors, and the facility offers food only once a month, so a joint operation isn't workable.

As they deliberated at their January and February meetings, members of the Planning

Board, some of whom have themselves donated to the pantry, recognized how critical Willow Roots is to many in the community. Knowing that the needs will not disappear when the pandemic passes, they are now working to provide a common sense solution that will allow the pantry to continue operating at least through January 2022, while lessening the burden on the residential neighborhood.

Despite the good intentions of all involved, however, the result could be a bandage at best. Nelson worries that if a permanent solution can't be found, the pantry may close, which, he said, "would be a shame."

Speaking as an occasional volunteer herself, Pine Plains town Supervisor Darrah Cloud, who is not part of the zoning process, agreed.

"I think that they have done more for this town in a lot of ways than [anyone] else during this time," she said of Willow Roots, noting it's even delivered essentials to homes of those who can't get to the pantry in person.

Cloud concluded, "It's a judgment-free environment. If you need them, they will help you... They've been very essential to the town, and the town wants them to succeed. We definitely want to find a better home for them that's bigger and more conducive to what they do."

Anyone with suggestions is asked to call the pantry at 518-751-0164. For more details on food pantries in the area, go to www.tricornernews.com/food-pantries.

VALENTINE'S FOR VETS *Continued from Page A1*

during the past year due to the coronavirus pandemic and social distancing safety protocols, Fletcher said members still stop by the Route 22 Post home, and that they will be heartened to see that more than 130 Hudson Valley schools, libraries, Girl Scout troops, businesses and individuals wrote Valentines for Maloney's annual program.

"It's heartwarming that these kids do it in their school, and that their teachers actually make a point of doing it, just like Veterans Day, to teach their students about people who have served, and how important they are to our country," said Fletcher, adding that the veterans who read the Valentine's Day cards at the VFW usually feel "humbled and honored that young children even think about writing them to us."

This is the second year that Fletcher has dealt with Maloney's office including Post 5444 among the Hudson Valley veteran organizations in its Valentine's for Veterans program, which he started seven years ago.

"My dad was a disabled Navy veteran, so making sure we honor our veterans with appreciation and action is personal to me," said the congressman in a prepared statement after distributing thousands of Valentine's to Hudson Valley veterans at the Castle Point VA Medical Center in Wappingers Falls and the VFW Hall in Beacon on Feb. 12. "After nearly a year of social distancing and physical isolation, it's more important than ever that we reach out to Hudson Valley's veteran community to give them the recognition and love they deserve."

Fletcher said the pandemic

has been especially difficult on the veterans community, which already battles serious issues of isolation, depression and suicide after returning home from combat.

"We can't get together, we haven't had meetings and we can't talk to each other," she said, "so for these kids and their teachers to go out of their way, for the congressman to go out of his way, to make sure veterans get them — it's really nice."

Fletcher, who said she "wasn't doing anything" special for the holiday known best for romance, said "it's always fun to read" the Valentine's Day cards from the students and others who pen them to the veterans. Some of the messages that have been written in years past have said things like, "Thanks for serving," and "Will you be my Valentine?" according to the sr. vice commander.

Mahoney said the gesture is important, as much to him and those who write the cards as to the veterans.

"This is just one small way to remind our vets that we're behind them," he stated. "Thank you to everyone across our region who helped bring a smile to a veteran's face this year."

Meanwhile, Fletcher said while the social restrictions imposed because of the pandemic have been difficult for her and others in the VFW to live with, Post 5444 has been extremely fortunate in that none of its members, as far as she knows, has succumbed to the virus itself.

"Luckily, cross our fingers, we have not that I know of in our Post, even though it's a small Post, I don't know of anyone who has COVID," she said with a sigh of relief.

'must.'

Millerton resident Jennifer Hand encouraged a close look at New York State's guidance issued this past August, which encouraged "a very robust engagement with the public."

Millerton resident Brooke Lehman shared a positive experience she had with Millerton Police Officer David Rudin some years ago when he was the officer in charge. Lehman said she was heartened by his ethic around trying to create connections with the local youth rather than policing them in more traditional ways.

Though there were those with encouraging and positive feedback, the public hearing also heard from locals concerned with police who have made unnecessary traffic stops over the years and the department's handling of minority populations.

For more information on how the village of Millerton and the town of North East are dealing with reforming the Millerton Police Department, read this week's story on their special meeting held on the subject on Wednesday, Feb. 10, on Page A2 and this week's editorial on Page B4.



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Amending an existing conservation easement is, as it should be, very difficult. There are many parties with standing that must be considered; the IRS, as the grantor took deductions, the grantor or their heirs wishes and public opinion to mention a few. Land trusts are stewards and depend on the goodwill and trust of the communities in which they serve. The Land Trust Alliance has written an excellent brief on Amending Conservation Easements, Evolving Practices and Legal Principles. This can either be found on their website at www.landtrustalliance.org or happy to email a copy to you.



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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

February 18-24, 2021

MUSIC: FRED BAUMGARTEN

Climbing Music's Mount Parnassus, Again (and Again)

Yehuda Hanani, cellist, educator and artistic director of Close Encounters With Music (CEWM), has returned countless times to the Bach Suites for Unaccompanied Cello — what he calls a musical “Mount Parnassus” (home of mythology’s Muses).

“I’ve been living with this music for over 50 years,” Hanani told me recently. “It’s forever new, forever fresh. You always discover something new” every time you play it. “This is the Bible for cellists,” he continued. “Every composer who writes for unaccompanied cello cannot escape its influence.”

We discussed how Bach, in his time, could not have been thinking that his works would live on in posterity. “In the 18th century, composers were like the bakers, barbers and candle-makers. If you think of his cantatas, he wrote a new one every Sunday. That was his job. It was expected. Last week’s cantata was old news.”

Yet here we are, with these six timeless cello suites, each one exploring a vast range and depth of feeling — of human experience.

