

The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

Thursday, July 16, 2020

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PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Andrea Westerlind and Simon Kristoph welcomed local residents and weekend visitors alike into Westerlind at Saperstein's, located at 41 Main St., starting Saturday, July 4. Future plans include a possible grocery.

Westerlind at Saperstein's has big plans for Millerton's Main Street

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

MILLERTON — From housing the long-time family business, Saperstein's, to the recent collaborative comprised of three retail vendors, the building at 41 Main St. has long stood as a landmark in the village of Millerton. Just in time for the Fourth of July, the site took on a new life as Andrea Westerlind, the owner and operator of Westerlind, officially opened Wester-

lind at Saperstein's for business.

"I mean, it's kind of the best retail location in Millerton," Westerlind said when asked what drew her to the spot. "She's had her eye on the space for a really long time," said Simon Kristoph, the store's retail director.

Before coming to Millerton, Westerlind had successfully launched her catalogue of outdoor apparel across the country, with locations in Denver, Colo.; Powder Mountain, Utah; and New York City. She tested out

the waters in the Millerton area two summers ago when she collaborated with Evergreen Antiques owner Laurence Fox, opening a temporary shop known as the Pop-Up Shop, at 3 Main St. Customers responded well, and the following summer, Westerlind and Fox partnered with John Allee from Meta 44 to create a collaborative business, again at 3 Main St.

Westerlind said she worked with

See **WESTERLIND, A7**

Residents share their stories at virtual forum

What it's like to be a person of color living in Dutchess County today

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

DUTCHESS COUNTY — Elected officials and community leaders held "A Listening Town Hall: People of Color Sharing Their Experiences in Dutchess County" on Tuesday evening, July 7, for people to talk about what it's like living in the region as a person of color.

Hosted by Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY-18), the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights and the Northern Dutchess National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the event was held via Zoom and live streamed on the "Dutchess County Government" Facebook page. People

could register beforehand to speak for three minutes during the forum.

Molinaro assured participants what they said would be a way to "address these challenges together."

Advocating police reform legislation as the father of two black daughters, Maloney said, "I think that when we can find, through love and concern, paths through this thicket of difference and fear and can find ways across those lines of difference, that's where change occurs, and I want to be part of a generation that changes this.

"Maybe we don't change at all, maybe we can never change at all, at least in our lifetimes, but we can be part of progress that other generations have achieved.

"These are the same painful, difficult

injustices we have been facing for 400 years," Maloney continued, "but we're a different society than we were even 20 or 30 or 50 years ago, and in the diversity of our society, we have an opportunity, I think, to create real lasting change and to make our contribution to make it a better country for everyone."

More than 300 people spoke that night, according to Angela Henry, the forum's moderator.

As the first official to speak, former U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson recounted his years living in Dutchess County. Johnson shared that his family was the first black family to move into the Cotton Hill area of Poughkeepsie years ago. In spite of his

See **RESIDENTS' STORIES, A7**

North East suggests police committee

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

NORTH EAST — The Town Board held its first in-person meeting on Thursday, July 9, since the coronavirus pandemic forced it to switch to virtual Zoom meetings in March. Town Supervisor Chris Kennan said last week's meeting, which was held at the North-East-Millerton Library Annex instead of Town Hall, as the Annex is larger and can accommodate social distancing more easily, was difficult due to the extreme heat, made tougher as everyone was wearing face masks.

"It was nice to see each other, but it was also not ideal," he said. "We may go back to Zoom for August. We'll see."

A few members of the community

attended the meeting, which had a routine agenda and was swift-moving.

Highway garage update

One item of business was the approval of a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for the joint highway garage on Route 22, shared with the village of Millerton. Councilman George Kaye gave an update on its progress. Currently the town is in Phase 2 of construction for a sand and salt storage shed. Last year an equipment storage shed was built, in Phase 1. Next year the town expects to take on Phase 3, which will be for the actual garage building, "the biggest and most expensive" part of the project, according to Kennan.

See **POLICE SERVICES, A7**



PHOTO BY JENNIFER WAKAMATSU

Copake sisters Emi Wakamatsu, left, and Maya kept their eyes on the family's tablet, propped up on a window sill, as they practiced the moves they've been learning through the online Kids Karate program.

Libraries join forces, offer summer reading program

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

TRI-STATE REGION — As June approached, it became increasingly obvious that due to restrictions of COVID-19, area libraries would not be filled with the cheerful sounds of children's voices joining together for the usual summertime fare. Instead of bemoaning what could be a bleak outlook, program directors found strength in their numbers as they joined together to form "The Fellowship of the Books: Five Libraries, More Programs."

The group, available through the libraries' websites and Facebook pages, keeps families and staff safe during the COVID pandemic, providing fun while continuing the all important summer activities that do so much to encourage reading development. That,

in turn, helps prevent the "summer slide," which can cause students to lose hard-won progress from the previous school year, something that is particularly important after the lack of traditional classes this past spring due to the statewide shut down of schools caused by the health crisis.

With budget an issue as libraries balance attractions against cost, the fellowship determined that a pooling of resources could also bring a "bigger bang for the buck" for patrons of the Amenia, NorthEast-Millerton, Pine Plains, Roeliff Jansen and Scoville Memorial libraries.

Building on their regular programs, expanded offerings include reading programs such as the ever-popular Story Hours, crafts, animal programs,

See **LIBRARY PROGRAM, A7**



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OPINION

We Sought Your Support And You Gave It Generously: Now What?; Columns; Letters **A6**

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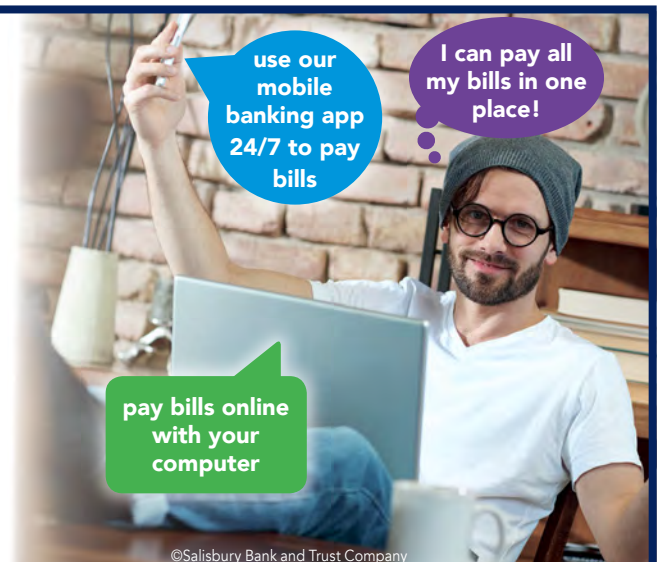
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MILLERTON



PHOTO BY WENDY HILL

Officials from multiple area fire companies responded to a fire at 1310 Boston Corners Road in Millerton on Sunday afternoon, July 12; the smoke from the fire could be seen from miles away.

