

The MILLERTON NEWS

Covering Northeastern Dutchess County And Its Environs

Thursday, June 11, 2020

Volume 89 Number 20 • 10 Pages in 1 Section



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March And Plan
Another Protest
This Weekend **A4**



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Phase Two, here we come!

Mid-Hudson Valley's economy continues to rebound from crisis

By **WHITNEY JOSEPH**
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HARLEM VALLEY — On Friday, March 20, Governor Andrew Cuomo placed New York on lock down as it did its utmost to battle the deadly coronavirus pandemic. Shutting down all non-essential businesses, closing all schools and banning all public gatherings in the Empire State — the epicenter of the health crisis in the U.S. — Cuomo's New York State on PAUSE Executive Order has only recently been slowly lifted, in phases, region by region.

The Mid-Hudson Valley Region, which includes Dutchess County, has seen a continued decline in new confirmed COVID-19 cases; it was allowed to enter Phase One of re-

opening on Monday, June 1, with construction, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, wholesale trade and retail (pick up and delivery only) starting up again, as well as dental offices reopening.

On Tuesday, June 9 (also the day this paper went press), Cuomo gave the region the green light to enter Phase Two of reopening its economy, as it also showed signs of progress in terms of the number of new COVID-19 infections, the severity of infections, hospital capacity, testing and contact tracing meeting his metrics.

Under Phase Two, the categories that are allowed to reopen must meet certain benchmarks. They must: reduce capacity to 50%; follow social

See PHASE TWO, A7



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Attending a peaceful protest in Dover Plains on Saturday, June 6, a local community member showed his support for Dover High School senior Jody Grant, whose Black Lives Matter mural was painted over by the Dover Union Free School District last month. For more on the Dover Plains protest, turn to Page A3.

Dover school district paints over student's Black Lives Matter mural

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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DOVER PLAINS — As they bid farewell to the Dover Union Free School District, seniors graduating from Dover High School were invited to leave their mark on the district by painting a mural on the high school driveway, an annual tradition. For Jody Grant, a member of the Class of 2020, it seemed a fitting occasion to turn her passion for Black Lives Matter (BLM) into art, and she set to work creating a mural to memorialize the social justice movement. Yet just as Jody's art was taking shape, she was told by the

Dover school district to get rid of it. Within 24 hours, Jody discovered that the district decided to paint over her artwork.

Dismayed by the school district's actions, this was not the first time Jody alleged she's had to deal with racism while attending school in Dover. A resident of Wingdale, Jody, 17, said she's been in the district for 12 years and "not once did they handle racism [properly] in the school." Jody's family is from Jamaica; she is a natural born citizen.

Recalling with vivid detail each incident that has cemented her belief of racism, she shared stories of the ha-

assment and discrimination she's experienced at Dover, from being called the "n-word" in seventh-grade to being told by her classmates to go back to where she came from during an eighth-grade lesson on slavery. In her sophomore year at Dover High School, Jody said a teacher denied her admittance in Honors English because of her accent. Later, in her high school Jody said she and four of her friends decided to wear black on the school's Red, White and Blue Day and they were harassed by the other students as a result.

Though the incidents span several

See DOVER SCHOOL MURAL, A7



PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

Starting Monday, June 1, Trinity Isola, a resident of California, parked herself at the front of the intersection of Route 22 and Main Street in Millerton to raise awareness of the Black Lives Matter movement.

From California to Millerton

Black Lives Matter to us all

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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MILLERTON — Like many who were shocked last month by the news of George Floyd's death at the hands of Minneapolis ex-police officer Derek Chauvin, residents from the Harlem Valley and beyond have been finding ways to gather together in solidarity to protest White cops killing Black men. Even with this new era of social distancing due to the coronavirus pandemic, people have united to support the Black Lives Matter (BLM) social justice movement and to take a stand against racism, from the peaceful protests and local memorials to rallying together via online plat-

forms.

Driving through the village of Millerton this past week, area residents might have spotted Trinity Isola and her Black Lives Matter sign parked at the intersection of Route 22 and Main Street in Millerton. A resident of California, Isola, 21, came to stay with family in Millerton to quarantine herself against COVID-19. When asked about her motive for creating a BLM sign and setting it up at the village intersection, Isola simply said she was there "because it's all I can think to do."

As far as attracting attention, Isola couldn't have picked a more visible

See BLACK LIVES MATTER, A7

Addressing COVID's mental health impact

By **KAITLIN LYLE**
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DUTCHESS COUNTY — Spot-lighting the importance of mental health awareness during the coronavirus pandemic, the Dutchess County Commission on Human Rights (DCCHR) invited the public to take part in the COVID-19 Virtual Community Health Forums on Wellness and Mental Health series held on Tuesday, June 2, and Thursday, June 4.

Hosted by the DCCHR and the Poughkeepsie Health Black & Latinx Coalition, the first forum in English on Tuesday, June 2, while the second was in Spanish on Thursday, June 4. Both held via Zoom, they featured Dutchess County Department of Behavioral and Community Health (DBCH) Commissioner Anil Vaidian; Chief Psychologist Ellen Marx from the DBCH Trauma

Team; and Certified Health Care Navigator Marylen Irizarry-Moyer from the Public Policy Education Fund of New York as the key speakers.

Speaking as a Human Rights/EEO Officer for the DCCHR, Jody Miller initiated the conversation by talking about the commission's mission in defending human rights, bridging differences and embracing diversity. She acknowledged the forum's timing in relation to "the unrest happening throughout the country," referencing both COVID-19 and the recent country-wide protests in response to the death of George Floyd, a Black man killed in Minneapolis, Minn., after his arrest by a White ex-police officer.

"There is a direct link between the reason we are gathering here today and what is taking place throughout our nation," Miller said. "We must value the lives of black and brown people and

to do that, we must change the unjust inequities that exist. This includes the disproportionate toll that the COVID-19 epidemic has taken on the Black and Latinx communities."

Vaidian said the focus on COVID-19 has been based on past pandemics, and clinical and medical outcomes rather than the emotional and mental health toll the crisis has taken.

Vaidian said, "We're looking at this in a very holistic and comprehensive way."

He explained coronavirus is quite common and affects both humans and animals, but COVID-19 is unique because it made the interspecies jump from animal to human. Recalling past experiences with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak in 2002 and the Middle East Respiratory

See MENTAL HEALTH, A7



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OPINION

Defund The Police? Not If You Want To Stay Safe; Columns; Letters **A6**

NW CORNER FARMS

Hawthorne Valley Farm
Ghent

Paley's Farm Market
Sharon

Whippoorwill Farm
Salisbury

QFarms
Sharon

Rock Steady Farm
Millerton

Weatogue Farm
Salisbury

Calf and Clover Creamery
Cornwall Bridge

Marble Valley Farm
Kent

Moon in the Pond Farm
Sheffield

Mountain View Farm
Falls Village

Howling Flats Farm
North Canaan

Adamah
Falls Village

Mead's Maple Syrup Farm
Canaan Valley

Lone Silo Farm
Canaan

Birdseye & Tanner Brooks Farm
West Cornwall

Beavertides Farm
Falls Village

Ridgway Farm
Cornwall

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MILLERTON

Area students call for change with peaceful protest

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILLERTON — Taking a stand against systemic racism and injustice in their country, students from the Tri-State Region invited the local community to join together in a peaceful protest in memory of and to protest George Floyd's death on Wednesday, June 3. Floyd, a black Minneapolis man, died at the hands of a white ex-police officer nearly two weeks ago, sparking protests for social justice reform around the world.

Beginning at 2 p.m., the protest was held next to the gazebo at Railroad Plaza and ultimately drew a crowd of around 150 people, many of whom came to the protest with signs calling for change. Keeping everyone's health in mind amid the COVID-19 pandemic, attendees were asked to wear face masks and to maintain social distancing guidelines.

Led by a group of high school students from the local area — including students from Webutuck High School in Amenia and Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Conn., the protest drew people of all ages who gave

the students their full attention as they made speeches and paid tribute to George Floyd.

The group received support from passing motorists who honked their car horns. As one of many in attendance, Brooke Lehman, co-founder of The Watershed Center in Millerton, observed a number of community members who stood at Route 22 at the entrance to the village to show their support for the movement.

"It was a very powerful showing of support from the community that really made me proud," Lehman said. "There's an overwhelming support for this movement."

"It was a very powerful protest," agreed North East resident Bill Kish, "all the more so because the leaders were all younger people — us old folks were just following their lead."

"It was heartening to see so many community members coming out and standing for these long overdue reforms," said Jonny G of The Music Cellar. "It was particularly exciting to see so many informed young people aware of the issue of systemic racism. It's an exciting time of change and growth."

Millerton photographer Ben



A group of students from Webutuck High School in Amenia and Housatonic Valley Regional High School in Falls Village, Conn., invited the community to join them in remembering and protesting the death of George Floyd, a Black man from Minneapolis, Minn., at a peaceful protest held at Railroad Plaza in Millerton on Wednesday, June 3.

Willis agreed. He walked down to the protest with his wife, Katie Shanley.

"The atmosphere was incredibly positive," he said. "When we got down there, there was a really wide range of people. A big group of high school-aged students made up the biggest group. Then on the edges there were all kinds of people of every age. Even people were there with their kids."

"Multiple times the crowd took a knee and raised their fists in the air... It was by no means a party, people were taking what they were saying very seriously. I was most impressed with the high school students," Willis added. "They were focused, determined, and took what they were doing seriously... It was also a beautiful sunny warm day, so I think that added to the positive vibes."



PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Volunteers recruited for prepping, planting dual NECC gardens

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILLERTON — Eager to embrace the warm summer sunshine and get the local community out in the fresh air, the North East Community Center (NECC) recruited a small team of volunteers to help prep and plant the NECC's gardens during two planting days held on Friday, June 5, and Sunday, June 7.