“It’s an incredible body of work,” Hanani said.

And starting on Feb. 28, Hanani will return to the cello suites in a live performance recorded on stage at the Mahaiwe theater in Great Barrington, Mass., to be shown online. It’s the first in CEWM’s winter/spring series, “From the Mahaiwe Stage to Your Screen.” The program will be free and available at the websites www.cewm.org and www.mahaiwe.org, as well as on YouTube.

As a performer and teacher, Hanani is making the best adjustment he



PHOTO COURTESY YEHUDA HANANI

Yehuda Hanani will perform the Bach Suites for Unaccompanied Cello in an online performance for Close Encounters With Music on Feb. 28.

can to the pandemic. He misses the live interaction of playing before people. “It’s an eerie feeling. You sit on the stage, but instead of 750 people breathing and sharing with you, you have to assume they’re online in their homes, that you’re actually playing for someone.”

Ever erudite, Hanani quoted from the Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges: “The taste of the apple lies in the contact of the fruit with the palate. Between us playing and someone out there reacting to it — this is what consummates the cycle. The audience is part of the act; it’s an active, not passive, experience.

Giving lessons remote-

ly has come somewhat easier. “We usually have 50 students from around the world at our High Peaks Summer Festival. This year we did it virtually for the first time. We had 50 students, and we managed to create a sense of community and togetherness.” To a real extent, it has made it easier for the many students he teaches in places like Japan and China. Still, he said, “I’d rather be in the same room with them.”

Returning to the subject of Bach, Hanani dropped a tasty morsel: “My last teacher was [Pablo] Casals,” the legendary Spanish cellist who made the suites famous and was the

first to record them. “He approached them with reverence, and called them ‘miraculous.’”

Hanani is hoping for another miracle this summer — as are we all: a return to live, in-person music. CEWM has plans underway for two programs at The Mount, Edith Wharton’s historic home in Lenox, Mass., as well as two more “From the Mahaiwe Stage” online concerts this spring.

“Forever Bach—The Celestial Suites for Unaccompanied Cello,” with Yehuda Hanani on cello, will be available online on Sunday, Feb. 28, at 7:30 p.m. For more information, go to www.cewm.org or www.mahaiwe.org.

FOUR NOVELS AND A TRIP THROUGH THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD

The Kent Memorial Library in Kent, Conn., will offer a book discussion group hosted by Betty Krasne. Recent historical novels will be studied to see how successful they are at rendering the past.

The four featured novels have been arranged in pairs, with two that start out in the West Indies and two that involve Europe and Japan.

Kei Miller’s “Augustown” will be discussed Feb. 25; on March 25 the title will be “Washinton Black” by Esi Edugyan. On April 22 it is Sarah Moss’ “Signs for Lost Children” and on May 20 it will be Asha Lemmie’s



PHOTO BY JAMES STARKMAN

AN ARTIST AND HISTORIAN DECODES PUBLIC MONUMENTS

David Anthonie is perhaps best known in the Tri-state region as half of the duo that creates artwork under the name DARN studio, whose “CIPHER: Works from Another Country Quilt Cycle” was recently exhibited at Five Points Gallery in Torrington, Conn.

Anthonie, who lives and works in Roxbury, Conn., is also a historic preservation officer for the state and will give a talk hosted by The League of Women Voters of Litchfield County on Sunday, Feb. 21, at 3 p.m. on Zoom called “Hidden in Plain Sight: Decoding Public Monuments.”

One of Anthonie’s recent projects was “Stonewall Jackson: REMIX” (2020) DARN studio.

A great deal of attention has been placed recently on public monuments, which Anthonie believes “not only command atten-

tion to themselves; they also hold court within the public spaces that they occupy.”

The historic confederate monuments that comprise monument row in Richmond, Va., became the lightning rods for discussions, debate and protests, regarding systemic racism, historical narrative, and the role of commemorative markers in public spaces.

Anthonie will address the debate this past year about public monuments and how they stimulate our feelings about our historical narrative.

He will explore what story is being told through monuments, who is telling the story, and the original intent of the monument and their impact to current communities.

Sign up for this free online talk at registration@LitchfieldHistoricalSociety.org to get the link.

HISTORY, CULTURE AND ADVENTURE IN NORFOLK

Norfolk is more than just the Icebox of Connecticut. It’s also a quirky and fascinating town, off the beaten path, with glorious architecture, world-class music, an exquisite library and of course the Yale Forestry School, the Great Mountain Forest and the many opportunities they offer for outdoor education

and adventure.

When you drive through town, perhaps on your way to a larger urban center such as Torrington, Conn., it’s not always obvious how to access the treasures of this town of 1,700 people, established in 1758.

It’s not that residents of Norfolk are trying to be exclusive. In fact, the opposite is largely true, which is why the town has begun to host weekend-long festivals of wonders, in winter and summer.

The Winter Weekend in Norfolk will be held online this year, because of COVID-19. It begins on Saturday, Feb. 20, when art and activity videos will be posted at www.weekendinnorfolk.org.

But there is no need to wait; the website already has history talks, art studio tours, concerts and activities for children that were part of last summer’s Weekend in Norfolk celebration.

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Support the arts coverage you find each week in Compass. Your ad dollars help us tell readers about artists who continue to create and entertain during the pandemic.



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HOW TO BECOME A BEEKEEPER

You're probably already making your own bread and butter in COVID quarantine, so why not learn to make honey as well?

Two upcoming Zoom workshops will offer an introduction to bee-keeping.

In three weekly classes beginning Thursday, Feb. 18, at 6 p.m. and ending Thursday, March 4, at 7:30 p.m., Berkshire Botanical Garden will offer online classes with Chris Wellens, the former head beekeeper for Berkshire Botanical. Suggested reading: "The

Beekeeper's Handbook" by Diana Sammataro and Alphonse Avitabile (an award-winning bee specialist from Bethlehem, Conn.) and "The Backyard Beekeeper" by Kim Flottum.