Owner of Hylton Hundt Salon loses house to Sunday fire

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Officials from multiple fire companies across the Tri-state region sprung into action to respond to a report of a structure fire on Boston Corners Road in Millerton on Sunday afternoon, July 12. Millerton Fire Chief Jason Watson reported that the Millerton Fire Company received a call at 12:39 p.m. about a house fire at 1310 Boston Corners Road. Describing the scene as smoky and hot, he said Millerton firefighters arrived on site at 12:48 p.m., as did crews from the Copake, Ancram, Wassaic and Lakeville, Conn., fire companies. Flames were said to be shooting out of the garage and out of the main body of the house belonging to Millerton resident and business owner Janice Hylton, of Hylton Hundt Salon, and her wife, Gail Smalldridge. It took the attending fire personnel

about 20 minutes to extinguish the blaze; the house was said to have suffered severe damage and be a total loss. Thankfully, no injuries were reported, and both Hylton and Smalldridge escaped the fire safely with their cat. Now the couple is reportedly seeking a long-term rental in either Connecticut or New York, which could be tough given the rental market is so saturated with city residents coming up north seeking shelter during the COVID-19 pandemic. Ancram Town Councilwoman Bonnie Hundt, Hylton's long-time business partner at Hylton Hundt Salon, said in an interview that Hylton and Smalldridge were at home when they heard a sound in their garage. Looking into the garage, Hunt said that the couple spotted a solar power battery that was reportedly on fire. According to Watson, the official cause of the fire is still being investigated at this time.

McEnroe Organic Farm Market reopens after clearing COVID-19 concerns

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Out of an abundance of caution, McEnroe Organic Farm closed its market for a half day on Wednesday, July 8, and a full day on Thursday, July 9, after one of its employees attended a family function where someone reported testing positive for the coronavirus five days later. "We just wanted to be cautious," said McEnroe Farm Market Manager Ben Wagner on Monday, July 13; the store fully reopened on Saturday, July 11. "Just in case, we got all of our employees tested. Everything came back negative

and we reopened the next day. We got our store deep cleaned. We wanted it to be safe, for the safety of our employees and the safety of our customers." That's a relief for the legions of loyal Tri-state customers who shop at McEnroe's — one of New York's oldest and most diverse certified organic farms with more than 1,200 acres of fields, pastures and greenhouses — and some of the best local organic produce and meats around. The Route 22 farm market, which has remained open to the public throughout the COVID-19 pandemic with curbside pickup available even while much of the state was shut down, em-

ploys roughly 40 people. It's now open to shopping inside as well, though limited to five people at a time to allow for social distancing, and the store is sanitized after each customer, according to Wagner. And while the deli remains closed at this time, the manager said business has been brisk. "Actually, I expected it to be slower than usual because of everything going on, but actually it's been pretty good this year," he said. "We have the outdoor cider garden, and it seems people are pretty down about everything of course, but it's nice for them to get out. It's socially distanced outside and everyone is required to wear a

mask unless they're eating. We're trying to be very cautious." The store is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday, and from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday, Saturday and Sunday; the King's Highway Hard Cider Garden eatery is open from 11 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. everyday. Wagner said the good news is that throughout the pandemic, the farm has been able to keep up with its growing season, and, thankfully, the market has been able to keep up with customer demand as well. "We wanted to be here for our community," he said. "It was hard times, but we're all healthy."

Coronavirus shut down Demitasse before it could open, now store takes another shot

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

MILLERTON — Just when Demitasse owner Hayden Geer and her husband, Richard, were anticipating the opening of their retail store at 32 Main St. this spring, the world as they knew it was suddenly upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, with patience and perseverance, the couple rode out the shut down and finally, with the governor's Phase 3 of reopening the Mid-Hudson Valley Region on Tuesday, June 23, opened their doors for business on Friday, June 27, just in time for the Millerton Business Alliance's (MBA) weekend-long Millerton Al Fresco event.

Long before businesses were impacted by COVID-19, Hayden said she had a very different vision for her store. She was initially thinking of repurposing a variety of items and wanted the name to be "something old-fashioned, but that you could find some sort of use for." It was Richard who suggested Demitasse, which his wife recognized as a "very New Orleans word" for a small cup of very strong coffee. "I wanted it to be a place where people could come in and spend time," she said. "I wanted it to be such a positive experience... to let people come in and get comfortable."

Hayden said she and her husband "worked really hard in a matter of months" to have their original opening day in March. Along with helping her redo the bathroom and building shelves and a swing bed to install in the store, she said Richard helped her pick out the inventory. "Anything that looks good, he gets credit for," Hayden said. In essence, Demitasse is set up as a furniture and home decor store, showcasing a broad range of products hand-picked by the Geers and reflecting an assortment of businesses and fair trade companies. Selected from markets in Atlanta, Ga., and New York City, customers will find a carefully curated array of merchandise, from towels, ceramics, smudge dishes and purses to briefcases, belts, wallets, hand lotions, toys, games and more. With the exception of a cocktail napkin that she regrets purchasing, Hayden said she loves everything in her store and would buy it all. Though she was asked about the napkin in question, it will remain a well-kept secret as Hayden decided not to describe that which she regrets buying.

Viewing these unforeseen obstacles through a positive lens, Hayden said, "I feel extremely blessed... to be able to stock a store, close it for four months, never having made a dollar, never sold one item, I'm glad we got it done before the pandemic so we can open the door when it's safer." Keeping safe during the pandemic has been essential for the couple, given their individual experiences with cancer. As a child, Richard was treated with Hodgkin's lymphoma while Hayden was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma at the age of 27. With Demitasse open on a limited basis, Hayden said hours of operation are yet to be set. Though the couple originally planned to offer coffee, tea and ice water, that's no longer possible due to COVID-19 restrictions. While she recognizes the need to take precautions and expressed her gratitude to the people wearing masks, she said she's losing a lot of that sense of hospitality in telling people who come in to don face masks. "It's going to take practice," she admitted, "and if it doesn't work for me, I'm going to have to close again. Life is too important."