Along with generating a supply of food for the NECC Food Pantry and the Summer Food Service Program, NECC gardens have been used to grow fresh produce to support the organization's farm and garden education programs, according to NECC Executive Director Christine Sergent. With

two garden plots, NECC has a garden planted behind Webutuck High School (WHS) and another behind the community center on South Center Street in Millerton.

When NECC shifted to all remote operations on Friday, March 20, due to the coronavirus pandemic, Sergent said all preparations for the two gardens were suspended. However, thanks to the work of a team of NECC staff, local farms and volunteers, it was able to save its gardens for the 2020 growing season. It was also through the team's work that NECC was able to organize two planting days last week. After obtaining the necessary supplies and making advanced repairs on the garden beds, all NECC needed

was to recruit volunteers to get the planting off the ground.

Respecting the state's guidelines for social distancing, NECC allowed only a limited number of volunteers to participate in both planting days. Sergent reported that all of the volunteers who participated signed up in advance and were provided with face masks, water, sunscreen and snacks.

With a team of volunteers at the ready, NECC set to work prepping and planting the garden behind WHS on Friday, June 5, and the garden behind NECC on Sunday, June 7. Sergent voiced her appreciation to the high school for mowing and trimming the garden's weeds, allowing deliveries and repairs to be done in preparation for

planting and giving volunteers water and bathroom access.

Along with thanking Webutuck teacher Jennifer Jaffe, Webutuck Business Administrator Robert Farrier and Webutuck Director of Facilities Walt Kilmer for their help, Sergent praised area residents Kim Hausner and John Rocanova for their help in repairing the bed frames and garden sheds and tilling the soil at both gardens in preparation for the planting days. She also expressed her gratitude to the NECC staff who worked remotely to make the planting days possible.

"We are also grateful to Poughkeepsie Farm Project and McEnroe Farms, which donated more than six dozen seedlings from their plant sale; Full Circus Farm for donating seeds and caring for our donated seedlings; and Duffy Layton for discounting and delivering several cubic yards of composted soil and mulch," Sergent said.

Gordon R. Keeler Appliance sells Century Boulevard storefront

By KAITLIN LYLE
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MILLERTON — As village businesses gradually start reopening their doors and welcoming people back after being shut down due to the coronavirus pandemic, customers might be surprised to find that Gordon R. Keeler Appliance, located at 3 Century Blvd. in Millerton, has been sold. Though the building on Century Boulevard will no longer serve as the storefront to the long-time appliance store, once Campbell and Keeler, its owner, Gordon Keeler, has assured customers that he will continue to meet their needs as he runs his business from home.

For more than 45 years, Keeler has built a name for himself in appliance sales as well as in the service and repair business, and while his work placed him in multiple locations throughout the local region, the bulk of his time was spent on Century Boulevard. During the past four decades-plus, he established a loyal following of friends and customers who were fond of working with him and appreciated the personal touch he added to his services.

During that time, however, Keeler and his wife, Sandra, got a first-hand look at the changes taking place in the business climate, particularly for small appliance stores. Regarding their decision to sell the building to Crown Energy, Sandra said it was the right time. When asked if the coronavirus pandemic had any influence on their decision, she said, "It probably contributed to it somewhat because the whole atmosphere of the small appliance business had changed because of the big box stores and people buying online, but certainly the coronavirus didn't help."

Though Keeler was able to keep his doors open as an essential business, Sandra said the pandemic cut down on the number of people coming into the shop, though she said COVID-19 wasn't the main reason behind the sale.

The property's sale took place on Friday, April 24. Though no longer operating out of the building, Keeler was keen to maintain the relationships he formed with his customers and reached out to them to let them know about the change. Before the sale, Sandra said her husband had other people

working for him and making orders for the store, but now that he's shifted his work to the home front, "he's a one-man show." In spite of having to let go of his employees, she said that he's been able to keep up with the work on his own, adding that she's been working on the books for the business.

When asked how well her husband has adapted to the changes, Sandra said, "I think he's been doing fine with it. He's out and about the good part of the day because he's still doing deliveries and service work. I think overall it's worked out pretty well."

Customers can reach Keeler for service, repair and other appliance related work via phone at 518-789-4813 or at 518-789-4961; via email at keelerappliance@gmail.com; or via fax at 518-789-4252.

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We started with a survey of our readers for three weeks in October. The information we gathered there gave us the motivation to move forward with a membership campaign, publishing the four weeks of November, asking our readers to support The Lakeville Journal Company as we face a future that is uncertain for small community weekly publications not only here, but across the country.

Thank you to all our readers who have responded, and who believe in the mission of our newspapers, which publishes in the mastheads of The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News every week: *Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.*

We want to be clear that we highly value and appreciate those who subscribe and advertise with us, and have in many cases done so loyally for many years.

That support has given us 90% of what we have needed to survive every year. Now, it's time to try to fill in that other 10%. Even while doing that, we will constantly be looking for savings wherever we can find them and will strive to provide quality independent journalism to our communities.

Janet Manko, Publisher and Editor in Chief
Cynthia Hochswender, Executive Editor, The Lakeville Journal
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AMENIA/DOVER

Graduation 2020

Webutuck plans virtual ceremony

By KAITLIN LYLE
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WEBUTUCK — The last few months of high school can be a crucial time for making memories before graduation day. When the coronavirus pandemic broke out in March, local seniors across the Harlem Valley were left with no choice but to finish their final year of high school from home. Determined to give graduating seniors the celebration they deserve, the North East (Webutuck) Central School District has dedicated the last few months to assembling a special virtual graduation ceremony to recognize the Webutuck High School Class of 2020.

Recognizing this period as a trying time for all, Webutuck Superintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani said, "I feel that our seniors especially have had their last three months taken away from them and that's a very difficult time for final celebrations." Nevertheless, he said the dis-

trict has been trying to do as much as possible to recognize its seniors. Each senior received a lawn sign recognizing him or her as a graduate and a personalized gift of a blanket with "Webutuck Warrior" embroidered on it. Additionally, the district had the senior portraits enlarged and set out on the front lawn of the high school. An Adopt a Senior program was also initiated to give community members a chance to adopt graduating seniors and surprise them with gifts.

Right from the beginning of the pandemic, Castellani said the district has been working closely with Four Brothers Drive-In Theater in Amenia to host a virtual graduation ceremony to bring seniors and their families together. As of this time, he said the district hired a videographer who produced a virtual graduation ceremony. Along with speeches from the valedictorian and salutatorian, the video features speeches from Castellani, WHS Principal

Katy McEnroe, Webutuck staff and retirees and a surprise message from a celebrity. Castellani said the district had each student come in with their cap and gown and took pictures of them to feature in the video. The high school band and choir are also featured performing in the virtual graduation ceremony.

Come Tuesday evening, June 16, the Four Brothers Drive-In Theater will be screening the virtual graduation ceremony, though the time is being withheld from the public to avoid overcrowding when social distancing is so vital. Only one car will be allowed per family unless it's an extenuating circumstance, Castellani noted. Students and their families will be served pizza and refreshments as they watch the video, and the drive-in will be decorated for the event. Following the ceremony, families are welcome to stay at the drive-in where a movie and popcorn will be provided at the district's expense. Each graduate

will receive a copy of the video.

"I would say that we're trying to make it special for our seniors who deserve this: this is a culmination of their years at Webutuck and whatever we can do, we're going to try to do within our means," Castellani said. "Kudos to our class advisors and our principal for trying to do as much as possible for our students and we look forward to this event."

On Sunday, June 7, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the state will start allowing outdoor, socially-distanced graduation ceremonies of up to 150 people, beginning Friday, June 26. In response to the announcement, Castellani said Webutuck is waiting for clarification in terms of what that means, adding that the district may organize an additional small, personal event for the graduates on the WHS front lawn.

The Millerton News will run photos of the 2020 Webutuck graduates in the June 18 edition.



Beginning at noon, hundreds attended a peaceful protest held at the stoplight at Route 22 in Dover Plains on Saturday, June 6.

Social justice rally in Dover draws hundreds

DOVER PLAINS — Unit-ing in solidarity, approximately 200 people gathered at the stoplight on Route 22 in Dover Plains for a peaceful protest held on Saturday afternoon, June 6. Organized by Dover resident Stacie Woodard, community members of all ages assembled at noon to show their support for the Black Lives Matter movement and take a stand against racism.

"The day was full of peace, understanding and unity,"

Woodard said. "I could not have asked for a more respectful crowd of people."

Along with expressing her gratitude for the protest's attendees, Woodard thanked Dover town Supervisor Richard Yeno, Dutchess County Sheriff's Deputy Tyler Wyman and the New York State Police for being respectful and understanding of what the group was doing and for remaining nearby to ensure everyone's safety.

— Kaitlin Lyle

Wassaic Project plans Virtual Summer Benefit

By KAITLIN LYLE
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WASSAIC — Adapting its programming to suit the new normal during the coronavirus outbreak, The Wassaic Project has held fast to its commitment to nurturing the artistic community it's created and securing the community's access to the arts. In addition to moving its programs online, The Wassaic Project has shifted its 12th annual Summer Benefit to a virtual platform and invited the community to help celebrate the organization's 12th year of operation this June over the world wide web.

Reflecting on the ways in which COVID-19 has affected The Wassaic Project's ability to offer artistic programming, Wassaic Project Executive Co-Director Jeff Barnett-Winsby said the impact has been dramatic.

"While we still have a number of outdoor installations that are visible from a safe distance, not being able to open our exhibition this summer is really sad for us," he said. "We've also had to cancel our camps for the summer and that's been a source of local interaction for us."

Because The Wassaic Project was unable to guarantee their safety, Barnett-Winsby said the organization shut down its residency program and no longer has any resident artists on site. Nevertheless, he said it is hopeful that life will return to normal by Halloween as the organization is planning to host its annual Haunted Mill event and Haunted Hayride in person in October.