After that, on Sunday, March 7, at 2 p.m. Dan Carr of Beavertides Farm in Falls Village, Conn., will talk about bee basics in a talk sponsored by the David M. Hunt Library in Falls Village. Register at www.HuntLibrary.org, on the library's Facebook page, or by calling the library at 860-824-7424.



PHOTO COURTESY DAN CARR

Two upcoming online workshops will offer basics on how to begin a bee colony in your yard. One will feature Dan Carr, in photo above, from Beavertides Farm in Falls Village, Conn.

MUSIC: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Finding Time in a Bottle with the Music of A.J. Croce

Sometimes it's hard to find the "click" with a new singer, one whose work isn't presented to you on a platter by the radio, or a streaming channel or your kids or a friend or... And without someone to help you make a link to a song or a performer, sometimes you never find your way in.

So I don't feel guilty about first being attracted to the singer-songwriter A.J. Croce because he is the son of Jim Croce because who of a certain age didn't love Jim Croce? The answer is no one. Jim Croce was the greatest. And while most people of my generation don't agree on much, all of us at some time in our lives have thought, "Gee, I wish Jim Croce hadn't died in that plane crash in 1973 in Louisiana."

There were so many songs by him to love. But really you can only play them over and over again so many times.

And so it was a happy revelation to learn that his son, A.J. Croce, is coming out with an album this month that's called "By Request."

By a fluke, which I'll explain in a minute, it is all covers of songs from the second half of the 20th century. They're songs, he said in an interview, that his friends always ask him to play when he sits down at the piano or picks up a guitar.

It's interesting to note that none of the songs was written by his father.

He does cover a song by his father's good friend Randy Newman. He does "Nothing from Nothing," made popular by Billy Preston; he's got Neil Young's "Only Love Can Break Your Heart;" he's got "Ooh Child" by the Stair-steps, ubiquitous on the radio for so many years.

They're all good. He's a great guitar player and has a flexible voice that can be folk-y, ballad-y or have a deep bluesy growl.

I'll confess though that



PHOTO BY JOSHUA BLACK WILKINS
A.J. Croce will do two shows in March (one celebrates his new album, "By Request") online for The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass.

even though I enjoyed every song by him on Spotify the first time I heard it, what will send me back to his music is the way he sings his father's songs.

You have to search around a little to find a Croce cover of Croce. Mostly you can see them on YouTube. A.J. has had a long career in the music business, and for most of it he has not played his father's music.

But when he does, it lights up a special nostalgia pleasure center of your brain. His voice sounds much like his father's voice. But curiously, A.J. Croce's life has been so full of tragedy that his renditions of his father's very moving songs is grittier, bluesier and more soulful.

Croce has had a hard life. It's not just that his

father died when he was about 2. He also lost his sight when he was 4, either because of physical abuse by his mother's boyfriend or because of brain tumors, depending on whose version of the story you hear (he did regain vision in his left eye many years later).

When he was a teen, the home he'd lived in with his mother for a decade and a half burned down.

Two years ago, his wife of 24 years died from a heart virus. That happened at a time when he was preparing this new album; he found he just couldn't get himself to sit and write new songs, and so he decided to do an album of all cover songs, all performed live with a band of his friends (all experienced blues musicians).

This is a man who has a right to sing the blues, and he does it beautifully. Go to YouTube and find the unplugged version of Croce and a friend singing his father's "Time in a Bottle," out in the backyard (a song that his father wrote

when he learned his wife was pregnant with A.J.). You might never go back to the original version.

Or find the YouTube video of him performing his father's "I've Got a Name." It's about living the dream that his daddy kept hid, as he moves on down the highway, past all the tragedy that time has tossed at him.

These performances stand alone, but they touch me more profoundly because they're songs I've heard a thousand times, and now they sound new again to me. The voice is almost the same, but has more patina.

If the videos move and intrigue you, or if you want a different access point to A.J. Croce, watch two live performances hosted by The Mahaiwe Performing Arts Center in Great Barrington, Mass., on March 18 and 25.

The first concert is a debut outing for the new album, "By Request," which is scheduled for release by Compass Records on Feb. 27.

The second Mahaiwe show, on March 25, will be Croce and his band playing songs from the 10 albums he's released in the past 30 years. He does blues, jazz, soul and rock 'n' roll, but in his hands really everything has a bluesy quality.

Tickets for the two Mahaiwe online shows are \$15 for a single performance or \$25 for both. To order, go to www.mahaiwe.org.



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Online bidding is now open for the chance to name the two rare Siberian Cranes at Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy in Litchfield, Conn.

Seeking Names for Siberian Cranes

Ripley Waterfowl Conservancy in Litchfield, Conn., is offering naming rights for the two rare Siberian cranes that are now in residence in the center's Crane Habitat. The cranes are a critically endangered species. Organizations such as Ripley are not only protecting the birds but also helping to continue their bloodlines by creating safe conditions for them to breed. The 4-year-old female and 7-year-old male are two of only 19 Siberian Cranes in captivity in the U.S.

Both birds are about 5 feet tall and have thoughtful eyes, long slender legs and beaks, and graceful wings that open up to reveal black feathers at the tips.

Each donation directly supports the care of the many birds at Ripley, in-

cluding the cranes.

Online bidding for the right to choose a name for one of the cranes will continue until Feb. 28. The names will be displayed alongside the name of the donor on an acknowledgment sign outside the Crane Habitat.

In addition, the high bidders will win a behind-the-scenes "Feed the Cranes" experience with Ripley's Director of Aviculture, Andrew Ocampo, a noted specialist in helping birds in captivity to breed.