Both natives of Charleston, S.C., the Geers moved from their South Carolina hometown to the hamlet of Ancramdale last October following the passing of Hayden's parents. Before deciding to venture into retail, Hayden said she practiced as an intensive care unit nurse before leaving nursing to take care of her parents. With their passing, she said the pair didn't feel in synch with Charleston anymore, and the couple opted for a change. While shopping for items for their new home, Hayden said she started getting interested in the items she picked out more than she thought she would. Expanding on her shopping strategy, she said that she found a few favorite stores and that she likes to spend a good hour or so going through the items she finds to make sure she's not missing anything. As to what inspired her to bring a gift shop to Millerton, Hayden said she noticed a hole in the village business commu-

nity, adding that she wanted to see a store in the village with a broader range of price points. With the small space at 32 Main St. up for rent and just 10 minutes away from her Ancramdale home, it was a dream waiting to happen. Long before businesses were impacted by COVID-19, Hayden said she had a very different vision for her store. She was initially thinking of repurposing a variety of items and wanted the name to be "something old-fashioned, but that you could find some sort of use for." It was Richard who suggested Demitasse, which his wife recognized as a "very New Orleans word" for a small cup of very strong coffee. "I wanted it to be a place where people could come in and spend time," she said. "I wanted it to be such a positive experience... to let people come in and get comfortable."

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by the Geers and reflecting an assortment of businesses and fair trade companies. Selected from markets in Atlanta, Ga., and New York City, customers will find a carefully curated array of merchandise, from towels, ceramics, smudge dishes and purses to briefcases, belts, wallets, hand lotions, toys, games and more. With the exception of a cocktail napkin that she regrets purchasing, Hayden said she loves everything in her store and would buy it all. Though she was asked about the napkin in question, it will remain a well-kept secret as Hayden decided not to describe that which she regrets buying.

MILLERTON IN BRIEF

Millerton park reopens to public

Starting Monday, July 13, Eddie Collins Memorial Field, located at 5991 Route 22, reopened to the public. Parks have been closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and social distancing requirements instituted by Governor Andrew Cuomo. Both the playground and baseball fields will be open and ready for use, while the basketball courts will remain closed until further notice. The village of Millerton will update its Facebook page, "Village of Millerton VOM," with an opening date for the basketball courts as soon as possible. Residents must practice social distancing of at least 6 feet and wear a mask when visiting the park and using its facilities.

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The month of June was also strong for real estate, with the Towns of Salisbury and Sharon putting up impressive numbers for both units sold and dollar volume. The most active sections of the market are below 500,000 and above 1 million. While the housing inventory is down 28% from a year ago, more properties are coming onto the market, which is good. An indicator that the market is remaining strong is that pending sales are again up from both last year and last month. The forecast is that this seller's market could last a year or longer. If you are interested in listing your property, happy to discuss!




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AMENIA/MILLBROOK

Millbrook Horse Trials canceled

Can horses catch the coronavirus?

By LENA SZETO
Special to The Millerton News

MILLBROOK — The Tri-state region equestrian community has found ways to manage despite the coronavirus pandemic. After all, animals still have to be cared for, even during a quarantine.

None of the barns in the region has had to shut down even though many of them rely on horse shows for fundraising, and those shows this year have so far been canceled or postponed.

Operations during the pandemic have necessitated major adjustments for boarders and riders — and, let's not forget, the horses, too.

Riga Meadow at Coole Park Farm in Millbrook and Town Hill Farm in Lakeville, Conn., moved fast to put new barn rules in place in spring to keep everyone as safe as possible. Both barns implemented American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) best practices, adding a few nuances of their own.

In March and April, Linda Bushnell, the trainer at Riga Meadow, decided to limit access to the barns to only essential workers. She stopped giving lessons and canceled Riga's Combined Test, which was scheduled for May 3.

Now that New York is slowly reopening, lessons have resumed and boarders can ride again — but with restrictions.

A contact tracing system is in place; everyone has to sign in and out of the barn. Bushnell stressed that, "With COVID-19 preventive measures in place everything takes time, so patience and resolve are required. Horseback riding is a humbling sport — anything can happen, and you have to be able to adapt very quickly."

Susan Beddingfield, stable manager at Town Hill Farm, said she never stopped teaching her clients since all private lessons are taught outdoors.

She has put safety measures in place, limiting boarders' access inside the barn, requiring that masks be worn inside and designating a single wash stall to limit contaminated surfaces and foot traffic.



PHOTO BY LENA SZETO

Equestrian barns in the region are beginning to open again, but COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

Boarders with their own trailers can also tack up there, weather permitting.

No one wants to catch or spread COVID-19 and many wonder if animals can play a part. Dr. Paul Mountan, DVM, one of the founders of Rhinebeck Equine, said in a recent interview that horses cannot catch COVID-19, but can become ill from an equine coronavirus, known as ECoV.

The disease is not contagious to humans and not even very

contagious to other horses.

Cornell's Animal Health Diagnostic Center (AHDC) says they've seen a rise in the diagnosis of equine enteric (relating to or occurring in the intestines) coronavirus cases since early outbreaks in 2010.

However, the Cornell vets attribute this increase to improved awareness of the disease and increases in testing. In general, there are few cases of ECoV. The American Association of Equine Practitioners agrees with Cor-

nell's findings and also reports that ECoV cases tend to be higher in the Midwest region, especially among draft horses and specifically ones that are on a ranch/farm and used for breeding.

Mountan described ECoV symptoms as "high daily temps of 105 degrees, runny stool, bloodwork that has a low white count and a concentration rate that is low."

"Antibiotics don't touch it," he said of the equine coronavirus, "so all you can do is offer supportive treatment."

Diagnosis is still important, though.

"The concern is that if it doesn't get better it could be fatal. There's also a risk of the horse foundering, which could lead to death."

He said he has not seen any local cases yet.

Meanwhile, it was announced on July 2 that the Millbrook Horse Trials (MHT), scheduled for July 30 to Aug. 2, will not be held this year.

So far, the Town Hill Farm Horse Trials, scheduled for Aug. 22 and 23, are scheduled to proceed this year.

Other barns are thinking about hosting (and some have already hosted) schooling shows, which are easier to put on than recognized United States Equestrian Federation and United States Eventing Association shows or events.

Rabid fox confirmed in Dover

By WHITNEY JOSEPH
editor@millertonnews.com

DOVER — On Wednesday, July 10, the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral & Community Health (DBCH) confirmed reports of a rabid fox that was caught on Monday, July 8, on Anderson Road in the town of Dover.

According to County Health Commissioner A. K. Vaidian, MD, the fox was sent for testing on July 9 and the test results were confirmed on July 10.