In the meantime, Barnett-Winsby said The Wassaic Project is looking for opportunities to connect with the community. The artist studios have now moved online, a new Ask a Residency Director has been created and virtual studio visits have been organized — all of which are free to the public. In addition to the organization's efforts to ensure access to its programming, The Wassaic Project has started working with The Lantern bar and restaurant in Wassaic and the St. Thomas Church Food Pantry in Amenia Union to make meals

"I hope that it's successful and I hope the community does support it — it will mean that we will be able to continue to operate and open up when it's time to open up."

Jeff Barnett-Winsby

for locals in need and is now providing a fixed number of meals on a weekly basis.

In terms of the organization's annual summertime events — such as the Summer Benefit — Barnett-Winsby said it decided a month ago to make this year's celebration virtual, as hosting a traditional in-person art exhibition in Maxon Mills wasn't likely to work out this year. Scheduled for Saturday, June 13, spectators tuning in to this year's Summer Benefit will have the opportunity to take part in an "intimate, curator-led virtual tour" of the seven-floor former grain mill, which will house the exhibit.

On top of spotlighting the summer exhibition, Barnett-Winsby said The Wassaic Project will be producing a book that will be sold at the benefit. The book will feature the work of more than 50 artists in addition to essays and interviews.

"The book has all of the artists we would normally have," Barnett-Winsby explained, "and we've attempted to build the book in a way that feels like an exhibition. There are, of course,



FILE PHOTO BY KAITLIN LYLE

From left, brothers Owen Schnepf, 9, and Alastair, 7, explored the blocks set up on the lawn near Maxon Mills with family friend Petra B.G. during The Wassaic Project's annual Summer Benefit held last June.

limitations to the book form, but there's an intimacy that people will respond to and I believe that this will be a book that celebrates essentially what we've done over the last 12 years. It's also a bit of a love letter to the community at large and an expression of our gratitude for their hosting us."

When asked how he anticipates the community will respond to the Summer Benefit's shift to a virtual platform, he said, "I hope that it's successful and I hope the community does support it — it will mean that we will be able to continue to operate and open up when it's time to open up."

For more on the Virtual Summer Benefit, go to www.wassaicproject.org, and be sure to read more in this week's Compass arts and entertainment section.

Clarification

In the June 4 edition of The Millerton News, four candidates were highlighted for the three open seats on the Webutuck Board of Education. According to Webutuck Su-

perintendent of Schools Raymond Castellani, only three of those candidates are official school board candidates; one is technically a write-in candidate.

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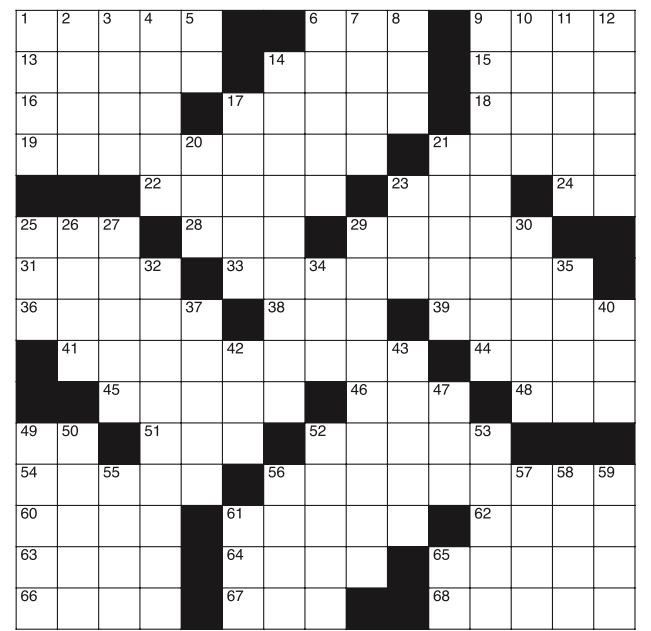
Brain Teasers

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. American composer
- 6. Very fast aircraft
- 9. Workplaces
- 13. A mount on a surface
- 14. Small freshwater fish
- 15. Double-reed instrument
- 16. Canadian flyers
- 17. Famed astronomer
- 18. Smooth, shiny fabric
- 19. Profited
- 21. Conspiracy
- 22. Infections
- 23. Chum
- 24. Secondary school (abbr.)
- 25. Resistance unit
- 28. Sound unit
- 29. Ancient city of Egypt
- 31. Crease
- 33. Polished
- 36. For goodness ___!
- 38. College basketball tournament
- 39. Scorches
- 41. Describe precisely
- 44. Thick piece of something
- 45. Frocks
- 46. Indicates near
- 48. Senior enlisted US Army member
- 49. A note added to a letter
- 51. A nose or snout
- 52. Clumsy
- 54. Satisfied to the fullest
- 56. Display of strong feeling
- 60. Popular awards show
- 61. Cuisine style
- 62. Expresses pleasure
- 63. Monetary unit of the Maldives
- 64. Utah city
- 65. Fight
- 66. Messenger ribonucleic acid
- 67. Body part
- 68. Suspiciously reluctant

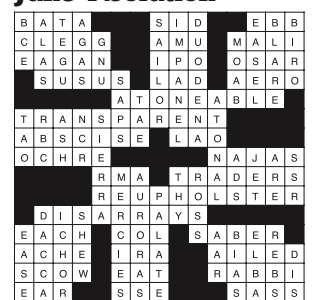
CLUES DOWN

- 1. Fruit of the service tree
- 2. At some prior time
- 3. Mongolian city ___ Bator
- 4. Strongboxes
- 5. Russian river
- 6. Gurus
- 7. Horse mackerel
- 8. Pearl Jam's debut album
- 9. Confines
- 10. First month of Jewish ecclesiastical year
- 11. Famed Idaho politician
- 12. Prevents from seeing
- 14. Indicate time
- 17. Male parents
- 20. Tab on a key ring
- 21. The Great Dog constellation: ___ Major

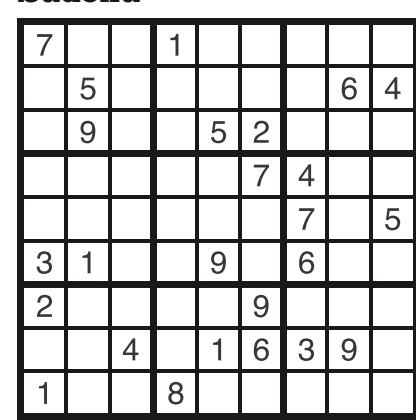


- 23. Frying necessity
- 25. Former CIA
- 26. The leader
- 27. Produces
- 29. London soccer club
- 30. Closes
- 32. Region in the western Pacific Ocean
- 34. Not present
- 35. Small drink of whiskey
- 37. Begat
- 40. Helps little firms
- 42. Pointed end of a pen
- 43. Fencing swords
- 47. Inches per minute (abbr.)
- 49. Hymn
- 50. Philippine island
- 52. Flemish names of Ypres
- 53. A way to inform
- 55. Small lake
- 56. Linear unit
- 57. Central Japanese city
- 58. Partially burn
- 59. Sports award
- 61. Part of your foot
- 65. Atomic #21

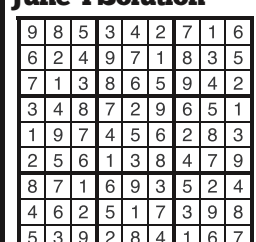
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PINE PLAINS/AREA

BOE hearing on safety, awards tenure

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

PINE PLAINS — Along with hosting the mandated public hearing for the district-wide safety plan and code of conduct, the Pine Plains Central School District Board of Education (BOE) awarded tenure to several district personnel at its recent virtual meeting on Wednesday, June 3.

Beginning at 7 p.m., the meeting was organized via video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic and schools being closed statewide.

Opening with the public hearing, Superintendent of Schools Martin Handler explained the BOE was required to hold the hearing for the safety plan and code of conduct documents, which were included in that night's agenda. Though the code of conduct remained the same, he said it still needed to be presented

at a public hearing. Following the hearing, the public will be granted 30 days to comment on both documents before both will be adopted at the BOE's annual reorganization meeting in July.

Seeing as there were no questions from the BOE about the district's safety plan or the code of conduct, BOE President Chip Couse presented the board with questions he received from a Stanfordsville resident about the 2020-21 school district budget. One of the questions dealt with the BOE's reaction to the teachers' union's decision to place signs throughout the district advocating for the community to vote "yes" on the budget. Couse replied that "there have been advocacy groups on budgets forever," both to support and reject the budget. He also indicated that the teachers' union has been a strong partner in improving education in Pine Plains and expressed his

appreciation for its efforts.

Since questions could not be asked in person, the public was invited to submit questions to Pine Plains District Clerk Julia Tomaine via email prior to the meeting.

Under the agenda's personnel section, the BOE appointed Christopher Boyd to a four-year probationary term as the assistant principal of Cold Spring Early Learning Center, replacing Nathaniel Zacek. With his term running from Wednesday, July 1, to June 30, 2024, Boyd will receive an annual salary of \$98,000 for the 2020-21 school year. Boyd was also appointed as a data protection officer for the coming school year with a stipend of \$5,000.

Kicking off the evening's tenure appointments, the BOE awarded tenure to Director of Curriculum and Instruction Brian Timm, effective Feb. 1, 2021.

Gabrielle Baker was appointed tenure in the secondary mathematics tenure area, effective Tuesday, Sept. 1, while Corinna Hengen-Burton was appointed tenure in the physical education tenure area, effective Feb. 1, 2021. Nicholas Dean was appointed tenure in the technology education tenure area while Erin Doyle was appointed tenure in the health education tenure area; both appointments will come into effect on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

Also effective Tuesday, Sept. 1, Susan Lydon, Kelly Nielsen and Melissa Michetti were awarded tenure in the teaching assistant tenure area; Jeremy Weber was awarded tenure in the physical education tenure area; and Ariana Wright was awarded tenure in the elementary education tenure area. Caelia Wyman's tenure in secondary foreign language will come into effect on Monday, Nov. 9.



PHOTO BY PAUL ANTONELL

Taking it to the streets

PINE PLAINS — On Saturday, June 6, a Black Lives Matter protest was held from 3 to 4 p.m. at the town park at Church and Main streets in Pine Plains.