For inspiration on choosing a name, visit Ripley's website to see a short video of the cranes, performing what sounds like a jazz concert with their distinctive honking, www.ripleyconservancy.org/siberian-crane-silent-auction.html.

— Cynthia Hochswender

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MILLBROOK

Buffy Arbogast appointed new village trustee

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Mayor Tim Collopy announced at the Wednesday, Feb. 10, Village Board meeting that Buffy Arbogast has been appointed as the new trustee to fill his seat for the remainder of 2021.

Collopy was a trustee before running for the top spot in the village; Arbogast will have to run in the November election if she wants to continue in that post. She has been active in local politics for a number of years. She served on the Town of Washington Planning Board in 2017, and was a board member of the Millbrook Business Association.

The Feb. 10 meeting was held via Zoom due to the pandemic; all members of the board were present.

The Millbrook Fire Department's January report was given by Fire Chief Ted Bownas and Fire Department President Matt Rochfort.

Police Sgt. Jared Witt gave the Police Department's January report, including a total of 110 incidents, with 36 tickets.

Witt and Trustee Mike Herzog both participated on the Dutchess County Police Reform Committee. They said that a number of local citizens who participated were amazed at the amount of calls and incidents the Millbrook Police Department handles each year. The yearly reports for both the village's fire and the police departments can be found on the village's website, www.villageofmillbrookny.com.

The pair also attended meetings in January and February, and said they found about 14 recommendations that they will send to the Village Board to review and then return in two weeks. Then the pair will work on the village's police reform plan, share that with the public to then vote on sometime in March, to send it to Albany by Governor Andrew Cuomo's April 1 deadline.

Public Works Supervisor Bob Collacola reported that snow removal was a major portion of the Highway Department's work last month, as there was a total of 44 inches of snow since December 2020. The storm on Feb. 1 and 2 delivered 18" of snow and required major cleanup work, he reported. Village crews spent the next six days salting roads covered in black ice, removing snow piles, clean-

ing village trucks and making repairs to equipment.

The board discussed a proposed fee increase for village sewer rates, of a potential 20% in fiscal year 2021-22 and a possible additional increase of 10% in fiscal year 2022-23. Also the board discussed a sewer "SBA" increase of \$10,000 in fiscal year 2021-22. Most of the treatment facility is more than 45 years old and the collection system is even older. Upgrades were made in 1996, a new aeration system was put in 2009 and in 2012 a (Dechlor and ORF) metering system was installed. Certain components now need repair or replacement due to age and usage, according to Collacola. Water fees were increased 50% in January 2019 to help with the filtration upgrade.

Reports from the trustees included plans to seek grants for sidewalk repairs and other infrastructure improvements, including to lights on Franklin Avenue that must be replaced. Trustee Vickie Contino suggested devising a capital improvement plan. Herzog is working on a Pandemics Operation Plan, which has to be completed by April 1. Arbogast will work on the Police Reform project and Trustee Kevin McGrane and Herzog are pursuing the village being a part of the Tree City U.S.A. program again this year, which Millbrook has been part of for 25 years. Work is continuing on the upcoming budget as well.

The next meeting, which will again be held via Zoom, is planned for Wednesday, March 10, at 6 p.m. To participate, email clerk@villageofmillbrookny.com.

A good read, a treasure hunt and secrets in the Hudson Valley

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
judithb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — Most people like a good mystery. For those who also like hiking and hunting for treasure, author Mike Adamovic has a treat in store for you. His latest book, "Hudson Valley History and Mystery," published in November 2020, is available at area bookstores, including Merritt Bookstore in Millbrook, where he signed copies on Jan. 30.

The hardcover book shares tales from a wide range of natural and man-made sites in the region, from what he describes as "enigmatic stone structures and ancient petroglyphs, to battlefields and haunted mountaintops and popular waterfalls." One of his favorite sites, included in this book, is Dover Stone Church.

Read about the pirate Captain Kidd, Claudius Smith (a British loyalist who fought here with his band of so-called Cowboys during the American Revolution) and Dutch Schultz, a Pine Plains bootlegger from the days of Prohibition.

Adamovic, a nature photographer, has included photos of the sites he discusses, along with directions for getting to them.

To create some excitement among readers, the author has hidden a cache of items, valued at around \$200, at a location in the Hudson Valley/Catskill region. The book offers clues to its whereabouts.

Adamovic challenges readers to use their codebreaking skills to decipher the mystery. He has also put the puzzle, complete with coordinates, on his Facebook page.

Born and raised in Dover, Adamovic has spent a lifetime hiking in this region. He studied environmental science at Manhattanville College and spends as much time out of doors as he can.