The DBCH advises anyone who is aware of any contact between a fox and any person or domestic animal within the past

two weeks to contact the department at 845-486-3404 Monday through Friday during normal business hours or 845-431-6465 after hours.

It was the second rabid fox discovered in Dover this spring. Another was seen on Sand Hill Road in May.

If left untreated, rabies can be fatal to humans and other animals, according to health officials, who warn people not to approach non-domesticated animals, especially animals that may be acting strangely.

According to a DBCH press release, residents are warned that in addition to foxes, "other

animals can carry and transmit rabies, including raccoons, bats and skunks, as well as domesticated animals like dogs, cats, ferrets and livestock. Any exposure to a potentially rabid animal through either a bite or its saliva should be reported to the department... Steps should be taken to safely capture the potentially rabid animal for follow-up."

According to Vaidian's office, "in Dutchess County, nearly 70 individuals undergo rabies post-exposure treatment annually. Rabies is a serious illness and is fatal if not treated. Don't delay evaluation if you think you have been exposed to rabies."

Webutuck BOE holds re-org meeting for 2020-21

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

WEBUTUCK — The Webutuck Board of Education (BOE) prepared for the 2020-21 school year at its annual organizational meeting on Monday, July 6, held via Zoom at 7 p.m. The Oath of Office was administered to District Clerk Tracy Trotter for a period starting Wednesday, July 1, and ending on June 30, 2021. The reorg was immediately called to order with Trotter administering the Oath of Office to both returning and newly elected BOE members Christopher Lounsbury, Judy Moran and Jay Newman. Lounsbury, Moran and Newman will all serve three-year terms starting Wednesday, July 1, through June 30, 2023.

Once they were sworn in, Trotter asked for nominations for board president and vice president for the 2020-21 school year. Moran was returned as president while Nikki Johnson was returned as vice president.

"I'm honored that you were willing to elect me — I appreciate it tremendously," Moran said.

Trotter administered the Oath of Office to both women, and later to Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani.

After Trotter was appointed district clerk, Gazelle Lejeune was appointed treasurer and Mary Clinton was appointed deputy treasurer. Trotter, Lejeune and Clinton's salaries will be determined per their contract. Louise Giewont was appointed claims auditor and property control manager with a \$2,952 stipend and Lorinda Coulthard was appointed attendance officer with a stipend included in her salary.

Girvin & Ferlazzo was appointed legal advisor while The Workplace was appointed school physician and Barclay and Damon LLP (formerly Hiscock & Barclay) was appointed bond counsel. The Workplace was appointed as the Transportation Department physician and to act on behalf of the district as the school physician as needed. Fiscal Advisors, Inc., was appointed as fiscal advisors, and Sickler, Torchia, Allen & Churchill was the firm named as independent auditor.

The BOE authorized Castellani to participate in and sign with the New York Schools Insurance Reciprocal (NYSIR), for the policy period starting Wednesday, July 1.

As part of the appointments for the members of the Committee on Special Education (CSE) and Committee on Pre-school Special Education (CPSE), Director of Student Services/Curriculum and Instruction Jennifer Eraca was appointed director of Special Education/CSE chairperson. School Psychologist Cara Tomasetti was appointed alternate for both the CSE chairperson and CPSE chairperson positions and as the school psychologist. Webutuck Elementary School Principal Jennifer Hengen was appointed the Random Moment Time Study coordinator. Parent members and district certified personnel have yet to be decided.

Castellani was designated the district's Dutchess Educational Health Insurance Consortium (DEHIC) trustee with Business Administrator Robert Farrier as its DEHIC trustee alternate.

After the reorg closed the BOE moved forward with its regular business meeting.

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PINE PLAINS

Stissing Mtn. Class of 2020 celebrates graduation

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Hailed by many for their patience and perseverance, the Stissing Mountain Class of 2020 was at last rewarded for their hard work with the graduation ceremony they had been waiting for these last few months on Sunday evening, July 12.

"We waited patiently to give the students the best graduation ceremony we could given the circumstances," said Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School Principal Tara Grieb, "and I believe that patience paid off. We are so happy for them."

Yet just when the district anticipated smooth sailing for its long-awaited graduation ceremony, inclement weather prompted the district to postpone the ceremony date on Friday, July 10, and then the rain date on Saturday, July 11. Graduates, families and faculty members breathed a sigh of relief when the weather cooperated on Sunday, and they proceeded to move ahead with the ceremony that evening.

Graduation was closed, limited to graduates, a handful of administrators, the necessary district staff and two seats per graduate's family. The ceremony was also live streamed to the district website at www.ppcsd.org. By the stroke of 6:30 p.m., the graduates were ready to accept their diplomas.

With the music of "Pomp and Circumstance" starting to swell, the graduates stepped onto the football field behind Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School, dressed in their Bomber blue graduation caps and gowns. In the days of the COVID-19 pandemic, they maintained a 6-foot distance from one another as they advanced onto the field in the direction of their seats, also set 6 feet apart.

Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler welcomed all, and recognized the challenges this year's graduates faced in the last three months of their senior year — from the outbreak of COVID-19 to having their graduation date postponed by Tropical Storm Fay — and all they had missed out on. Handler



PHOTO SUBMITTED

2020 graduates, from left, Kathryn Starzyk, Samantha Spizuoco, Jennifer Martin, Morgan Schuyler, Colleen Spizuoco, Isabella Torre and valedictorian Leah Schmid celebrated their graduation from Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School on the fields behind the high school building on Sunday evening, July 12.

commended the Class of 2020 on their perseverance.

"Whatever came their way, they bounced back," he said.

Handler added he admired their resilience, character and patience.

"I am so proud of this class, the

Class of 2020, and I'll remember you folks always," he proclaimed.

Though he took a moment to acknowledge "the elephant on the field" in terms of what his class had missed out on, essayist Timothy Roach II shared the memories he said he'll cherish from his time

in the Pine Plains Central School District, amusing the crowd with anecdotes about his classmates and stories of all the little mishaps they shared.

"Even with an outcome like this, there is still a silver lining," Timothy said. "We may not have the memories of our senior trip, I may not be getting the proper pandemic-free graduation, but what I do have is the memories that got me to where I am now, the times that built all of us from the ground up."

"We're finally getting our outdoor graduation," valedictorian Leah Schmid declared. "All it took was a global pandemic."

Even as she acknowledged

all that they had lost from their senior year, Leah shared her admiration in seeing how the graduates had made their families proud and created an unbreakable tie among each other.