Although only seven people showed up, according to pro-

tester Nathan Tempey, "It was a small but spirited bunch. People driving by were largely supportive. Some stopped to ask questions. There were also a few middle fingers... then [one group] switched to a truck with

no plates and added a Confederate flag."

Despite that bit of opposition, demonstrators will gather again on Sunday, June 14, at 3:30 p.m., at the same location, and then head to a town protest at

4 p.m., at the clock tower, with Dutchess County Legislator Gregg Pulver (R-19) and Pastor Ryan Larkin from the First United Presbyterian Church speaking.

— Whitney Joseph

Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association

Group has money, needs applicants

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

ANCRAMDALE — For those who have dreamed of changing their life through education, with the economic and employment scene being so unpredictable due to the COVID-19 health crisis, now might be the perfect time to start to consider doing something about it.

To help make those wishes come true, Ancramdale Neighbors Helping Neighbors Association (ANHNA) has two types of grants/scholarships with a traditional one ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500 for "full-time students who will enter an accredited college, community college or vocational school this year" as well as a non-traditional grant for up to \$5,000 for someone hoping learn a new trade or improve their skills.

The traditional higher education grants are being awarded for the seventh year with some six to seven students receiving the awards in recent years. Applicants must already be accepted into a program scheduled to begin in 2020 with a July 1 deadline.

According to Laura Ponkos, one of the program organizers, the second, less traditional \$5,000 grant, has presented something of a mystery to those hoping to present the award. It has been avail-

able for several years — with no takers for the substantial funds, which were donated to the association by a local couple who wish to remain anonymous.

She explained that for that non-traditional grant, no matter one's age or educational background — or lack of it — all one need do is apply. Money will be awarded based on financial need, not academic performance. Funds can be used for virtually any manner of expense associated with the educational process including tuition, fees, books, transportation and even child care.

Both she and the association's Jane Moore have been puzzled by the lack of response as they reached out to everyone before the pandemic struck, from school counselors and teachers to local trades people such as electricians, plumbers and the like to find someone to apply for the funds — but with no success.

"I think it would help someone's life to take advantage of these opportunities," Ponkos said, adding it's important for individuals, "to learn to take care of themselves... in this crazy world of ours." If people can improve their lives, why not try?

The training possibilities are extensive in any number of areas including but not limited to "information technology, retail management, tourism, construc-

tion or hospitality" or even the medical field, which offers a low unemployment rate and decent salary, though as health care workers know better than anyone, comes with its own risks.

Ponkos noted that the non-traditional grant is somewhat flexible. The entire amount might not go to just one person, and it might also be extended sometime in the future.

Applications for both traditional and non-traditional types of grants are simple and an association member will be available to help complete the process. Any

resident of Ancram, Ancramdale or Boston Corners is eligible. For more information, contact Mike Sturdivant at 518-329-6106 or Ponkos at 518-329-2031 or email ANHNAinfo@gmail.com.

ANHNA is a community based organization, which, as the name implies, helps individuals with needs of all sorts. It even runs a food pantry, which fed about 14 families weekly before the pandemic drove those numbers way up. Most recently, ANHNA assisted one local family with a heating issue. Members chip in to help in whatever way is needed.

Correction

A previous article in The Millerton News published the wrong contact number for The Pine Plains Community Food Locker. The food pantry's correct telephone number is 518-398-7692. We regret the error.



BOE elections and school district budget votes postponed

HARLEM VALLEY — On Monday, June 8, Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an Executive Order that the budget votes and elections that were planned to take place in school districts throughout the state on Tuesday, June 9, have been postponed.

Mailed ballots will now be accepted until Tuesday, June

16. All ballots will be counted on Tuesday, June 16, beginning at 5 p.m.

Qualified voters who did not receive a ballot in the mail should contact their district office; that information can be found on one's school district website.

For more information, go to www.tricornernews.com.

Email news and photos to editor@millertonnews.com

Worship Services Week of June 14, 2020

Services are canceled or being held online. Call ahead or visit websites for updates.

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Sat. Bible Studies
for Men & Women 3:00 PM
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sharonumc5634@att.net

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Early Deadline

Deadline for the July 9TH issue is Thursday, July 2nd, at NOON for Display Advertising.

The Classified line deadline is Monday, July 6th at 12 NOON.

Letters to the Editor deadline is Monday, July 6th at 10 a.m.

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*In the days of COVID-19***A different kind of graduation**

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
juthb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — How does one celebrate a high school graduation when there is a global health pandemic going on? Friends and family want to make the day as special as they can, concerned that the Class of 2020 is getting short-changed, losing out on such milestones as the senior prom, class trips, that last football game of the year, the spring musical, and of course, graduation.

This year's senior class has missed so many important moments, like the thrill of seeing their yearbook for the first time and of signing those books with their friends and teachers. They've missed those moments discussing, with both joy and trepidation, the idea of leaving home for college and of being on one's own for the first time. These discussions are still taking place, but mostly over e-mails, texts and Instagram accounts.

Eric Seipp, principal of Millbrook High School, and indeed all staff members of Millbrook High School want this to be an extraordinary graduation experience for the Class of 2020; they realize the sacrifices the students have had to make because of the pandemic. Schools were shut down in March by the governor due to fears of the coronavirus spreading, and because of social distancing rules, many students have sacrificed all sorts of dreams that began when they were students at Alden Place or Elm Drive Elementary, and then developed at Millbrook Middle School, and finally took root at Millbrook High School.

This year's graduation will be different, but in its own way it will be very special, even momentous by its individuality, and possibly because of how much planning has gone in to make it extra special to

acknowledge the sacrifice seniors made, who, in spite of their disappointment, will still celebrate their coming of age and graduate in the year of a pandemic.

Seipp and many others have big plans, some of which have already been implemented. There is a specially constructed website just for the 2020 graduates. One page features an individual student each day, complete with short bio and senior picture. Another page is for Shares and Shout Outs, with special messages for graduates, and another page where one can send a personalized message to a graduate.

On Monday, June 1, and Tuesday, June 2, a parade of staff, teachers and administrators went to all of the seniors' homes, presenting each with a 2020 graduation sign and enjoying a short, socially distanced visit. Photos of each graduate, sometimes alone with the sign, sometimes with family and even pets, were also taken; the photos are now featured on the website.

Graduation will take place on Friday, June 19, starting at 8:30 p.m., with a motorcade winding from Elm Drive Elementary School past the Village Green, to Alden Place Elementary on to Millbrook Middle School and finally, each of the 65 cars, one per graduate, will stop at designated places in the high school parking lot. A large screen and speakers will allow each student and their party to view the ceremony from their vehicle. Diplomas will be given out by the staff to the students at each of the vehicles.

Highlights of the ceremony will include a keynote address from former School Superintendent Philip D'Angelo; a speech by valedictorian Halie Every; and a speech by salutatorian Tessa Fountain.

The rain date for the graduation will be Saturday, June 20, also at 8:30 p.m.

Hundreds gather to say that 'Black Lives Matter' in Millbrook

By JUDITH O'HARA BALFE
juthb@millertonnews.com

MILLBROOK — More than 225 peaceful protesters lined the part of Franklin Avenue that curves from the bus stop and goes along the Tribute Garden property on Sunday, June 7. This included men, women and children of all ages, mostly local residents, holding signs, wearing masks and enjoying the beautiful weather. The event, in support of Black Lives Matter (BLM), which had its existence fraught with controversy at the start, turned out to be a friendly and fruitful happening, with no trouble reported.

Although social distancing was largely non-existent, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, masks were worn and several elbow bumps took place, while others agreed, "We'll hug later," when it is safe to do so.

Protest signs ranged from very large to very small, and from elaborate tie-dyed signs to smaller signs done on cardboard with magic marker. What they had in common was their message: Black Lives Matter, and that people are looking for changes in the criminal justice system and of systemic racial bias. The death of George Floyd, a black Minneapolis man killed by a White ex-cop, was not taken lightly here, mirroring feelings from around the country and around the world.

The protest was put together by Larissa Nordone, a five-year resident of Millbrook who has some experience organizing protests. Nordone reports that she suffered a great deal of resistance from the town and village before the rally got off the ground.

While many found out about the event via social media, originally it was meant to be a small gathering of roughly 50 people responding via private messaging.

Some Millbrook teenagers had planned a protest for Monday, June 8, but another teen reportedly sabotaged it. A counter protest focusing on All Lives Matter was announced, but later postponed. Those organizers asked if they could attend Sunday's protest. As Sunday neared, the event



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left, Kathy Havards and Todd Feitelson were at the Black Lives Matter protest in Millbrook on Sunday, June 7, getting their message out to the public. Peaceful protests were held in Millbrook over the weekend.

grew larger and organizers worried about people coming from out of town starting trouble; organizers and officials wanted to know about permits and law enforcement. It was noted that permits are required for marches that may block traffic or pedestrian walkways, require sound amplifying devices, are especially large or cause street closures.

Nordone was told she might be given an appearance ticket by the Village Police at the close of the event if she violated any of the village's ordinances. That did not occur, she said, as she helped disperse attendees at the end of the event and she and friends made sure the Village Green was free of debris and garbage.

Nordone said all of her fears

were put to rest on Sunday as the gathering began, grew and remained peaceful. Millbrook Police Officer Jared Witt moved easily among the crowd, greeting protesters and being greeted by those present. Although there was a "Defund the Police" sign, few signs were anti-police, though they did state the country should do better in its police practices. At least two village trustees were among the crowd, making sure it remained a peaceful event. The demonstration began at 1 p.m. and by 2 p.m. the crowd started to disperse.

Many families attended, using the event as a teaching moment; some were multi-generational. Some of the signs the youngsters clearly made themselves, while others were more sophisticated. Many families were passionate about the cause, and it was an opportunity for some to witness first hand for the first time how America works, and why the First Amendment is so important.