He is fascinated by the mys-

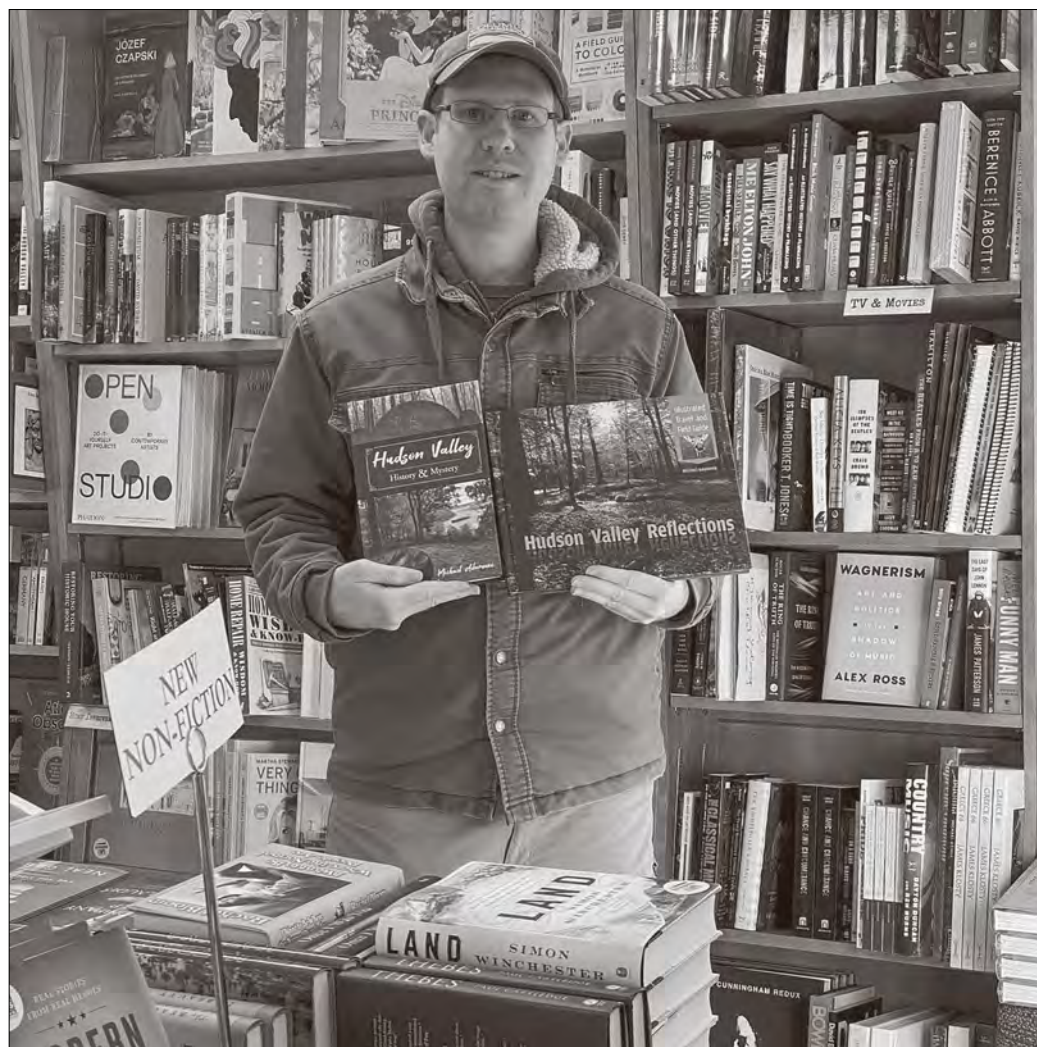


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Dover author Mike Adamovic signed copies of his new book, "Hudson Valley History and Mystery," and his first book, "Hudson Valley Reflections," at Merritt Bookstore on a recent visit to the Millbrook mainstay.

teries, legends and superstitions surrounding many places here: Why do some of the entrances to caves and obscure stone chambers line up with the sun during equinoxes? How is it possible that there are stone structures weighing several thousand pounds on the tops of mountains?

The photos in the book are

also notable, and add depth to the tales.

"I've been fortunate enough to stumble across some remarkable sights in the woods, which words alone are not apt to describe," he said. "I enjoy being able to share these experiences with others via photography, an art form that provides the most accurate representation of the

wonders of the natural world."

Adamovic is also the author of "Hudson Valley Reflections: Illustrated Travel and Field Guide." For his next book, he is researching the history of the Huguenots in the area.

To get a clue about the whereabouts of the hidden treasure, send an e-mail to HUDSONVALLEYTREASURE@gmail.com.

LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

Notice of Formation of Wildly Beautiful, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secretary of State (SSNY) on 12/22/2020. Office location: Dutchess County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 79 Wakeman Road, Millerton, NY 12546. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

- 01-21-21
- 01-28-21
- 02-04-21
- 02-11-21
- 02-18-21
- 02-25-21

TOWN OF AMENIA DOWNTOWN ADA IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT CONTRACT NUMBER 4936.02 NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids for Contract No. 4936.02 are sought for the Downtown ADA Improvements Sidewalk Replacement Project, including, but not limited to, demolition of approximately 120 LF of existing concrete sidewalk, existing concrete curbing, pavement removal, installation of approximately 120 LF of new concrete sidewalks and curbing, along with pavement restoration. The project is located along US Route 343 in the Town of Amenia. Sealed bids are sought and invited by the Town of Amenia, Dutchess County, New York, as set forth in specifications dated February 22, 2021, prepared by Crawford & Associates Engineering, P.C., 4411 Route 9, Suite 200, Hudson, New York, 12534.

Bids will be received at the office of Dawn Marie Klingner, Town Clerk, Town of Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501, until 3:00 p.m. on March 11, 2021. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately thereafter at the Town of Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501. Instructions for attendance of the bid opening will be sent to all plan holders on March 10, 2021.

All activities on site shall be consistent with State and Federal regulations. This job is subject to prevailing wages.

Notice of Receipt of Tax Roll and Warrant Notice is Hereby Given That Eileen Ciaburri the Tax Collector for the Town of Pine Plains, has received the Tax Roll for 2021 and will be collecting taxes during the month of February 2021 at the Town Hall, 3284 Route 199 East, Pine Plains N.Y. 12567, on Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 10:00 AM to 1:00pm and during the months of March, April & May on Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00AM to 1:00PM. Taxes collected through the month of February 2021 are without penalty through March 1st, 2021. Penalties are levied as follows: March 2%, April 3% and May is 4%.

Take Further Notice, that pursuant to the provisions

Current State and Federal wage rates are provided within the Bid Documents.

All bid documents and all contract documents, including specifications governing the contract (Bid Documents), may be examined (by appointment only) during regular office hours at the office of the Town Clerk, Town of Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., on or after February 22, 2021.

Paper copies of the Bid Documents may be obtained from the Town of Amenia Town Hall, 4988 Route 22, Amenia, NY 12501 upon payment of a fee of fifty (50) dollars for each paper copy of specifications obtained. All payments shall be in the form of a check or money order made payable to The Town of Amenia. To obtain paper copies of the Bid Documents please call the Town of Amenia Town Hall to schedule an appointment. Electronic copies of the Bid Documents are provided without a fee and can be obtained by emailing townclerk@ameniany.gov.