After reflecting on the lessons he learned as a Stissing Mountain student and admiring the Class of 2020's diverse population of athletes, scholars, musicians, artists and activists, salutatorian Ryan Marino said, "These unexpected circumstances have shown what my peers and I have known all along: That the Class of 2020 is the best class at Stissing Mountain and will go on to great things."

Turning the crowd's attention to the current tensions surrounding racial injustice and inequality, essayist Mikayla Quinn reminded her fellow graduates, their families and the faculty of the ways they could engage in the evolving call for change.

"I know this may not be the right time or place to talk about this," she said, "but it is always the right time and place for these conversations."

At long last, it was time for the graduates to accept their diplomas, officially closing the book on their time as Pine Plains scholars. For each name that was announced, graduates savored their moment in the spotlight and the celebration of their labors of the last four years.

"Ladies and gentleman, this is the Class of 2020," Grieb announced, and the crowd went wild as they rose from their seats to applaud the new graduates.

BOE prepares for 2020-21 school year

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlinl@millertonnews.com

PINE PLAINS — Looking to move forward to the best of their ability, members of the Pine Plains Central School District Board of Education (BOE) prepared for the 2020-21 school year at the board's annual organizational meeting on Wednesday, July 1.

Starting at 7 p.m., the board met via video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The re-org portion of the meeting began with District Clerk Julia Tomaine administering the Oath of Office to returning BOE members Heidi Johnson and James Griffin. They will both serve three-year terms starting Wednesday, July 1, through June 30, 2023. Tomaine also administered the Oath of Office to Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler for another year.

BOE President Chip Couse and BOE Vice President Anne Arnt were both re-elected to their respective roles on the BOE by their colleagues and administered the oath by Tomaine. Couse later administered the oath to Tomaine for her position as district clerk.

Among the extensive list of appointments, the BOE appointed Seymour Smith Intermediate Learning Center Principal Julie Roberts as the acting principal of Cold Spring Early Learning Center for 2020-21 in the event that Cold Spring Principal Gian Starr isn't physically present at the school on one or more days. Likewise, Starr was appointed acting principal of Seymour Smith in the event that Roberts isn't physically present at the school on one or more days. For the junior/senior high school building, the BOE appointed Stissing Mountain Junior/Senior High School Assistant Principal Christopher Boyd as the acting principal in the event that Principal Tara Grieb isn't at school.

After taking care of the necessary appointments, designations, authorizations and other business featured the organizational meeting, the BOE was ready to move forward with its regular business meeting.

Highlighting the work being done by the committee planning re-entry to the school district, Handler reported that the com-

mittee is working on three potential re-entry options, including a full-distance learning option, a modified schedule and a full back-to-school option. Couse noted on a later date that issues related to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines, bus routing, testing needs, etc., are being considered.

Handler shared a recommendation from the committee that outside groups be prohibited from using school buildings until the state lifts restrictions, given the cleaning needs of its custodial staff. Couse later explained it would be difficult to meet state standards otherwise. Agreeing, the BOE referred the matter to the Policy Committee to include this limitation in the current policy. Similar restrictions pertaining to transportation issues are expected to be discussed at the BOE's next meeting on Wednesday, July 15.

Later that evening, the BOE considered a request from the administration pertaining to fiscal year-end purchases using a small portion of its fund balance. Totaling just under \$90,000, the request included purchasing copi-

ers, an irrigation system for its athletic fields and a number of smaller items.

Given its concerns about "being able to fully track any purchases required around the COVID-19 requirements," Couse said the BOE debated the request, though he reported that the board didn't want to have requests coming over the next three meetings leading up to the district's reopening "without a full picture of total expenditures." With Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Michael Goldbeck tasked with providing an overview of the total expenditures, the BOE agreed to the requested purchases.

The BOE addressed a list of unused vacation days for managerial and confidential employees who were unable to use their full vacation allotment as a result of the pandemic. Couse explained that these employees have a limit as to the amount of unused vacation days they can carry over. For five employees, that limit for vacation days was exceeded. Totaling \$2,100, the BOE decided to buy back the excess days by paying the employees at their daily rate.

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LEGAL NOTICES

Legal Notice

The Town of Pine Plains Planning Board will be holding a special meeting on Monday, July 20th, 2020 at 7:30 pm for the purpose of a site plan application by Matthew D'Amato. The meeting will be conducted via Zoom and broadcasted to the Planning Board's YouTube channel at this URL:

www.youtube.com/channel/UCOMq6XtGozf20YyvnEzVeRA
Tricia Devine
Town of Pine Plains
Planning Board Secretary
07-16-20

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, at a meeting held on the 9th day of July, 2020, duly adopted the resolution published herewith subject to a permissive referendum. Dated: Millerton, New York, July 9, 2020.

Gail J. Wheeler, Town Clerk
TOWN OF NORTH EAST
BOND RESOLUTION
DATED JULY 9, 2020.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING, SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM, THE CONSTRUCTION OF PHASE 2 OF A NEW HIGHWAY GARAGE FACILITY WITH SAND/SALT STORAGE BUILDING ON A TOWN OWNED PARCEL OF LAND ON ROUTE 22 IN MILLERTON, NEW YORK, IN AND FOR THE TOWN OF NORTH EAST, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED

COST OF \$1,000,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT EXCEEDING \$440,000 BONDS OF SAID TOWN TO PAY A PORTION OF THE COST THEREOF.

WHEREAS, all conditions precedent to the financing of the capital project hereinafter described, including compliance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, have been performed; and

WHEREAS, the capital project hereinafter described has been determined to be a Unlisted Action pursuant to the regulations of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation promulgated pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act, the implementation of which as proposed, the Town Board has determined will not result in any significant adverse environmental effects; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to authorize the financing thereof; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. The construction of Phase 2 of a new highway garage facility with fuel depot on a Town owned parcel of land on Route 22 in Millerton, New York, in and for the Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery, apparatus, appurtenances, site improvements and other incidental improvements and expenses in connection therewith, is hereby authorized

at a maximum estimated cost of \$1,000,000.

Section 2. The plan for the financing of the aforesaid maximum estimated cost is as follows:

a) by the issuance of not exceeding \$440,000 serial bonds of said Town, hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law; and

b) by the expenditure of not exceeding \$233,000 current available fund monies hereby appropriated therefor; and

c) by the expenditure of \$327,000 grant-in-aid monies hereby appropriated therefor.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is thirty years, pursuant to subdivision 11(a)(1) of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law. It is hereby further determined that the maximum maturity of the serial bonds herein authorized will exceed five years.

Section 4. The faith and credit of said Town of North East, Dutchess County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property in said Town, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds as the same become due

and payable.