Early on, a Dutchess County Sheriff's Office car went past, as did a New York State Trooper's vehicle, but mostly there were cars and trucks passing by, waving and beeping their horns in support. Afterward, protesters said they felt that their message got out, that Millbrook held a peaceful protest while taking an important stance on improving the criminal justice system, the need to address racial inequality, about Black Lives Matter, about how the country must move forward, and, not to be forgotten, about the importance of caring for one another.



PHOTO BY JUDITH O'HARA BALFE

From left, back row, Millbrook Village Trustee and President of the Millbrook Business Association Kevin McGrane, Village Highway Superintendent Bob Collocola, Debbie Flanigan, Town Clerk Mary Alex, Forza Gym owner Lori Decker, Abby Alex, and kneeling in front, Ivan Hernandez are among the volunteers who have been helping Millbrook Diner owners Debbie and Thanasi Theodoropoulos, not shown, through Serving Millbrook, distribute meals.

Generous spirit, generous community

MILLBROOK — Millbrook Diner owners Debbie and Thanasi Theodoropoulos have been donating hot meals seven days a week to the community through the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. By mid-May, after nearly a month of giving away meals, more than 3,100 dinners had been served.

Produce, eggs and milk have also been made available to residents in need from Locust Hill Farm, Marona's Market, Stone-wood Farms, Blue Barn BnB owner Joan LaCasse and others.

A GoFundMe page, and donations from so many people in the town and village, have made it all possible. Other volunteers not shown in these photos include: Mike Flanigan; Morgan Varavaldi; Emma Sweeney; Leah Cornell; Ann Leady; Irene and Bill Wing; Lisa Lacey and her children, Matty, Stephen and Benjamin; and Robin Alexander. Also helping, Grace Church; and Dutchess County Legislator Deirdre Houston (R-25).

— Judith O'Hara Balfe

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EDITORIAL

Defund the police? Not if you want to stay safe

According to the Minnesota newspaper, the Star Tribune, organizers of the social justice group, Black Visions, who are charging the Minneapolis Police Department “can’t be reformed through initiatives like training and body cameras” and therefore should be dismantled, are working to envision a “police-free future.” According to Star Tribune reporter Liz Navratil, reformers plan to invest in more “community initiatives like mental health and having community members respond to public safety issues.”

OK, there’s nothing wrong with adding community initiatives that strengthen mental health support, and maybe it’s all right to have properly trained community members who can safely respond to public safety issues when it’s appropriate to do so. And that’s a big maybe, dependent on a lot. But why do police departments have to be sacrificed for that to happen?

Yet that is exactly what nine out of 12 Minneapolis City Council members announced that they plan to do on Sunday, June 7, nearly two weeks after the May 25 killing of 46 year old George Floyd, a Black man, by 44 year old White ex-cop Derek Chauvin. Floyd’s death has sparked protests around the world about police brutality and systemic racism, reigniting the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement. Those protests have headed in what we consider a dangerous direction — with demonstrators calling for police departments to be defunded — but do protesters really know what they’re asking for?

There is a need for police reform: increased training, improved community outreach, more sensitivity. Absolutely. There’s always room for improvement. However, abolishing law enforcement would give free rein to criminal minds intent on doing harm. What we need is a societal change.

And although a veto-proof majority of the Minneapolis City Council wants to disband its police force, the city’s mayor does not. Mayor Jacob Frey said this past weekend that he does not support “the full abolition of the police department” to a jeering crowd, which forced him to flee a rally he was at.

“People continue to require service in many forms from our public safety offices, whether in times of domestic violence, or assistance in some of the most dire conditions,” he said in a Sunday interview, according to the Star Tribune article.

He’s absolutely right. It is a matter of public safety. Our own Governor Andrew Cuomo knows that all too well, commenting on New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio’s Sunday, June 7, statement that he wants to cut city funding for its police department after 10 nights of protesters calling for change. Though de Blasio was vague with figures, he said he wants to divert money from the department’s annual \$6 billion budget to social services. He has until July 1 to hash out the details for his roughly \$90 billion city budget with the City Council, of which roughly 6% typically goes toward policing.

But Cuomo said no way will New York police be defunded at his Sunday night press conference — stressing the key role the police play in protecting the public — especially during times of upheaval and unrest like we’re currently experiencing.

“Look at that looting. It was frightening,” the governor said. “It was criminals who were exploiting the situation who were opportunistic, who were just stealing.”

That doesn’t mean lawmakers are unwilling to take action. Congressional Democrats unveiled legislation Monday, June 8, for nationwide standards for police accountability. Though the bill does not deal with defunding police departments, it does mandate states and municipalities implement mandatory bias training in order to qualify for federal funds, according to The New York Times.

U.S. Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA), the Democratic chairwoman of the House’s Congressional Black Caucus, spoke about the bill on CNN on Sunday.

“I don’t believe that you should disband police departments,” she said. “But I do think that in cities and states, we need to look at how we are spending resources and invest more in our communities.”

Democrats in the House and Senate named the bill the Justice in Policing Act of 2020. It aims to fight racial inequality and excessive use of force by law enforcement. According to The New York Times, “It would create a national registry to track police misconduct and require that law enforcement agencies report data on the use of force, as well as ban certain chokeholds and other practices ... that left black Americans dead.”

So, there are options other than dismantling our police departments — departments made up of men and women who, by and large, bravely and honorably serve to protect each and every one of us when we need them most. Please, take a moment to imagine a world without police. Who would help you when your dog gets stolen, when you get mugged, when your wife or daughter is raped, when your child is kidnapped, when your mother or father is killed, or your car is vandalized, when your business or home is burglarized, when your child’s school is threatened with a bomb or a mass shooting, when you have an accident or any other kind of emergency? There are so many reasons why we depend on the police. Make no mistake about it — the police are essential to keeping law and order — and law and order are essential to maintaining a civil society — and isn’t that what we all want and deserve?



Consider racial tensions from the side of law enforcement

A professional law enforcement officers who have dedicated their careers to saving lives and helping people in need, the Sheriffs of New York State condemn the senseless, shocking action of the officer who unjustifiably took the life of George Floyd in Minneapolis last week. It was against everything we stand for, everything we train for and everything we demand and rightfully expect from our police officers.

We also condemn those who, since then, have used that great injustice as an excuse to commit other senseless, brutal acts, which unjustly deprive more innocent people of their lives, their livelihood, their life savings and their livable communities.

We are sworn to uphold the Constitution and we fully support the Constitutional right of all citizens to peacefully assemble, protest and petition their government for desired change. As Constitutional officers who have been given the duty of Conservators of the Peace in the counties, we know that conserving the peace does not mean just keeping everyone calm. It means assuring an atmosphere where all citizens can enjoy their rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness without having those rights unduly infringed upon by others. Thus while we will do all we can to accommodate and protect those who feel compelled to publicly display, in a peaceful way, their justifiable outrage at the way George Floyd died, we will not condone or accommodate in any way those who would deprive others of their rights by hijacking those legitimate displays of concern to turn them into opportunities to assault, murder, loot, burn and spread anarchy.

We also must ask those politicians and other leaders in the communities who continually speak of “systemic racism” in our police agencies for their own political advantage to refrain from such unfounded and incendiary comments. It is disgusting conduct, which itself fuels racism on all sides, and leads to worse, not better race relations in this country. Instead we would welcome them to engage with us in open and honest discussions on how we can enhance community relations while regaining the public’s trust in law enforcement through fact-based studies and training.

Deputy Sheriffs and all law enforcement officers suffer because irresponsible leaders paint them with a broad brush. There are 800,000 police officers in this country. The inexcusable action of one police officer in Minneapolis cannot be used to justify labeling all 800,000 dedicated, hard-working police officers as racist. We know of no police officer who condones the actions of that one rogue cop in Minneapolis. They, like most citizens, were sickened to see that video, but we also know that it is not representative of the 53.5 million contacts that law enforcement has with civilians annually. We know of no

GUEST COLUMN Jeffrey Murphy

police officer who joined the force because they saw it as a license to kill or abuse others. Most police officers join out of a simple desire to help people — of any race. Most police officers have shown more helpfulness, and personal compassion and kindness toward down-and-out citizens — black, brown, yellow or white — than have any of the self-righteous politicians and others who sow hatred and distrust of the police with their irresponsible rhetoric. Those politicians, when they finish their rants, can then go home to their mansions and comfortable homes, secure in the knowledge that the police officers whom they just maligned will continue to do their duty to protect them and all the citizens of their communities, even though their job has been made doubly more difficult by race-baiting rhetoric.

There is one thing upon which we and critics of the police can agree: There is distrust of the police in many minority communities. We Sheriffs work hard to build public trust in law enforcement. The training of our Deputy Sheriffs includes extensive training in community relations, anti-racism, recognizing implicit bias and proper use of force. This training results in officers who are sensitive to the need for racial neutrality in enforcing the law, and their enforcement decisions are based upon a person’s conduct, not their color. That plain fact is, of course, contrary to the popular narrative.

In conclusion, the Sheriffs of New York make a commitment to our communities. We, and our citizens, desire a society where all can live in true peace. While each of us as Sheriffs have outreach, in some form, to community and religious groups and to minority organizations and minority communities, it is clear that more has to be done to combat the false view of police as the oppressors, which has been inculcated into many minority communities, and which allows opportunists to take advantage of such things as the George Floyd tragedy to foment more hatred and more chaos. The Sheriffs of New York, through our New York State Sheriffs’ Association, will immediately undertake the task of strengthening, in an organized way, the ties between Sheriffs’ Offices and minority communities and organizations in the counties across the state, with a goal of affirmatively demonstrating that our desire is to serve all citizens, and as the Conservators of the Peace in the counties, to secure to those citizens true peace, which means the opportunity to enjoy life, liberty and happiness in a just world.

Washington County Sheriff Jeffrey Murphy is the president of the New York State Sheriffs’ Association, headquartered in Albany.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Moviehouse stands with the Black community

Cinema has always reflected who we are. If you watch and listen it has a profound ability to affect us by offering a way to experience the world, if only just for a few moments, through a different lens.