All prospective bidders are encouraged to visit the site before providing a bid. Questions regarding the project plans and specifications will be accepted in writing until noon on March 5, 2021.

No bid will be accepted unless a signed Certification of Non-Collusion is submitted with the bid.

The Town of Amenia expressly reserves the right to waive any informality in or to accept any bid or to reject any and all bids or to award on any or all items as the interest of the Town may appear to require.

No bidder may withdraw his bid within forty-five (45) days after the actual date of the bid opening. By order of the Town Board of the Town of Amenia, NY. Date: February 22, 2021.

By: Dawn Marie Klingner
Town Clerk
02-18-21

MILLBROOK IN BRIEF

Worshiping during COVID pandemic

Grace Episcopal Church offers online worship, Sunday and Wednesday, at 10 a.m. Live-streamed on YouTube, engage at 9:50 a.m. Archived services are also available. For more information, go to www.gracechurch.org.

Lyll Memorial Federated Church offers Sunday Worship from 2 to 4 p.m. on Zoom. Go to www.ny-acumm_powerofprayer-flyer.pdf for directions. For more information about Lyll Church, go to www.lyllmemorial.org.

Millbrook at Home keeps connected

The Millbrook at Home senior group wants to stay connected with local residents, so it's sharing a link to its website where seniors can find out about programs and meetings through the online platform, Zoom.

The website link is, www.millbrookathome.org.

Also, the group's newsletter is out and about in the community. Meanwhile, if there are any questions, suggestions or concerns, please email connect@millbrookathome.org.

St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception Church has in-person worship, but masks are required at all times except when receiving communion. Mass times are Sunday, from 8 to 10:15 a.m. and also at noon.

And congratulations to Fr. Bancroft, who celebrated one year at St. Joseph-Immaculate Conception on Friday, Jan. 1.

For other Masses and confession times, go to the church website at www.st-josephmillbrook.org.

Millbrook at Home seeks to create and deepen connections among those who remain in their homes as they advance in age. Its network of local volunteers helps senior citizens maintain vibrant, engaged and socially active lives.

Got news?
Send news tips and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

Correcting Errors

We are happy to correct errors in news stories when they are called promptly to our attention. We are also happy to correct factual and/or typographical errors in advertisements when such errors affect meaning.

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

Remember

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

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EDITORIAL

Working to improve something that already works well

The county, the town of North East and village of Millerton all focused their attention on police reform last week, when Dutchess County held a virtual public hearing on how to improve the Millerton Police Department (MPD) on Monday, Feb. 8. The town and village, meanwhile, held a joint Zoom meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 10, on its work thus far reworking the MPD's policies and procedures. The meetings were held virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic, as all meetings are these days to keep the public safe while still hoping to draw as large of a crowd as possible; both were well publicized and quite well attended.

The meetings were a direct result of Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order, announced last June when he warned every single police agency in New York State they must review their policies and procedures, discuss them with community stakeholders and submit new plans to his office by April 1 or risk losing their state funding.

Millerton is among the Harlem Valley municipalities that have their own police force, albeit a part-time force. The village of Millbrook has a police department; the town of Pine Plains has a police department; Amenia has only a police constable. The Dutchess County Sheriff's Office has a sub-station located on Route 22 in Amenia while the New York State Police has its Troop K Barracks on Route 44 in Millbrook and a sub-station on Route 22 in Dover Plains.

Key among Cuomo's concerns was the need to "address any racial bias and disproportionate policing of communities of color" in the wake of George Floyd's death on May 25, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minn., which ignited a months' long social justice movement across the U.S.

While the volatility sparked by such issues hasn't specifically touched the Millerton community, one participant at the county hearing did raise his desire to see the MPD create a way to deal with racial discrimination and hate crimes, which was an issue a few years back when some anti-Semitic posters were hung in the village and surrounding communities, including Millbrook and Lakeville, Conn.

Another resident questioned why the village runs the police force when it's a mere fraction of the size of the town, rather than the town managing the department.

Yet another comment recommended creating a citizen oversight group between the village and the town to help manage the MPD. Also suggested was that "clear roles and responsibilities of local and county law enforcement" be defined.

One comment praised the MPD for reaching out to local youth, and for dealing with them in unconventional yet productive and positive ways.

The town/village meeting on the 10th seemed to deal with a lot of procedural issues, including how body cameras and dashboard cameras operate, as well as how officers typically approach motorists.

The possible benefits of expanding the MPD's schedule, from basically covering the overnight shift to including more daytime shifts, was also discussed.

One comment Mayor Debbie Middlebrook made after the joint town/village meeting, was that she was surprised at "the thought the police might write tickets as a source of funding," noting "the village receives very little in ticket revenue."

According to Middlebrook, Village Treasurer Kelly Kilmer told her "the last check the village received for police fines was for \$25," adding that police cases are prosecuted in the North East Town Court and then the State of New York sends the village any financial portion of the court fees it is due, which doesn't amount to a whole lot.

That said, the mayor added she thought the "public listening meetings went well... I think just listening allows the participants to speak without worrying about getting negative feedback on their comment... [and] is a healthy process" adding "I was very pleased to hear the positive comments on how respectful our officers have been."

The Joint Village of Millerton and Town of North East Police Committee said it hopes to have a draft police reform plan prepared by mid-March, well in time for the April 1 deadline.

We think it's great that the committee, supported by Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro and the County Legislature, the North East Town Board, the Millerton Village Board and the Millerton Police Department, with assistance from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, other law enforcement agencies and community stakeholders have been able to work alongside each other and come up with a plan to improve how the MPD police.