Section 5. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the Supervisor of said Town, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said Supervisor, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 6. All other matters except as provided herein relating to the bonds herein authorized including the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, within the limitations prescribed herein and the manner of execution of the same, including the consolidation with other issues, and also the ability to issue bonds with substantially level or declining annual debt service, shall be determined by the Supervisor, the chief fiscal officer of such Town. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals, in addition to those required by Section 51.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the Supervisor shall determine consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 7. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said Town is not authorized to expend money, or

2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with,

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 8. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150 2. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

Section 9. Upon this resolution taking effect, the same shall be published in full or summary form in the official newspaper of said Town for such purpose, together with a notice of the Town Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 10. THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM.

07-16-20

NOTICE OF FILING OF ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION IN NEW YORK BY A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Name: Reckess AMR, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with sec. of state of NY (SOS) on 6/25/20. Office location: Dutchess County. SOS is designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SOS shall mail copy of process to 32 Pine Tree Dr, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

07-09-20
07-16-20
07-23-20
07-30-20
08-06-20
08-13-20

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY IN NEW YORK BY A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Name: Arthur May Redevelopment Holdings, LLC. Application for Authority filed with sec. of state of NY (SOS) on 7/1/20. Office location: Dutchess County. SOS is designated as agent of LLC for service of process. SOS shall mail copy of process to 32 Pine Tree Dr, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

07-16-20
07-23-20
07-30-20
08-06-20
08-13-20
08-20-20

EDITORIAL

We sought your support and you gave it generously: Now what?

First and foremost, this is all about gratitude. We can only humbly thank our readers for giving us such incredible support when we direly needed it. Here is a synopsis of the past year in the life of The Lakeville Journal Company. When The Lakeville Journal Company decided to address the ongoing financial difficulties it, along with just about all other local community journalism entities across the country, was facing as of June of 2019, we made a plan to come up with the best strategy we could formulate. We started with independent and wide-ranging face-to-face discussions with community leaders from all political sides across our readership area.

That led us to the path of first publishing a survey for our readers in October 2019. We had a helpful and large, connected response to that survey, with readers telling us what they most valued about having community weekly news available to all in the region. After analyzing those surveys, we moved forward with a membership model, based on one that was used by a weekly newspaper in California that had been successful for several years. We rolled out that campaign for support in November 2019, publishing a structured approach to supporting local journalism for four consecutive weeks in our newspapers, The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News.

Our readers came through in a way we could not have expected, and for which we are profoundly grateful. Thank you to all our readers who responded in such an encouraging way. To date, we have received more than \$150,000 in direct support from our readership. Without that financial help, our little media company would not have made it through the first half of 2020.

With the onslaught of COVID-19, the company applied for and received a PPP loan, in the amount of \$146,643, which we anticipate becoming a forgivable loan as we have followed all the requirements. That program gives small businesses like ours a fighting chance to survive. So, without a pause, during the pandemic, we continued to pay our employees, and to publish both The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News weekly, Tri-Corner Real Estate tabloid monthly, and two special sections, Towns & Villages and Compass Community Food, for which we were able to find enough advertising from our local businesses. We firmly believe that local news is more important now than ever, especially with the size of the communities we serve. Many thanks to all who made this possible.

We also ran support banners for first responders and health-care workers that received good advertising support, from which we gave 10% of the proceeds to three area nonprofits over three weeks: Sharon Hospital, Salisbury Visiting Nurse Association and Sunday in the Country Food Drive. Our goal during this time of pandemic has been to get the most accurate news out to our readers and to build community with those special banners and sections.

We reduced the number of newspapers we put out on the newsstands during the first wave of COVID-19, in April and May, as a safety measure, when many shops were closed and people were going out less. We then increased to normal numbers at the beginning of June.

Now the company is in the process of analyzing its next steps. In addition to its current board members, who have been the company's ownership since 1995 and brought us forward with generosity and dedication, an advisory board has been formed that will help in that task. The options include continuing with the membership model, perhaps with a different definition more geared to our region; applying for nonprofit status; or some combination of those two.

We are grateful to all those who have sent, and continue to send, us contributions, as well as to all those who subscribe to or purchase the newspapers on the newsstand and to all those who were and are able to advertise with us. We are deeply thankful for the generous response from our community. As we continue to look for the best way to fulfill our mission of serving you, we will be publishing a survey of our readers once again this summer. This will help confirm our decision making in our financial model that we will roll out this fall. We look to you, our readers, once again to weigh in with your thoughts as we pursue continued life for this form of local journalism.

PTSD & TBI (silent and misunderstood killers)

Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) afflictions have been with us for eternity. This is recently being exponentially recognized due to today's war on terrorism involving troops returning from multiple extended dangerous tours of duty. It afflicts those experiencing or witnessing life or death encounters for prolonged durations, especially from IEDs (improvised explosive devices), courtesy of Iran and Russia.

Many victims become reclusive, relying on drugs and alcohol to relieve their demons. In WWI and WWII it was called "shell shock," in Vietnam, it was called "Vietnam Syndrome," and recently, it was described as PTSD and TBI.

This is not unique to the military. It also afflicts the civilian population experiencing constant stressful trauma, car crashes, the death of a loved one or a serious injury. Due to COVID-19, I expect some of today's heroes, our front-line health care workers, will fall into this category, as well as some of our vulnerable civilian population. Today, most

VETERAN'S CORNER
Larry Conklin

of our attention is focused on the diagnosis and medical treatment of the coronavirus. VA hospitals and civilian medical facilities rely mostly upon medical, psychological and pharmaceutical cures (opioids to numb the brain). Medical facilities are too slowly realizing such regimented treatments can produce little or no improvement, often with deadly results.

There are alternatives. Some VA clinics have reportedly been outsourcing veterans to farms so they can interact with animals and nature — and that's a good start in getting them on the road to recovery. Veterans must realize they are important to us and to themselves. Their lives are worth living. A private local Tri-state entrepreneur, who shall remain unnamed, is currently building state-of-the-art veteran clinics because he cares. Private facilities are uniting service



Four more years of Trump: an American tragedy

No matter what happens in the coming months — to the pandemic, the economy or race relations — this country cannot take four more years of the division that Donald Trump's presidency has foisted upon us.

President Trump has been effective at taking credit, deserved or not, for getting conservatives on the Supreme Court, passing a tax cut, building a bit of wall and watching the Dow and NASDAQ go up.

But since his election, he has made no effort to become the president of all the people, none whatever.

And when called upon to lead the nation in a crisis or two or three, he's been a failure. Under his angry, confusing leadership, we can't even agree on how to cope with a deadly plague.