We stand with the Black community, in the fight against systemic racism and injustice. The first step we can all take is to educate ourselves about what racism really is. Cinema can help us do that.

Below is a list of recommended films that can be found online (many of which we have presented at The Moviehouse in recent years). They provide a good starting point from which to learn more about the Black experience.

It is not enough to not be racist, it is the responsibility of all of us to be actively Anti-racist in our thoughts, words and actions.

In “Becoming” — the recent documentary film recently released by NETFLIX — former First Lady Michelle Obama discusses her life, hopes and connections with others as she travels throughout the country on a lecture tour for her book.

She says, “If we can open up a

little bit more to each other and share our stories, that’s what breaks down barriers.”

Let’s begin. The time is now.

Recommended films

- “I Am Not Your Negro,” 2017, Directed by Raoul Peck
- “If Beale Street Could Talk,” 2018, Directed by Barry Jenkins
- “13th,” 2016, Directed by Ava Duvernay
- “Clemency,” 2019, Directed by Chinonye Chukwu
- “Crime + Punishment,” 2018, Directed by Stephen T. Maing
- “Dear White People,” 2014, Directed by Justin Simien
- “Do The Right Thing,” 1989, Directed by Spike Lee
- “Get Out,” 2017, Directed by Jordan Peele
- “Hidden Figures,” 2016, Directed by Theodore Melfi
- “What You Gonna Do When The World’s On Fire?” 2018, Directed by Roberto Minervini
- “Mudbound,” 2017, Directed by Dee Rees
- “Becoming,” 2020, Directed by Nadia Hallgren

Carol Sadlon

Owner and co-founder, The Moviehouse, Millerton Salisbury, Conn.

We are all human beings

This week has been a very upsetting week in our country. Protesters have marched for several reasons dealing with racial and human indecencies.

Everyone one is entitled to their opinion but when one disagrees with another and it turns violent and destructive it benefits no one.

The issues of race and color are always at the forefront when it’s police against community. This week I saw numerous signs that stated “Black Lives Matter” when in fact ALL LIVES MATTER! Leave the color aspect out of the statement. Stop saying white, black or any other color. We are all human beings and are given the rights to express our opinions and exercise our rights by the Constitution of the United States. Our Veterans have fought to keep us free. Our branches of military today are keeping us free and our rights intact. Your right to freedom of speech also gives me a right to bear arms.

My point is that we are all HU-

MAN BEINGS and are all prone to making mistakes. Matters of color should be left to children drawing pictures and not on any political, racial or public forum.

The police are just human too. While the murder George Floyd is not acceptable in any shape or form, there are a lot more of the police force that are great officers and great people who are also trying to walk the thin line that politicians and the public have put before them. We were brought up to respect anyone who was in uniform. You didn’t disrespect a police officer, fireman or anyone in authority. There are more police that do their jobs well than there are bad officers.

When you look at a police officer, don’t look at the color of their skin and jump to a conclusion of who they are. Look at the uniform, give them respect and listen to them. The fight should be in the courtroom and not on the street.

Ron Murphy

Millerton

“We become responsible for the actions of others the instant we become conscious of what they are doing wrong and fail to remind them of what is right.”
Suzy Kassem

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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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PHOTO BY JANET MANKO

A sweet scent in the air ...

DOVER SCHOOL MURAL *Continued from Page A1*

years, what ultimately ties them together is the fact that, according to Jody, the school district did nothing to address her complaints.

Regarding her decision to pay homage to Black Lives Matter in her senior mural, Jody explained that she's been passionate about BLM for many years. Having seen the video of George Floyd's death, she said she was heartbroken by the Minneapolis police officers' brutality and by the similarities between Floyd's death and Eric Garner's death in 2014 in New York City. Just like Floyd, Garner was heard repeating the words, "I can't breathe," as a police officer held him in a chokehold. In Jody's eyes, these similarities show little has changed in the country in the last six years.

Along with featuring a resistance fist as a symbol of solidarity, she said she wanted to include the names of individuals in the black community who have died with the years of their births and deaths in her mural.

"Everything I've learned from Black history did not come from Dover," she said. "It came from myself... I wanted people to be able to open their eyes and see what's happening in the Black community, but it was sad because I was never able to finish it."

With help from her friend, Dover High School junior Celianna Cardwell, Jody painted her mural on Tuesday, May 26. She had been planning to include more names in her mural when she received a call from the district the following day, Wednesday, May 27. When she asked why she needed to get rid of her painting, Jody said the school told her that it was political and therefore not allowed; she was offered a chance to take photos before it was painted over.

On Wednesday afternoon, Jody went to the school to take photos of her mural only to find that it had already been repainted.

"Honestly, I was shocked, but I really wasn't surprised at all," Jody said. "The school has proven in the past not to be there for our Black students and minorities. I was very hurt, of course, but I wasn't surprised that the school did this."

She called the school and asked why they had offered her the chance to photograph the mural when it had already been repainted. When the school asked her what could be done about it, Jody said she told them it was disrespectful, which resulted in an argument as to whether or not the school's actions were racist.

As superintendent of the Dover Union Free School District, Michael Tierney explained that the intent of the driveway paintings is for seniors to "celebrate graduation, highlight their accomplishments, boast next steps in their lives and show gratitude for people who have supported or inspired them."

He said he determined that Jody's painting was not in accor-

dance with the parameters the school district applies to this senior privilege.

When asked if other student murals have been painted over in the past, Tierney said "yes," including another mural this year.

"Over the last 20 years, I have applied these parameters many times to a variety of paintings where the content did not align with the intent and parameters we have set," he said. "This year, we did not approve a creative painting about COVID-19 that a senior submitted for our review."

Tierney mentioned the district has previously painted over murals that have featured negative messages about Dover schools, depictions of the Confederate flag, insults or negative comments about others and political expressions. However, according to Ariana Lasher, a graduate from the Dover High School Class of 2016, students have previously been allowed to wear Confederate flag accessories and attach Confederate flags to their vehicles. Though she recalled instances in which people were upset by those symbols, Lasher said nothing was done about them.

"I think that covering up her painting was more to prevent outrage from those people than for her to have her message," Lasher said.

On Friday morning, May 29, Jody and her father met with Tierney and a few members of the Dover High School faculty at the high school to talk about why the school district painted over her mural. Reading aloud from a six-page document, Jody said she talked about racism in the schools and provided the personnel with context for her mural. She explained that her mural was meant to be a memorial to pay respect to those who were killed unjustly and inhumanely and that getting rid of the mural was disrespectful.

Tierney mentioned on a later date that he has held meetings with Jody and her family to discuss his decision, listen to her perspective and work to find a solution. He said he apologized to Jody that, due to COVID-19, the school district may not have provided all of the senior class with clear guidelines on the parameters for the driveway paintings. Furthermore, he said he told her he personally grieved with her BLM message, that he was proud to see her advocating for change and that he hoped to continue meeting with her and her family to come to a solution.

"These are important conversations that we need to be having, now more than ever," Tierney said, "and I am committed to listening to the voices of our students and those in our community to determine the appropriate forum to hold these crucial discussions."

Since then, Jody has been dedicating her time to educating people on the BLM movement and working with similar causes. With help from Lasher, she has been distributing signs

around Dover Plains to raise awareness of Black Lives Matter. They've also organized an online event to encourage residents to paint or draw a resistance fist on their driveways or windows. Running through Saturday, June 13, the event can be found on Facebook under "Paint with Jody#BlackLivesMatter."

"I think it's very important to have your local community involved," Lasher said. "I think everything should start at home for you; it shows there isn't just racism in cities, it could be in your small farm town like Dover Plains. If you're not starting in your own home, where are you starting?"

When asked if she had any anxieties about the coming year, Jody said she was concerned not just about her own personal safety but also Celianna's safety. Since Celianna is also Black, Jody said she was afraid that her friend might face a lot of backlash and hate at school.

Regarding her own personal safety, Jody said, "I'm a bit scared because I live in a pretty Republican, racist town and I pretty much pissed off a lot of people in this town."

Yet for all her fears about the future and the uncertainties about what could happen, Jody shared how some good has come out of her meeting with the school district administration, as Tierney has asked her what he can do to address racism. Hoping to talk with Tierney again at some point, Jody said she'd like to talk with about instituting a Black history curriculum in the school district, perhaps even organizing assemblies that focus on dealing with racism.

Jody was asked how her experience has shaped her and what she'll take with her when she graduates from high school this month. Calling the story of her mural an example of society trying to oppress young Black voices, she said it's made her want to speak about the Black Lives Matter movement even more.

"This is just the beginning," Jody said, "and there will be more battles to come and I plan on taking it with me wherever I go."

Meanwhile, on Monday, June 8, Tierney posted on the district website a response to a recent Poughkeepsie Journal article about the mural, which he said "sensationalized" the issue and gave a one-sided view, as he said have various social media posts. "... many of these ugly messages have been directed at Ms. Angelis, the principal of Dover High School. She, herself, is a person of color who supports inclusion and tolerance," wrote the superintendent. "I understand and appreciate that there are many people who do not agree with my decision. However, I have always subscribed to the belief that school premises and activities are generally not the appropriate forum for political expression."

Tierney's letter, in its entirety, can be found at www.dover-schools.org.

MENTAL HEALTH *Continued from Page A1*

Syndrome (MERS) outbreak in 2012, he talked about how the U.S. is now dealing with a novel virus humans have never seen before and therefore haven't built any antibodies to combat.

Marx talked about the DBCH Trauma Team's awareness of the cultural stigma surrounding communities of color seeking or staying in treatment. She assured people the team is available to support mental health and addiction recovery. Addressing the emotional stress of COVID-19, Marx emphasized how important it is for people to realize the emotions they're feeling are normal.

"We're all on high alert in terms of 'Am I safe?' 'Am I keeping my family safe?' 'Am I doing the right thing?' 'Am I protecting myself?'" she said. "You can become exhausted and that's important that you recognize that so you can cope with your level of energy and your physical reactions."