To be honest, we didn't see a lot of problems to begin with — the MPD has been keeping this community safe for a long time with just a part-time force and limited resources — not an easy task.

The big picture here is that the Millerton Police Department has been keeping law and order and peace in all that time, and let's face it, this is probably the least peaceful period of our lives. That in and of itself is pretty amazing. It's always good to seek to make things better. But let's not lose sight of the fact that the MPD is a vital part of this community and it is doing an essential service during an incredibly stressful and challenging moment in history. That said, thanks to everyone who has spent so much time to improve something that already works so well.

The Joint Village of Millerton and Town of North East Police Committee just held another virtual public meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 17, after press time. The group is planning upcoming meetings on Wednesday, Feb. 24, and Wednesday, March 3, both at 6 p.m. The meetings will be held via Zoom; the links will be posted one day prior to the meeting on the village's website. For that information and the committee's full schedule, go to www.villageofmillerton.net.



Results of a political trial

Many people are angry over the trial held in the Senate. The problem is in the word "trial." This was not a legal trial, no current laws of jurisprudence hold. There is no application of the simple reading of law upheld in every superior court in the land that if you remove the one accused from a crime scene and the crime never takes place, hey presto, the crime needed that person's involvement. Guilty. But in this case there is no legal accusation of a crime, just a determination of the guilt of being impeached for solid reason.

Now, what everyone is forgetting is that a trial following a president being impeached, held in the body of the Senate, is an evaluation of the sitting senators' political evaluation of whether the president should be found guilty and, as a consequence, lose their job — and the next step is to vote to see if they should ever be able to have a public job again.

Now, many people are accusing reluctant GOP senators of simply turning a blind eye to the acts and willful deeds of the then president. Simply put, they are accused of being cowards and being afraid of the followers of Trump wanting retribution — at the ballot box or worse — should they decide yes, he is guilty and the impeachment was warranted. But that's not what they are voting on. They are voting on a simple proposition:

If 40% of the whole GOP electorate is a died-in-the-wool

A VIEW FROM THE EDGE

Peter Riva

Trump follower, and every single one of those fervent fans will vote in the next primary election cycle when almost none of the regular, more reasonable GOP electors will bother to vote, what are the chances each of these senators would have of being the chosen candidate? Remember, if you fail in the primary, you are out. Replaced by what? A more Trumpian follower. Bad for the country.

Now, on the other hand, it could be said that these senators are courageous because they will have to face a Democratic opponent in the next election who points out they supported Trump's innocence in the Senate trial... this is likely to be bad for their candidacy.

So either way, they are damned if they do and damned if they don't. In fact, they can be likened to the band on the Titanic valiantly playing on as the ship sinks — only in their case they are also hoping their fiddle playing will save the ship. That's unlikely, either way. Watch the next few years as many of them will jump ship. They have little chance of escaping an electorate's ire — on both sides — otherwise.

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

Operation Warp Speed

Nope, it's not a "Star Wars" movie about Luke Skywalker defending us from the Galactic Empire, but rather the story of a modern-day hero who organized and assembled a precise and what I consider successful offensive to destroy a brutal invading virus unleashed by a foreign land. The story of former President Donald Trump as that modern day hero, wisely giving responsibility to the U.S. military to quickly and accurately distribute supplies.

I know, many of you illogically hate this comparison. Those of you honest enough and possessing a moderate amount of common sense should be able to admit no politician in government today could have achieved this amazing feat in such record-breaking time. I can recognize real leadership, whether I like the leader or not, and Trump provided that. Good-bye, 2020, you won't be missed by many. The coronavirus dealt the world a devastating blow. No one knew what its effects or consequences would be and we are still uncertain.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has flip-flopped on recommended procedures for how to best deal with the virus for months. Monday morning quarterbacks and pundits seemed to blame everything negative on Trump.

That brought out the best and the worst in state and federal leadership. None of the best can be claimed by the speaker of the house and her cronies. Political elites didn't follow their own directives or convoluted rules.

VETERAN'S CORNER

Larry Conklin

Double standards? Local governments fared far better through having direct contact with their constituents.

Many patriots, though, stepped up to the plate to make a positive difference, financially and psychologically, while I believe most federal and state leaders could have cared less about humans and businesses suffering. They had their own mansions, security details, staff, salaries and pensions — courtesy of U.S. taxpayers — to keep them occupied.

Stimulus relief was cruelly withheld by politicians to avoid the appearance of a Trump victory. Inhumane politics took priority over people's lives and livelihoods, all while our dedicated and fearless scientists and health care workers toiled tirelessly to provide desperately needed care.

Concerned citizens provided help to overworked individuals. Patriots stepped up to fund food kitchens, oversee the needs of seniors and do continuous good deeds. Celebrations, reunions and holiday festivities were severely curtailed or canceled. For example: We Rounders this year cautioned on the side of safety and did not erect our 16-foot by 32-foot squad tent for our annual gathering at Deer Camp on the border of North East and Ancram. (It's the first time we've canceled since forming the Rounders Club in

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thanks, DOT, for clearing all that snow

Dear Editor, this is a quick note to give high praise to the front line plow drivers at the New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) for their quick response to our most recent snow storm here in Dutchess County. Although my driveway had wind-drifts up to 3 feet and it took a while to get plowed out, once we hit

the state highways they were in outstanding condition.

My congratulations to the men and women at the DOT and more importantly to their patient spouses waiting for them at home after many long hours. Well done...

Alec Pandaleon

Millbrook

Trump should face consequences

Former President Trump carefully orchestrated a criminal action against our government. He must be held accountable. He is a traitor to America,

and must never hold any political office, ever again.

Buddy Platt

Copake

Letter made me laugh

Thank you, Bruce Valentine, for "my laugh of the day."

I was quite surprised when I read in the Jan. 28th Millerton News the mention of your "late" father. Thankfully, I knew it was an error.