President Trump, who likes using superlatives, especially when assessing himself, has actually become the greatest presidential divider this nation has seen since Abraham Lincoln. But, unlike Trump, Lincoln couldn't avoid it. He saw the country come apart when all but three Confederate states left the Union before his March 1861 inauguration out of fear his election meant the end of slavery and their prosperity.

The Republican Party of Donald Trump is far different from the party of Lincoln or, for that matter, the party of his most recent Republican predecessors.

George W. Bush prided himself in being "a uniter, not a divider;" his father, the first President Bush, tried to form a "kinder, gentler nation," than even that of his sunny dispositioned predecessor, Ronald Reagan. They all saw themselves as presidents of all the people and it served them and the country well.

But not Trump. Our vision of the 45th president is that of an

IF YOU ASK ME
Dick Ahles

eternally angry man, who deals with the profound issues of the day by making up schoolyard nicknames for his adversaries. For the faithful, even those embarrassed by the vulgarities and the ignorance, the response is, "he lowered taxes, he put conservatives on the court, he eliminated restrictions on business." Character doesn't count.

Since his inauguration, when he lied about the size of his audience, Trump has been a dishonest president, deviating from the truth upward of 17,000 times. But, of course, these numbers, although carefully documented, are from the "fake news," which is any news that doesn't consider the president infallible.

The press, we are told constantly, is the enemy of the people and therefore undeserving of its constitutional protection. Free speech begins and ends with his.

I've long wondered why Trump has not even gone through the motions of trying to unite the people and thereby expand his base during his first term. After all, he did lose the popular vote by about 3 million, but maybe he actually believes those Clinton votes were stolen from him. For whatever reason, appealing only to 35 or so percent of the electorate and alienating the rest hardly seems like a winning formula.

This failure to expand his base has left Trump in a terrible position as the nation faced the pandemic, racial unrest and a plunging economy. But instead of dealing firmly with the pandemic from the beginning, Trump largely made it a state problem with 50 interests and 50 solutions in place of a vitally needed national approach to a national calamity.

He may not be a racist but Trump talks like a racist and acts like one. He is a skillful player of the race card, painting the vast majority of sincere demonstrators for equal rights with the same brush as the looters, vandals and anarchists. He regularly shows more concern for dead Confederate generals than the living descendants of their slaves.

He can't even get the nation to unite in an effort to attain a mutually beneficial revival of the economy, as he constantly contradicts and mocks his own medical authorities for urging us to practice caution in making contact with each other.

Like it or not, the president is the nation's role model in chief, yet this president refuses to wear a mask in public and obey other precautions. Some role model.

Trump was the good times president who failed when the going got tough. In dealing with all of these crises, the president's top priority has been his reelection.

That reelection would be a second plague.

Simsbury, Conn., resident Dick Ahles is a retired journalist. Email him at rahles1@outlook.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'If I'm racist in your eyes so you are in mine'

A response to Andrew Stayman of Pine Plains, who wrote a recent letter to the editor...

I read your letter in The Millerton News in reference to my letter, dated June 11, 2020. You took excerpts from a social media post and added your words to them. When people say "Black Lives Matter" it DOES NOT ENCOMPASS ALL RACES AND COLORS!

All lives matter no matter what "color" you are.

You talk about me being a racist by my comments but you do not consider yourself a racist by telling me about rights and white entitlement! I am white but I was raised to work for what I needed for myself and my family. I raised four children the same way. I was never entitled to anything. I was never told that because of my race or color that I could get free college tuition, that I was entitled to get welfare to take care of my children. I've never been fired from a job, nor

needed welfare or unemployment. You know why? I worked and did what the boss said to do. I worked 38 years for New York state and part time for 30 years on top of that so I could afford the things I needed: housing, transportation, food and utilities — but no one ever handed me anything.

I saw plenty of times in my career with NYS that people of color were given jobs, even though their test results were less than a white man or woman taking the same test. Why is it that he/she was given a job over their white counterpart?

You know why. If I'm racist in your eyes so you are in mine. You hold onto the Black vs. white agenda but you won't admit it and you won't let it go. I stand by my statements because they are mine, not someone else's thoughts taken from social media.

Ron Murphy
Millerton

Disagrees on cartoon

I did see the cartoon and I had a chance to read the article entitled, "Cartoon was funny and accurate," written by Andrew Stayman. I found his remarks, however, damaging to your community and a place I like to visit.

In a time when people are so divisive, making insulting remarks, as to an entire group of American citizens runs counter to seeing the country come together. Hillary Clinton did this when she called all the Trump supporters "deplorable." Did it help her campaign or did it drive people away?

As do many liberal Democrats, Mr. Stayman would like for people to come together, but sadly on his terms alone. During the last three and half years, the Democrats holding office found no compromise worthwhile if it was going to advance the president's agenda.

The border wall is a good example. Clinton, Bush and Obama all saw the need for it, and called for to be done, but never did it. Trump built it despite the hypocritical resistance. Same thing with the Dreamers and again the Democrats resisted what they claim they wanted. Why? To stop the wall that Trump promised.

Given the cartoon called an entire group of Americans — Trump supporters — stupid, Mr. Valentine was correct to write, "[you] would think that the local papers would be smart enough not to label American citizens as stupid." Then to compound it by printing Andrew's vitriol and ad hominim attack of President Trump that lacked any meaningful substance but only advanced

division. This was not good.

Contrary to Andrew's thoughtless and misguided claims, the Trump administration has done more smart things than the last three administrations. Trump supporters get it. They understand Mr. Trump's nationalistic (not isolationistic) view of putting America first is a good thing. They recognize that fighting globalism and the abuse that our prior leaders allowed China to get away with is smart. That using tariffs to achieve fair trade deals is smart. Bringing businesses back to America is smart. Making our Asian and European allies pay their fair share of the defense costs that America has been expending to defend their interests since 1945 is smart. Building the wall to prevent drug and slave traders from coming into the country is smart. Insisting immigrants come into the country legally is smart. Being for law and order, not defunding police forces and not allowing people to destroy our monuments that reflect our history is smart.

Then, as to Andrew's misguided claim about masks, the Trump administration protected Americans when the COVID-19 thing started by stopping the flood of infected Chinese from coming into the country. Mr. Trump brought hospital ships to NYC and elsewhere, built hospitals and ventilators to save Americans. This list of things goes on and the Trump supporters get it — because they are smart.