Marx advised listeners to pace themselves, keep a routine at home, limit their news exposure, exercise and let themselves feel connected to others. Projecting a flyer of available mental health services in Dutchess County, she provided a comprehensive list of resources and organizations.

Irizary-Moyer talked about a special enrollment period on Monday, June 15, for anyone in need of insurance or needing to renew. She also discussed how to qualify for New York State of Health coverage, at www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov or by calling the help line at 845-355-5777.

PHASE TWO *Continued from Page A1*

distancing guidelines (including wearing face coverings when less than 6 feet apart); and reduce congregation and personal contact, according to Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro's office.

The businesses allowed to reopen in Phase Two include:

- Hair salons and barber shops (only haircuts, stylings and colorings are permitted);
- Offices;
- Real estate;
- In-store retail (fitting rooms must be appropriately sanitized);
- Vehicle sales, leases and rentals;
- Commercial building management;
- Outdoor dining at restaurants (tables must be spaced out and staff must wear face coverings, as must patrons when not at their table);
- Stores located within malls that have their own external entrances open to the public, separate from the general mall entrance.

On Thursday, June 4, Molinaro announced that the New York State Liquor Authority (SLA) released new guidance "allowing outdoor, on-premises service of alcoholic beverages and/or food to resume [under Phase Two]."

The county exec is also providing options to expand outdoor dining premises for dining establishments in the county. According to his office, the SLA guidance, which followed suggestions from Molinaro's office, allows "for the expansion of premises, under the current establishment's license, where food and beverages may be consumed, including on municipal-owned land [e.g. sidewalks, streets, etc.] contiguous to a licensed establishment in coordination with the local municipality."

To expedite the process, Molinaro planned to issue an Executive Order before June 9, waiving local regulations and requirements that could cause potential burdens or delays for local dining establishments hop-

ing to expand outdoors.

The Executive Order will assist in local efforts to provide access to municipal-owned land. Molinaro is strongly encouraging local leaders to help their local restaurateurs in taking advantage of this opportunity.

"Now more than ever before, we need to think creatively and be willing to push beyond normal operating procedures to give our local businesses a real chance at survival," stated Molinaro. "These business owners have sacrificed a great deal, closing down or severely restricting their operations, to keep our community healthy and safe. We must be willing to think creatively to help return them to vitality and bring our Main Streets back to life."

Already entered in Phase Two of reopening in the state are the Capital Region (which includes Columbia County and the nearby communities of Ancram, Ancramdale, Copake, Copake Falls, Craryville, Elizaville and Hillsdale), Central New York, the Finger Lakes, Mohawk Valley, the North Country, the Southern Tier and Western New York.

According to the governor's Executive Order, the following businesses will remain closed under Phase Two:

- Malls (specifically, any indoor common portions of retail shopping malls);
- Dine-in and on-premise restaurant or bar service, excluding take-out or delivery for off-premise consumption;
- Large gathering/event venues, including but not limited to establishments that host concerts, conferences or other in-person performances or presentations in front of an in-person audience;
- Gyms, fitness centers and exercise classes, except for remote or streaming services;
- Video lottery and casino gaming facilities;
- Movie theaters, except drive-ins; and
- Places of public amusement,

whether indoors or outdoors, including but not limited to locations with amusement rides, carnivals, amusement parks, water parks, aquariums, zoos, arcades, fairs, children's play centers, funplexes, theme parks, bowling alleys, family and children's attractions.

Last week, the governor announced that regions that are in Phase Two of reopening will be able to hold worship services at 25% capacity.

Cuomo also announced last week that day camps may begin operating on June 29, subject to safety guidelines still to be announced.

But in an email sent Tuesday, June 2, Columbia County Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell warned residents that even though the region is slowly coming back to life and everyone is craving for a return to normalcy, they should continue to be cautious.

"We still strongly recommend that everyone treat each and every person you see like they are COVID-19 positive by practicing social distancing, proper hand hygiene, avoid touching your face and common surfaces, and most importantly STAY HOME until absolutely necessary to leave," he advised. "By learning the towns' positive cases we don't want anyone to feel a sense of false confidence that the virus is not in their community. In order to slow the spread, we need to stay vigilant on these prevention measures no matter where the positive, confirmed cases reside."

An email from the governor echoed those sentiments.

"Even if it's no longer on the front pages, the COVID virus is still out there, and the threat to public health is far from over. The success we have achieved thus far is due to the actions of the people of New York who are making smart choices based on the facts," he wrote. "The battle is not over yet and we need to remain vigilant. Let's not blow it now."

BLACK LIVES MATTER *Continued from Page A1*

spot in the village. Attached by bungee cords between two large signs at the intersection, her sign stood out in the form of a large white sheet bearing the words Black Lives Matter in black lettering. Isola officially took her position at the busy village intersection on Monday, June 1. As far as how long she planned to sit there, she said she didn't have a set time — or a reason — of when to stop.

Seated comfortably in the shade, Isola sat calmly beside her sign and waved to passing motorists. Whether they honked their car horns, tooted their bicycle bells or raised their fists as a symbol of solidarity, people showed their support for Isola while passing her en-route to their destinations.

"I think this has given us an opportunity to slow down and see that we as a people are struggling," said local resident Steven GoodMan, "and I see that this is an opportunity to level the playing field. I think the most important way to go forward is to never forget, never forget the day that George Floyd's family asked us to unite as a nation, harm no one and steal nothing."

As Isola settled beside her

sign, she was accompanied by a few of her family members from Millerton who kept her company at the intersection and joined her in waving to passing motorists, many headed throughout the Tri-State Region.

"It feels good the response that we're getting from such a small town, and it feels good to do things where we're not near such a big city," said Cheri Anderson, Isola's aunt.

"I wish there were more people down there," said Hank Gaito, 14, as he joined his older cousin at the intersection. "I wish there was a way to do a bigger gathering and I think the support is good."

In continuing to speak out against injustice and inequality, Isola said it's important for people to realize "that it's going to be a long, long fight and let this not be a tiny blip in history."

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As yet another update on the strength of the real estate market in May, the sales continue to be up, 19% over a year ago. The key is that the pending sales are up 20% higher than a year ago and 5% higher than last month, all excellent indicators of an upward trend of the market. Other indicators are that sellers are now resistive to granting extensions with ongoing deals and to concessions with regard to building inspection issues. Another reason for optimism is that builders are again beginning to build spec houses in anticipation of a growing demand. Again, we have no idea how long this increase in activity will last, but it is here now. Finally land is beginning to sell, the first lot up at Grasslands just closed for over 70,000 dollars per acre. If you are considering selling or buying, happy to discuss.

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Five Smart Ways You Can Beat Disease with award winning journalist Frank Lalli, Saturday, June 13, 11am
Hamish Lutris: The Nature of America and Its Unique Form of Government, Mondays, June 22-July 13, 11am-12pm

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COMPASS

Your Guide to Tri-State Events

June 11-17, 2020

ART: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Despite COVID-19, Plans and A Party for Wassaic Project

Always innovative, the Wassaic Project in Amenia, N.Y., has come up with intriguing alternatives for this summer's exhibits and fundraising benefit party.

Instead of art on multiple floors ascending in the former Maxon Mills grain elevator, this year's show will be "virtual," with projects by 60 artists from around the world "installed" in a book that is "open" for visitors to stroll through, view and experience over the course of the summer.

Later this year, the virtual show will be gathered into a limited edition book, with essays by past writing resident Barbara Bourland and past critic-in-residence Sharmistha Ray.

There will also be artist interviews and an introduction from the Wassaic Project's executive directors: Jeff Barnett-Winsby, Bowie Zunino and Eve Biddle.

This year's fundraising celebration will also be virtual, with tickets on sale starting Saturday, June 13.



PHOTO COURTESY WASSAIC PROJECT

New murals allow visitors to see art from a distance at the Wassaic Project's Maxon Mills in Amenia, N.Y. The group's annual fundraiser will be a "virtual" art show. This summer there will be a Public Sculpture Walk then leads to the former grain mill.

The tickets provide viewers access (starting on June 13) to view and explore the exhibition book (online access will continue for the entire length of the exhibition). There will also be a private online Zoom "tour"

of the artworks on June 13. The artworks in the show are available for sale.

The community is also invited to visit the new Public Sculpture Walk along the Harlem Valley Rail Trail, which runs from

the Wassaic train station, into the hamlet of Wassaic and then to the doorstep of Maxon Mills.

To learn about all this and more Wassaic Project news, go to www.wassaicproject.org.

MEMOIRS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Finding a Path Through Grief

Salvation can come from helping others. This is a lesson that forms the basis of Buddhism and other religious teachings, and it was the real-life experience of psychotherapist and Lakeville resident Sharon Charde.

After the death of her son, Charde sought to manage her grief by teaching poetry to incarcerated young women at a residential treatment facility. Acceptance and some degree of peace didn't come quickly or easily. But as Charde said in the third person in a press release about her new memoir, "a decade of writing therapy with young women helped her let go of much of her grief, or at least to learn how to carry it differently."

Charde's new memoir carries the name of a poetry collection she published with her students. "I Am Not a Juvenile Delinquent: How Poetry Changed a Group of At-Risk Young Women" will be available on June 16.

The three-part book includes poems by her students, writings by Charde and writings



PHOTO BY JOANNA ELDREDGE MORRISSEY

Sharon Charde will talk about her new book on June 18.

by her late son. The message: "Healing can come in surprising ways across age and social class" and "the most challenging experiences are the best teachers," Charde said.

The book, published by Mango, will be for sale at Oblong Books and Music in Millerton and online through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Charde will do a free Zoom talk on Thursday, June 18, at 7 p.m. through Oblong with writer Martha Anne Toll, whose area of specialization is social justice and racial equality. To find out more and to register, go to www.oblongbooks.com/event.