Considering the business Dick Valentine was in (Val-

entine Funeral Home), I'd say everyone appreciated his attention to "time" and circumstances.

Good luck, Bruce, with the removal of those Locust trees.

Diane Walters

Millerton

Now is the time to enact

Now is the time to enact appropriate legislation by simple majority in both houses of Congress:

Draft - 02/13/2021

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bill No. ___ in the House of Representatives

Bill No. ___ in the Senate

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Article II of the Constitution states "The President shall be Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States..."

WHEREAS, the Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States is an officer of the United States.

WHEREAS, Section 3 of Amendment XIV to the Constitution states in relevant part: "No person shall... hold any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State, who, having previously taken an oath, ... as an officer of the United States ... to support the Constitution of the United States, shall have en-

gaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof."

WHEREAS, Section 5 of Amendment XIV to the Constitution states "The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article."

WHEREAS, the evidence provided by the House Managers in the second impeachment trial of Donald John Trump clearly established that Donald John Trump had engaged in insurrection and rebellion against the Constitution of the United States and given aid and comfort to the enemies thereof.

NOW THEREFORE, By operation of Section 3 of Amendment XIV to the Constitution in accordance with its terms, Donald John Trump is disqualified from holding any office, civil or military, under the United States, or under any State.

G. A. Mudge

Sharon

1954.) Instead of our regular camp we improvised. We had predawn gatherings at the platform and evening post hunt discussions. We had outdoor prepared meals. It was a bit uncomfortable, but still enjoyable and memorable. These times are uncomfortable and uncertain, mentally and psychologically challenging. But I survived a 10-month tour in the Western Pacific enduring severe conditions and tragedy, and throughout it all I prayed and counted the days till I could make it home again. And

I did make it home again. Just like we will make it through now. Let's have a little less complaining and blaming each other for what's gone wrong. It's counterproductive. Let's be thankful. This time next year a new day will dawn. God bless you, patriotic readers, and your families. Here's to better times ahead. Millerton resident Larry Conklin is a Vietnam War veteran who is a member of the Millerton American Legion Post 178 and the Couch-Pipa VFW Post 6851 in Canaan, Conn.

THE MILLERTON NEWS

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All in all, 2021 a very good year for Jumpfest

By PATRICK L. SULLIVAN
Special to The Millerton News

SALISBURY, Conn. — The Salisbury Winter Sports Association (SWSA) ski jump weekend saw good weather and good crowds, even with a 400-person cap on spectators in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

SWSA's Willie Hallihan re-capped on Monday morning, Feb. 15, saying that the SWSA event was the only ski jumping event in the East that was not canceled because of pandemic concerns.

Hallihan said the weather, which has caused cancellation of events in recent years, was not a factor.

"Friday night was in the mid-20s — we've had much colder nights. Saturday was about perfect, and Sunday was almost temperate."

The biggest logistical problem was maintaining the 400-person limit.

On Saturday, Feb. 13, the 400-person limit was achieved at noon, one hour before the competition was scheduled to begin (practice jumping begins at 11 a.m. on both Saturday and

Sunday).

Roger Crain of SWSA was working the gate a little before noon. He said there were 375 people inside, 25 short of the 400 maximum.

Asked how SWSA kept track, Crain said he had a clicker, and when people exited for good, they were asked to turn in their tickets, so SWSA could then allow more people in.

At 1:20 p.m., there were about 50 people standing in line and waiting to get in, and SWSA members were out on Indian Cave Road advising people in cars that there would be a delay in getting in.

On Sunday, Feb. 14, the SWSA volunteers were out in force, advising not only on where to park and how long the wait might be, but going over COVID-19 symptoms and reminding people about masks and social distancing.

At about 1:30 p.m. Sunday, the parking area was jammed and about 100 people were waiting to get in.

On both days, the waiting people eventually got in, as spectators left and turned in their tickets.

Inside the ski jump area, near the bonfire on the south side of the jump hill, a dozen or so small children swarmed over piles of cleared snow.

Two food trucks — one offering pulled pork and macaroni and cheese, the other *poutine* (a Canadian dish defined as french fries topped with cheese curds and gravy) — did steady business. Revelers were restricted to a smaller area than usual on the north side of the jump hill, which didn't discourage the die hards with their folding tables and chairs, and provisions tending toward the liquid.

Hallihan said there were some positive aspects to the pandemic precautions.

"People behaved themselves," heeding the guidance about masks and distance.

And the ski jumps were livestreamed, thanks to Ian Johnson and the Salisbury School Media Lab.

Hallihan said the livestream attracted viewers from around the country.

"We'll do that from now on."

Hallihan said that, all things considered, the 2021 Jumpfest was a success.



PHOTO BY RANDY O'ROURKE

Tate Frantz had a panoramic view as he flew off the 65-meter hill at the Salisbury Winter Sports Association's Jumpfest last weekend, held in Salisbury, Conn.

There are three separate competitions at Jumpfest. On Friday nights there is target jumping under the lights, an unofficial contest.

On Saturdays, the jumpers compete for the Salisbury Winter Sports Association cup, which goes home with the jumper who has won three times.

And on Sunday is the Olympic qualifier, the Eastern National championships. Points

are awarded based on distance and style.

Tate Frantz, number 60 in the Under 20 category and jumping on the 65-meter hill, earned the most points on both days, with 228.4 on Saturday and 234.7 on Sunday.

Cooper Dodds, jumping in the Master Class, got the farthest distance on Friday night's target jumping, at 67.5.

Full results can be found on-

line at The Millerton News website, www.tricornernews.com, including results for the young-est jumpers on the 30-meter hill. The names of the clubs the athletes jump for are included. Ford Sayre and Lebanon Outing Club are both in New Hampshire; NYSEF trains at the Olympic Jumping Complex in Lake Placid; SWSA is in Salisbury.

Full results can be found online at www.tricornernews.com.

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