Peter Antell
Boston

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Mission Statement
The Lakeville Journal Company, LLC, Publishers of
The Lakeville Journal and The Millerton News
Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly,
fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

July 16-22, 2020

ART: DEBRA A. ALEKSINAS

A Dream Comes Alive as Five Points Purchases Campus

Judith McElhone's lofty vision for creating a world-class contemporary art center in northwest Connecticut has taken flight. On June 30, closing papers were signed transferring ownership of the former University of Connecticut Regional Campus in Torrington to Five Points Center for the Visual Arts, of which McElhone is founder and executive director.

"It was two months and two years in the making," said McElhone, referring to the timeframe since submitting a letter of interest to purchase the shuttered campus on University Drive, which has a 30,000-square-foot building and 90 acres. "With the purchase of the campus facility, we will intensify our efforts to encourage exploration among cutting-edge artists while opening new avenues of community interaction."

The deal transfers ownership of the main building and slightly more than 22 acres from UConn to Five Points. The remainder of the unimproved acreage is being leased by the City of Torrington to Five Points for \$1 a year for 20 years, with an eventual option to buy in



PHOTO SUBMITTED

The planned purchase of the University of Connecticut's Torrington campus by Five Points Gallery has been completed, thanks to the leadership of Center Director Judith McElhone.

the future.

The long-awaited transaction took place with little fanfare due to COVID-19, but McElhone said she plans to "do a major launch party on the campus in September," amid a spectacular autumn backdrop.

"COVID-19 is impacting everything," but it isn't stopping progress, said McElhone. "The building itself is almost turn-key, and we are retrofitting artist work spaces. As soon as we get settled in, we will hold outside programming. The idea is to use the land in a safe way — and it's much safer outside with COVID-19."

The immediate goal, she said, is to create a safe, welcoming outdoor space for artists, friends, neighbors and visitors. "Plein-air painting, drawing marathons, concerts and outdoor movies can provide much-needed sanctuaries for healing and creating. Seldom has the world needed these collaborations more than today."

Overall, said McElhone, the transformation of the property will create a unique, sustainable multi-level visual arts center and adjacent art park that will strengthen the social fabric and economic growth of the region. At capacity, the center is expected to generate 20 new full-time positions and 15 part-time teaching and staff positions. "When you bring in artists, economic development follows," she noted.

The center's executive director said the acquisition will "solidify Five Points

Center as among the most progressive arts organizations in New England."

Future plans include renovation of the main campus to include fully equipped artists workspaces including studios for painting, sculpture, ceramics, textiles and print, a bio-lab, digital lab, darkroom and courtyard sensory garden. The existing 245-seat auditorium and commercial kitchen will allow for large indoor gatherings and the 90-acre art park will showcase sculptures created by regional, national and international artists.

One of the most important aspects of the new center, said McElhone, will be the Lynchpin Program, envisioned as "a Thinktank for artists to collaborate and experiment." Thinktank artists, she said, will be selected for their interest in issues impacting everyday life. "There will be an emphasis on the environment

and planet sustainability," she said.

Funds raised combined with grants will cover needed renovation, facility and program needs. The actor and musician Kevin Bacon, who has a home in Litchfield County, is the honorary chair of the new Arts Center's fundraising campaign.

McElhone, a lifelong artist who taught painting at Northwestern Connecticut Community College in Winsted for many years before founding Five Points Gallery in 2012, marveled at how a plan to open a humble summer storefront art gallery in the heart of Torrington has taken on a life of its own.

"Who knew?" said McElhone, that the success of that temporary space would lead to the founding of a permanent Five Points Gallery, as a dedicated space to exhibit works by prominent regional, national and international contemporary artists. At one time, she mused, she had to practically beg artists to exhibit in Torrington, and now she is "bombarded" with applications from Connecticut and beyond.

Today, Five Points Center for the Visual Arts is a multifaceted contemporary art initiative that includes the Five Points Gallery, a 2,800-square-foot space composed of three adjacent galleries in downtown Torrington; a consortium with Hartford Art School/Uni-

versity of Hartford, University of Connecticut College of Art and Northwestern Connecticut Community College, where interns learn professional gallery management and receive training as docents; and the Five Points Gallery/Hartford Art School Launchpad Initiative, a pilot incubator program to support emerging artists and recent graduates of the Hartford Art School through affordable studio space and mentoring programs.

The center also includes the Five Points Annex, a community pop-up gallery and exhibition space managed by the Launchpad artists, located two doors from Five Points Gallery in Torrington; and an annual lecture series featuring influential members of the national art world. Past speakers have included Ann Temkin, MoMA's chief curator for painting and sculpture; Milton Esterow editor and publisher of ARTnews; Agnes Gund, president emerita of MoMA; and celebrated painters, Eric Fischl, Robert Berling and Maureen Gallace.

McElhone credits staff, volunteers and supporters for helping to write the newest chapter in the center's history. "They are all wonderful people who understand that the arts are more than a commodity," and that the interaction between arts and science "can make a big difference in the world."

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The patio bar opens (with social distancing) at 6:30

p.m. and the show begins at 8 p.m.

A parking space should be reserved ahead of time but the specific spaces are first come, first parked.

The July 19 show is The Jersey Tenors, singing tunes made popular by everyone from Frank Sinatra to Franki Valli, with a smattering of opera and the operatic, from "Figaro" to "Bohemian Rhapsody." The July 18 Jersey Tenors performance has already sold out.

To learn more about The Jersey Tenors, go to www.thejerseytenors.com. To order tickets at \$50 per vehicle, go to www.sharonplayhouse.org.



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After several months of quarantine, the itch to travel and see new places is strong in many of us, even those who don't normally consider themselves world travelers.

Just in time, the Kent Memorial Library on

Main Street in Kent, Conn., has a show of paintings by Michael Danon inspired by his travels around the world, especially Europe and England.

Danon, who was born in Yugoslavia, has lived much of his life in New York City, including a period in the late 1990s when he owned four restaurants on the Upper West Side (two locations of the Copper Hatch pub, Prime Time and Danon's on the Park).

Now he mostly spends his time renovating buildings in the city and in Kent, and of course making paintings.

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Lakeville Journal and Millerton News offices during COVID-19 safety measures

The Lakeville Journal Company has made the decision to continue with our remote work system in light of the potential increase of cases of COVID-19 in the region and the nation. During this time, there will be limited office hours at the Falls Village office. The Millerton News office is not open at all. But all of our staff is available through voice and email communication, and the newspapers continue to publish.

Contact editor@lakevillejournal.com or editor@millertonnews.com for editorial news, cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com for obituaries, legals@lakevillejournal.com for legal notices, classified@lakevillejournal.com for classified line ads and advertising@lakevillejournal.com for display advertising.

Phone for The Lakeville Journal is 860-435-9873;
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