To advertise your event, call 860-435-9873 or email advertising@lakevillejournal.com

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Thank you to all who have contributed and become members. Your response has heartened us in continuing our mission to serve our communities, as published every week in The Lakeville Journal and Millerton News: *Our goal is to report the news of our communities accurately and fairly, fostering democracy and an atmosphere of open communication.*

No matter what level you choose for your donation, what you will get is continued coverage of town government and other events in the Tri-state region. And of course, our gratitude – but no other tangible benefits. Contributions are not tax deductible, as the company is not a nonprofit 501(c)3 at this time.

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Call or email us with questions at 860-435-9873 and by email at publisher@lakevillejournal.com and cynthiah@lakevillejournal.com.

FARMING: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

Zoom Talk: How To Help Your Chickens and Your Garden Thrive

In the absence of evenings out at the theater, opera and ballet, many area residents have taken up farming as a way to engage their hearts and minds and to express their creativity.

The farming urge also springs from concerns about food availability during the pandemic and the quarantine; and the difficulties of getting restaurant food in a COVID-19 world of "take-out only."

As many have learned in the past month, growing and raising things isn't always as easy as it looks — especially when the weather has mood swings that take it from hot to snow to hot again.

Advice is available at most farm markets and landscaping concerns in the region. But there are also experienced farmers who are willing to share their wisdom, as will be the case with two Zoom talks presented by the Scoville Memorial Library of Salisbury, Conn., on June 11 and 18.

Watercolorist Leslie Watkins will share knowledge acquired over many years of raising happy, healthy egg-laying chickens in your backyard in her talk on Thursday, June 11, at 7 p.m.

The following Thursday, also at 7 p.m., the library's

event coordinator, Lawrence Davis-Hollander, will talk about general vegetable farming. A trained botanist, Davis-Hollander was a founder of the heritage seed movement, with a specialty in tomatoes and corn. He

also cares for gardens for private clients.

To sign up for these free presentations, go to www.scovillelibrary.org/events and then go to the June calendar and scroll down to June 11 and/or 18.

BOOKS: CYNTHIA HOCHSWENDER

The Love You Thought Would Never End

When the world is at war with itself and there is uncertainty at every turn, we look for something lasting that we can believe in. For Kip Woods, the thing that never abandons him is the love he feels for his college friend, Thaddeus Kaufman. Perhaps unfortunately,

Thaddeus never returns that love, focusing his attention instead on his wife and his career — until the day that he needs something from Kip. And then that unshakable love threatens to come to an end and to destroy some lives along the way.

Kip and Thaddeus are the protagonists in the new novel by Scott Spencer, the master of longing who wrote "Endless Love," made into an unforgettable 1981 film starring the young Brooke Shields and directed by Franco Zeffirelli.

Spencer, who lives in Rhinebeck, N.Y., will talk about his new book, "An Ocean Without A Shore," in a Zoom talk with Dick Hermans sponsored by Oblong Books and Music on Tuesday, June 16, at 7 p.m. The talk is free but registration is required; go to www.oblongbooks.com/event.

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OBITUARIES

Dennis J. Togninalli

SHARON — Dennis J. Togninalli, 66, of Sharon Valley Road, died Friday, June 5, 2020, at Hartford Hospital. Dennis was the husband of Kim (Breithaupt) Togninalli.

He was born in Great Barrington, Mass., son of the late Stella (Inferriera) and Guido Togninalli.

Dennis and Kim were married on Oct. 27, 1984, and celebrated 35 years of marriage.

Dennis worked at Becton Dickinson Company in North Canaan.

He was employed at BD for more than 40 years, working in the shipping department.

For the past eight years Dennis had assisted the families of the Northwest Corner with his care and compassion while working at the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan.

His professionalism and love of his community will be greatly missed by all.

Dennis was also the longest tenured State Police Auxiliary in the State of Connecticut. He was assigned at Troop B in North Canaan and served the troop for

more than 45 years.

Dennis enjoyed bowling, going out for breakfast on Sunday mornings, mowing his lawn and sharing photos on his phone with his many friends.

However, his greatest passion was his three girls. They were his pride and joy.

In addition to his wife, Kim, Dennis is survived by his daughters, LeShawna, Tianna and Shanea, all of Sharon; his brother, David Togninalli and his wife, Roseann; and his nephew, Ryan, of Burlington, Conn.

Calling hours will be held at the Newkirk-Palmer Funeral Home in North Canaan on Friday, June 12, from 5 to 8 p.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, June 13, in St. Martin of Tours Parish, St. Joseph's Church, North Canaan, Conn.

Burial will follow in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Cemetery Road, North Canaan, Conn.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Togninalli Fund in care of the Sharon Congregational Church, 25 Main St., Sharon, CT 06069.

Marilyn Sher

SALISBURY — Marilyn Sher, 83 years old, of Coconut Grove, Fla., and for more than 30 years a resident of Salisbury, passed away quietly at home on June 3, 2020, with her beloved husband, Gary, her son, Mark, her daughter, Frazer, and her grandson Griffin Sher at her side.



She is also survived by her grandson Captain Ian Sher, U.S. Army; her grandsons Dillon and Baron Moran; and her brother, Allan Marcus.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., to Joseph and Billie Marcus, Marilyn attended Clark University, where she met Gary in 1954. They were

married in December 1956.

Marilyn was extremely socially conscious. She was the vice president of the League of Women Voters in Dade County in Florida. She attended the University of Miami Law School, in the mid 1970s. She then went on to practice as an accomplished and respected litigator for more than 30 years with the firm

of Chonin and Sher.

Marilyn also made time to be on the Community Relations Board, the Antidefamation League Board and for six years she was president of the Urban League of Dade County.

John Gail Borden

John Borden, 69, passed away on Tuesday, May 26, 2020.



Born on April 4, 1951, he was the son of the late Albert and Virginia (Richmond) Borden. He was the great, great grandson of Gail Borden, founder of The Borden Milk Co., and named for his uncle who skated at the Lake Placid Olympics.

He attended grade school in Newton, Mass., at the Fessiden School; high school at the Berkshire School in Sheffield, Mass.; and graduated from Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla. At Rollins he was an All-American Soccer Goalie and played that same position prior at the Berkshire School.

He continued Borden Realtors that his parents began, until he merged recently with Sotheby's in Lakeville, Conn.

He loved fine art, fine food and was a man of his community. For almost a decade he provided scholarships for the Housatonic Valley Regional Art Show and was a mentor for many local artists. He sponsored many shows at the Sharon Playhouse and even made an appearance or two as a stage performer. For a number of years he volunteered as a "sherpa" for the

Corner Food Pantry in Lakeville and was a member of the People to People Goodwill Tour of Europe as goalie with the American Soccer Team.

In addition to being an avid skier and sailor, John was certified for Basic Coastal Cruising, Basic Keelboat Sailing and Bareboat Chartering by the American Sailing Association. He won First Prize at the 2010 Vail, Colorado, Pizza Cook Off. He was very fond of the award and it is prominently displayed in his kitchen. He was a notorious foodie, chef and host and loved entertaining his bevy of clients and friends in his home in Lakeville.

John is survived by his longtime partner Cheryl Swift. He is also survived by one brother and sister, Jay Gano and his wife Patti of Colebrook, Conn., and Sue Blackwell of Wilson, N.C. He was predeceased by his brothers Lew Borden, Dave Borden and Bob Gano. He leaves behind many cousins, nieces, nephews and a world of friends who loved and will miss him greatly.

Donations can be made in his name to the Corner Food Pantry of Lakeville, Conn. A celebration of his life will be held in autumn.

SPORTS

2020 Stissing Triathlon canceled, due to COVID-19

By KAITLIN LYLE
kaitlin@millertonnews.com



ARCHIVED PHOTOS BY KAITLIN LYLE

PINE PLAINS — Having anticipated their participation in an intense competition this summer to raise money for a worthwhile cause, athletes from the local area and beyond were disappointed to learn that the Stissing Triathlon, scheduled for Sunday, June 28, was canceled as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. However, already looking ahead to the future, the race's director, Coach Mark Wilson from Wilson Endurance Sports, announced that the much-anticipated triathlon has been rescheduled for Sunday, June 27, 2021 and that all participants who pre-registered for this year's event will be automatically deferred to next year.

Wilson said organizers decided they would be unable to host the event based on the current COVID-19 pandemic as well as the concerning number of COVID-19 cases in New York and elsewhere.

"It would be such a logistical challenge for sure," he said, "and we didn't want to put any of our athletes or volunteers at risk, so we decided to defer everyone to the next year, so nobody loses anything."

Prior to the event's cancellation, Wilson said there were already 135 athletes who pre-registered for this year's Stissing Triathlon. Having drawn 180 participants to last year's event, he said they were expecting 200 participants this summer. Given how well-received the Stissing Triathlon has been throughout the years, Wilson said he expects the event will still do well next year. In the event that the participants who signed up for the triathlon are unable to participate next year, he said they're welcomed to transfer to other sporting events organized by Wilson Endurance Sports, such as the Cooperstown

Triathlon, the Ticonderoga Triathlon Festivals or the Delta Lake Triathlon.

Seeing as last year's Stissing Triathlon raised money to support the Pine Plains Recreation Program, Wilson said that while they won't be able to donate to that program this year due to its cancellation, partial proceeds from next year's event will go toward the rec department. Additionally, a total of \$500 will be donated to the Pine Plains Lions Club to use its pavilion on Beach Road to host the triathlon.

Reflecting on the ways in which COVID-19 has impacted his work, Wilson said, "This is a big way we earn our living, so we're struggling, but you can't move ahead with an entire situation like this. You have to change and adapt and so we're doing so and we're modifying our life and trying to make it through the year."

Residents may direct their questions to Wilson via email at coachmarkwilson@gmail.com or by phone at 914-466-9214. For more information, go to www.CoachMarkWilson.com.



Competing in the Stissing Triathlon last summer, participants from the local region and beyond set off on a course that featured a one-half mile swim at the Pine Plains Beach, followed by a 16.5 mile bike race and a 3.3 mile run around the lake.

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